THE ESSENTIAL DAY-LONG CONFERENCE FOR TRUST, ESTATE PLANNING, PROBATE AND ELDER LAW PROFESSIONALS

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KENNETH S. WOLF is a founding member of this Conference and has served as its Chair since 1993. He is Of Counsel at Freeman, Freeman & Smiley LLP, where he practices in the areas of probate, trusts, and estate planning, with emphasis in trust and estate litigation and dispute resolution. He is an active member of the Probate and Trust arbitration/mediation panel at ARC, a Fellow of ACTEC, and a certified specialist in Estate Planning, Probate and Trust Law under the California State Bar legal specialization program. In 2018, he received the prestigious Timothy Whitehouse Award from the BHBA Trust and Estate Section. He was the first presenter at the initial Conference in 1974 and this year marks his 14th presentation to the Conference. He received his B.A. from the University of Cincinnati and his J.D. from Harvard Law School.

RICHARD J. AYOOB is a partner at Ajalat, Polley, Ayoob & Matarese and has served as Chair of the State and Local Tax Committees of the Taxation Sections of LACBA and of the California State Bar. He has authored numerous articles in publications, including Matthew Bender’s California Closely Held Corporations and the Manual of California Taxes. He received his B.S. from USC and his J.D. from UC Hastings College of Law.

JERYLL S. COHEN is a partner at Freeman, Freeman & Smiley LLP, who focuses her practice on complex trust and estate administration and estate planning. She has been awarded an AV Preeminent® Rating by Martindale-Hubbell® Peer Review and named to the Southern California Super Lawyers list from 2009 to 2018. She received her B.A., cum laude, from UCLA and her J.D., cum laude, from Loyola Law School.

JEFFREY A. DENNIS-STRATHMEYER was the primary author and “publisher editor” of the CEB Estate Planning and California Probate Reporter (1984-2011), then edited by Professor Edward C. Halbach, Jr. He has authored more than 60 published articles on estate planning topics and numerous chapters of various CEB estate planning books. He received his A.B. from Stanford University and his J.D. from UC Davis School of Law.

AUDREY J. GROSSMAN is an associate with Freeman, Freeman & Smiley LLP, who focuses her practice in the areas of estate planning, trust administration, fiduciary litigation and probate. She previously served as in-house counsel for a major motion picture studio and as Senior Counsel for a publicly traded corporation. She received her B.A. from Wittenberg University and her J.D., cum laude, from Harvard Law School.

DR. SHERRY BEBITCH JEFFE is a Professor of the Practice of Public Policy Communication at the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy and an internationally recognized political analyst for NBC Los Angeles. Dr. Jeffe regularly writes and comments on American and California government and politics in state, national and international media including the California political blog, Fox and Hounds. She received her B.A. from Goucher College, her Masters from Rutgers University, and her Doctorate from Claremont Graduate University.

DAVID LANE is retired from the private practice of law. His practice emphasized estate planning and trust law and he is the author of several articles dealing with economic analysis of law and evaluating deposit insurance premiums. He is a Lecturer in Law at USC Gould, previously taught at UC Berkeley, and was a Senior Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economics Research at Stanford University and at the Federal Reserve Board. He received his B.A., Masters and Doctorate from UC Berkeley, and his J.D. from UC Berkeley School of Law.

DOUGLAS E. LAWSON is a trust and estate litigator at Sacks, Glazer, Franklin & Lodise LLP, who focuses his practice on a wide variety of matters in probate court, representing beneficiaries, fiduciaries, and other interested parties in numerous multi-million dollar inheritance and fiduciary disputes. He received his B.A. from Duke University and his J.D. from USC Gould.

ERIN L. PROUTY is a member of Hoffman, Sabban & Watenmaker, who focuses her practice in the areas of estate planning, probate, trust administration, probate litigation, and related income tax and estate tax matters. She is a certified specialist in Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization, a Fellow of ACTEC, and a former Executive Committee member of the California State Bar Trusts and Estates Section. She received her B.A. from USC, her J.D. from the University of San Diego, and her LL.M. in Taxation from Boston University.

MICHAEL ROSEN-PRINZ is a partner at McDermott Will & Emery, who works with individuals and families to solve problems and develop strategies for closely held businesses, family office and private trust companies, international estate planning, and private client and wealth management. He regularly speaks to local and national audiences on a variety of issues related to U.S. and international tax and estate planning. He received his B.A. from UC Santa Barbara and his J.D. from UC Berkeley School of Law.

ADAM F. STREISAND is a partner at Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP, and is a frequent lecturer and author for the National Institute of Trial Advocacy, a Fellow of ACTEC, a former Executive Editor of the California Trusts and Estates Quarterly, an Executive Committee member of the California State Bar Trusts and Estates Section, and a Planning Committee member of this Conference. He received his B.A. from Trinity College and his J.D. from the American University Washington College of Law.

THOMAS P. WARD is a partner at McDermott Will & Emery, who focuses his practice on the structuring and implementation of transactions involving partnership and limited liability companies, including private equity fund formation, portfolio company investments and representation of pension fund investors in private equity funds. He received his B.B.A., summa cum laude, from the University of Notre Dame and his J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School.
8:30 AM  Welcome and Introductions
Kenneth S. Wolf
Conference Chair
Of Counsel
Freeman, Freeman & Smiley LLP

8:35 AM  Annual Update:
Recent Developments in Probate and Trust and their Practical Applications
Join new and returning popular experts, as they review critical recent California legislation and case law and Federal tax law. Encompassing developments in wills, trusts, and estate and gift taxation, both new and experienced practitioners will benefit from their useful information and insights.
Jeffrey A. Dennis-Strathmeyer
Attorney at Law (Pleasant Hill, CA)
David Lane
Retired from Private Practice of Law
Lecturer in Law, USC Gould School of Law
Erin L. Prouty
Hoffman, Sabban & Watenmaker

10:05 AM  Networking Break
Hosted by the Professional Fiduciary Association of California

10:25 AM  The Unduly Influenced Litigant: How to Litigate Against Parties with Diminished Capacity
It has become all too common that as we live longer with increased incidences of cognitive impairment which unscrupulous people are exploiting, our family members who can no longer remember their estate planning or the relationships with loved ones become convinced their families are the enemies. This session will discuss strategies and methods of litigating with the vulnerable or unduly influenced litigant.
Douglas E. Lawson
Sacks, Glazier, Franklin & Lodise LLP
Adam Streisand
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

11:25 AM  Change in Ownership Law for Estate Planners: Property and Transfer Tax Traps
Passing long held real property to the next generation can entail significant property tax exposure. Though the tax rate is nominal compared to estate and income tax rates, the large upick in value and annual ongoing expense can often make property taxes a major obligation of a decedent’s estate. Additionally, recent changes in various documentary transfer tax laws to increase rates (up to 3% in some localities) and to track property tax change in ownership rules add another layer of exposure for the estate planner to consider. This session will cover the basic rules highlighting areas of exposure and possible planning techniques to avoid the harsh effects of these local levies.
Richard J. Ayoob
Ajalat, Polley, Ayoob & Matarese

12:25 PM  Luncheon Presentation
Election Aftermath: Where We Go from Here
Join noted political analyst Dr. Sherry Bebitch Jeffe in a 30 minute interactive conversation about the November elections and what the election results may mean for the future.
Sherry Bebitch Jeffe, Ph.D.
Professor of the Practice of Public Policy Communication
USC Sol Price School of Public Policy
Political Analyst, NBC4 Los Angeles

1:40 PM  Death Is Imminent: How About My Dodger Tickets?
Unique assets, such as season tickets to athletic or other performance events, copyrighted material, sky miles, credit card rewards, cryptocurrency, are often neglected in the estate planning process, often providing the fodder for disputes post death. These unique assets pose challenging problems of management and transfer. The panelists will address ways of vesting title to these assets in the Trust, address inheritance rights and ways of drafting for their distribution, and handling issues that arise in administration once a death has occurred. There is frequently value in these assets that can be lost if not properly handled.
Jeryll S. Cohen
Freeman, Freeman & Smiley LLP
Audrey J. Grossman
Freeman, Freeman & Smiley LLP

2:40 PM  Networking Ice Cream Break
Hosted by Jack Barcal, Esq.

3:00 PM  So, What Did I Miss? Tax Considerations for Trust Administration and Choice of Entity in 2018 and Beyond
This presentation will highlight and discuss provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and other tax updates that are relevant to trust administration, holding companies and operating businesses. Has enough changed that you need to reconsider tried and true best practices as to how clients should structure their affairs?
Michael Rosen-Prinz
McDermott Will & Emery
Thomas P. Ward
McDermott Will & Emery (Chicago, IL)

4:00 PM  Disability, Retirement and Death: Issues Affecting the Sole Practitioner and Small Firm
The sole practitioner and the small firm partnership/professional corporation face issues often overlooked in the planning process. When an attorney retires, becomes disabled, or dies unique problems are presented. Ken Wolf, a sole practitioner himself, will address many of these issues, including applicable code provisions, rules of professional conduct pertaining to clients of the member; appointment of a “practice administrator” in both conservatorship and death situations; communicating with clients; professional liability insurance “tail coverage”; “buy-sell” arrangements, and possible ways of monetizing the member’s practice. Checklists and forms will be included.
Kenneth S. Wolf
Conference Chair
Of Counsel
Freeman, Freeman & Smiley LLP

5:00 PM  Special Networking Reception
Hosted by Alternative Resolution Centers (ARC)

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why attend

Proven Success
For over 40 years, USC Gould’s Trust and Estate Conference has a proven track record of teaching practical and realistic solutions to everyday and unexpected problems. The Conference is specially tailored for trust, estate planning, probate and elder law professionals including attorneys, paralegals, trust officers, accountants, financial institution executives, private professional fiduciaries, wealth management professionals, fiduciary officers, underwriters and insurance advisors.

Unrivaled Networking
Over 500 of your peers registered for the Conference last year for an unrivaled networking and learning opportunity from both the speakers and your professional colleagues.

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LAWYERS. Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE): USC Gould School of Law, a State Bar of California-approved MCLE provider, certifies that this activity qualifies for MCLE credit in the amount of 7 hours, of which 1 hour may apply to legal ethics credit. This event may or may not meet the requirements for continuing legal education in other states. Please check with the bar association or Supreme Court in the state in which you are seeking credit to determine if this event is eligible.

ACCOUNTANTS. Continuing Professional Education (CPE): This program meets the guidelines for Continuing Professional Education credit set by the California State Board of Accountancy in the amount of 6.5 hours.

FINANCIAL PLANNERS. CFP® Professionals: The USC Gould School of Law is a registered CFP Board CE Sponsor. Attendance will be reported electronically following the Conference.

PROFESSIONAL FIDUCIARIES: This program meets the guidelines for continuing education credit set by the California Professional Fiduciaries Bureau (PFB). The California MCLE credits provided for the program are accepted for the continuing educational requirements of the Professional Fiduciary Association of California.

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general information

REGISTRATION
Your registration fee includes all sessions, continental breakfast, luncheon, networking refreshment breaks, continuing education credit, and the Conference Syllabus in both print and electronic download formats. The Conference Syllabus highlights and expands upon today’s sessions and also includes a copy of our annual Resource Guide (an Estates and Trusts Professional Directory covering Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego counties).

CANCELLATIONS
All registrations and purchases are final and non-refundable.

LOCATION AND ACCOMMODATIONS
The Trust and Estate Conference will be held at:
The Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites
404 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA 90071
Information: (213) 624-1000
Reservations: (800) 937-8461
Website: www.thebonaventure.com

For questions regarding accommodations, please contact Wendy Wiley Willett at (213) 821-3579 or wwiley@law.usc.edu.

PARKING
Limited valet parking is available for $24 per day with validation. Self-parking is available at the City National Garage (adjacent to the hotel at 400 S. Flower Street) for $15 with validation. Validations can be obtained at Will Call.

BADGE PICK UP
Badges will be held at Will Call, located in the hotel's California Ballroom Foyer on the second level.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS
USC Gould welcomes the participation of individuals with disabilities at our continuing legal education events. If you require special accommodations or have any questions, please contact the USC Gould Continuing Legal Education office at (213) 821-3580 or cle@law.usc.edu.

EXHIBITORS
Please visit our website at http://gould.usc.edu/cle/te for information on exhibiting or contact Wendy Wiley Willett at (213) 821-3579 or wwiley@law.usc.edu with questions. Exhibitor space is limited, so reserve your space as soon as possible!

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Purchase audio recordings of the Conference when you register for $99 and listen to the Conference speakers at your leisure. You cannot claim additional credit for listening to an audio recording of a session you attended in person.

If you are unable to attend the Conference, purchase Conference audio recordings with the downloadable syllabus for $199 and earn CLE self-study credit for listening to the Conference sessions. Visit our website at http://gould.usc.edu/cle/te for more information.

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☐ $99 (Purchase with a Registration)
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