



## Robert J. Will

Trust & Estate Litigation Practice Group Leader

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St. Louis, MO / (314) 444-7702

Bob Will is a respected litigator and trusted advisor in trust and estate disputes, known for his leadership in complex litigation and his ability to guide clients through high-stakes conflicts.

Bob serves as a Practice Group Leader for the Trust & Estate Litigation practice group. He advises clients on matters related to trust and estate litigation, class action and other complex litigation, professional liability, and eminent domain.

A frequent speaker and author on topics relating to his areas of practice, Bob is committed to continuing legal education. He is also deeply involved in civic and charitable organizations and works for the betterment of the legal profession through his longstanding membership in a number of national and local bar associations, including serving as a long-time leader in the American Bar Association's Section of Litigation. He is a Fellow of The American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC) and a Life Fellow of the American Bar Foundation (ABF).

Bob is AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell and was selected for inclusion in Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers® from 2009 to 2010 and 2013 to 2025. He was named "Lawyer of the Year" for Litigation – Trusts and Estates in 2023 by Best Lawyers®, and has been included in Best Lawyers® annual list from 2019 to 2026.

### Education

- George Washington University School of Law (J.D., *with high honors*, 1987)
  - Order of the Coif
  - Phi Delta Phi, 1985-1987
- Saint Louis University (B.A., *summa cum laude*, 1984)
  - Minor, Business Administration
  - Phi Beta Kappa
  - National Merit Scholar

### Legal Background

### Services

- Trust & Estate Litigation
- Class Action
- Professional Liability
- Appellate Litigation
- Complex Litigation
- Environmental, Chemical & Toxic Tort
- Real Estate

- Law clerk and liaison with Federal Regulatory Agencies, Chemical Manufacturers Association (1985-1987)

## **Professional Affiliations**

- Fellow, American College of Trust and Estate Counsel
- Life Fellow, American Bar Foundation
- Section of Litigation, American Bar Association
  - Council Member (2024-present)
  - Division Director (2018-2024), Co-chair, Pretrial Practice and Discovery Committee (2015-2018), Homeless Experience Legal Protection (2014-2015), Trust and Estate Litigation Committee (2012-2014), Condemnation, Zoning and Land Use Committee (2009-2012), Website editor (2005-2009)
- Member, Missouri Bar Fiduciary Litigation Committee (2012-present)
- Illinois State Bar Association
- St. Louis Volunteer Lawyers Program
- Instructor and judge, BAMSL Annual Moot Court Competitions, Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis

## **Admissions**

- Seventh Circuit, U.S. Court of Appeals
- Eighth Circuit, U.S. Court of Appeals
- Eastern District of Missouri, U.S. District Court
- Western District of Missouri, U.S. District Court
- Southern District of Illinois, U.S. District Court
- Northern District of Oklahoma, U.S. District Court
- Missouri Bar
- Illinois Bar

## **Charitable & Civic Involvement**

- The Bach Society of St. Louis
  - Vice Chair (2025-present)
  - Director (2024-2025)
- The Sheldon Arts Foundation, Director (2009-present); Executive Committee; Programming Committee Chair
- St. Patrick Center Board of Trustees, Member (2004-2022); Chair (2013-2016)

## **Distinctions**

- ABA Outstanding Service Award (2006-2007)

## **Representative Cases**

- *In re: Trust Under Last Will and Testament of August A. Busch, Jr.*, No. 1722-PR00463 (St. Louis City Circuit Court, Probate Division)

- *In the Matter of the Charles H. Stix Testamentary Trust*, 480 S.W.3d 373 (Mo. App. E.D. 2015)
  - *Palmer v. Asarco Incorporated*, 510 F.Supp.2d 519, 2007 WL 2405660 (N.D. Okla. 2007)
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## Trust & Estates Disputes

Trust & Estates Litigation is a highly specialized area of the law, and clients turn to Bob for clear, realistic litigation strategy. Bob uses his deep experience and advocacy skills to guide corporate trustees, individual trustees, and beneficiaries through all aspects of trust and estate litigation, from discovery to resolution by trial or settlement and appeal, if necessary.

Bob has litigated a wide variety of matters in the trust and estate area, including trust and will contests, claims for tortious interference with inheritance or expectancies, trust and will constructions, trust reformations, wrongful death claims against estates, and actions against Trustees for breach of fiduciary duties.

As a recognized leader in the area of trust and estates litigation, Bob is a fellow of The American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC), a national organization of more than 2,400 lawyers and law professors peer-elected to membership. ACTEC members, who are called "Fellows," are the best and brightest in the trust and estate practice, with years of experience representing and advising families.

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## Publications/Seminars

May 7, 2020

**Trust Administration in Times of Pandemic and Economic Recession**

October 17, 2018

**The Main Event—When Marriage and Estate Planning Collide**

*Midwest Trust Company*

June 27, 2018

**Avoiding Trustee Liability - Annual CLE Seminar**

*Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis*

May 3, 2018 - June 12, 2018

**Getting the Most out of Your E-Discovery Experts without Breaking the Bank**

*American Bar Association - Section of Litigation*

February 27, 2018

**2018 Fiduciary Litigation Seminar**

*Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis*

January 25, 2018

**Avoiding Trustee Liability**

*Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis*

September 14, 2017

**Avoiding Trustee Liability and Choosing a Fiduciary**

*Missouri Bar Annual Meeting, Kansas City, MO*

September 12, 2017

**The Main Event—When Bet-the-Farm Litigation Threatens the Family Business**

*Midwest Trust Company*

March 2, 2017

**Five Tips for a More Effective Motion Practice**

*Pretrial Practice & Discovery*

February 22, 2017

**2017 Fiduciary Litigation Seminar**

*Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis*

September 27, 2016

**Lewis Rice Estate Planning Seminar: Advanced Estate Planning Techniques for 2016 and Beyond**

September 2016

**Robert J. Will and Patrick J. Thornton Publish Chapter on Federal Eminent Domain Practice**

*Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education, Illinois Eminent Domain Edition*

May 6, 2016

**Probate Seminar**

*St. Louis County Bar Association*

2013

**Illinois Eminent Domain Practice**

*Federal Eminent Domain Practice chapter, Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education*

February 20, 2013

**8th Annual Fiduciary Litigation Seminar**

*Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis*

2012

**The Law of Eminent Domain: 50-State Survey**

*American Bar Association*

