
Frazer Ryan Goldberg & Arnold LLP

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T.J. Ryan

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A fellow of the prestigious American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, T.J. Ryan focuses his practice on virtually all aspects of family estates, from estate and business planning, to probate and trust administration, to litigating contested estates – an area in which he has achieved a strong track record for positive results. He is a past president (2015) of the Maricopa County Bar Association and was named Phoenix “Lawyer of the Year” (Trust Litigation) for 2015 by *The Best Lawyers in America*®.

ESTATE AND PROBATE LITIGATION

While many lawyers litigate a wide range of issues, T.J. Ryan focuses his energies on the areas of probate and trust law. He assists his clients with a broad range of disputes involving probate, trust, guardian and fiduciary matters. Matters of controversy include will and trust validity interpretation issues; disputes between beneficiaries and fiduciaries over estate and trust operations; disputes regarding fiduciary fees; exploitation of the elderly and incapacitated or vulnerable individuals, and trust modification and termination.

Understanding that litigation can often be avoided between reasonable people, T.J. approaches each circumstance with a range of alternatives. He presents his clients with the options available to them, including alternative dispute resolution methods such as mediation and arbitration.

ESTATE PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION

T.J. goals including ensuring that his clients’ wishes are carried out upon their death or incapacity and to avoid the public, time-consuming and costly probate process. Mr. Ryan understands that there is no “one size fits all” solution, and he strives to ensure that the results his clients desire is translated into their documents. In the event of death or incapacity, Mr. Ryan assists his clients by helping them carry out their loved one’s intentions through the administrative process.

PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC LEADERSHIP

Mr. Ryan is a past president (2015) of the Maricopa County Bar Association and a past president of the MCBA’s Young Lawyers Division.

Active in the community, Mr. Ryan is a volunteer youth baseball coach. He previously served as the Programs and Facilities chair of the Maricopa County Justice Museum and Learning Center Foundation, which endeavors to restore the historical jail within the Old Courthouse in downtown Phoenix and convert it for use as a museum and educational facility, and is a former Wills for Heroes volunteer.

In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family and friends, riding his mountain bike, and maintaining his single-digit handicap on the golf course.

PRACTICE AREAS

Trust and Probate Litigation
Estate Planning
Probate and Trust Administration
Contested Guardianship and Conservatorship
Business Formation

HONORS AND AWARDS

“Lawyer of the Year,” Trust and Estate Litigation—Phoenix, 2015, *The Best Lawyers in America*®
The Best Lawyers in America® (Trusts and Estates, Trust and Estate Litigation), 2015-2018
Super Lawyers Rising Stars, 2016, 2017
AV Preeminent® Rating, Martindale-Hubbell®

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American College of Trust and Estate Counsel

American Bar Association: Section of Real Property, Trust and Estate Law

State Bar of Arizona: Probate and Trust Section; Trial Practice Section

Maricopa County Bar Association: Past President (2015); Past Treasurer; Past Secretary; Member, Board of Directors (2009-present); Estate Planning, Probate & Trust Section; Past President, Young Lawyers Division; Past Chair, Technology Committee

Central Arizona Estate Planning Council

COURT ADMISSIONS

Arizona, 2002

U.S. District Court, District of Arizona, 2002

U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit, 2014

REPORTED CASES

Lazar v. Kroncke, No. 15-15078 (9th Cir. 2017)

In re Ester Caplan Trust, 265 P.3d 364, 228 Ariz. 182 (Div. 1, 2011)

AUTHORSHIPS

ARIZONA ESTATE PLANNING AND PROBATE HANDBOOK, 2016-2017 ed. (co-author), Thomson Reuters

ARIZONA PROBATE CODE PRACTICE MANUAL, 5th ed., 2014, State Bar of Arizona

LECTURES

"Powers of Appointment," Estate and Gift Tax, Arizona Summit Law School, March 2015

PUBLISHED ARTICLES

"New Opportunities for Old Trusts: Arizona's New Decanting Law," *Phoenix Business Journal*, December 2009

"'Just a Lil Bit' of Piracy Is Good," *Maricopa Lawyer*, September 2005

"Hello Clients ... It's Your Lawyer Calling," *The Whisper*, October 4, 2004

"Gone Phishing: Hackers are Baiting Your Inbox," *Maricopa Lawyer*, October 2004

"Infringement.com: RIAA vs. Napster and the War Against Online Musical Piracy," *Arizona Law Review*, 44. Ariz. L. Rev. 495 (2002)

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Arizona Community Foundation: Tax and Legal Seminar Planning Committee

Wills for Heroes Foundation

Maricopa County Justice Museum and Learning Center Foundation: Past Chair, Programs and Facilities

EDUCATION

J.D., James E. Rogers College of Law, University of Arizona, 2002: Dean's List; Executive Note Editor, *Arizona Law Review*

B.B.A., Baylor University, 1999

BIRTHPLACE

Phoenix, Arizona