



Probate, Estate, Trust & Guardianship

Attorney Thomas is the "AV"-rated, managing partner of a six-attorney boutique law firm concentrating its practice in probate, estate, trust and guardianship litigation. The law firm has represented more than 500 clients in estate-related disputes, both prosecuting and defending, with a wide variety of causes of action. After many years and hundreds of cases, we have learned that the facts are always the same in a general sense, but have infinite variety as to the particulars. There is always an elderly person, usually alone, and a predatory relative, friend, or caretaker who takes advantage of the loneliness and dependency of old age. We understand that while clients are best served by first attempting to negotiate an honest, fair and prompt resolution to a dispute, it often becomes necessary for an estate attorney to litigate in order to preserve and protect a family member's personal rights and assets or a client's inheritance.



Adrian P. Thomas, LL.M., J.D.

Selected 2009-2010 Florida
Trend's Legal Elite

AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell

Attorney Referrals

Estate, guardianship, and trust litigation are developing areas of the law in Florida. The large elderly population has created a hotbed for abuse and subsequent litigation. Because probate, guardianship, and trust work generally do not involve litigation, most practitioners in those areas are reluctant – and wisely so -- to litigate an issue themselves. Litigation is full of pitfalls that make it a hazard for attorneys who do not specialize. Our most frequent attorney referrals come from estate planning and probate practitioners who correctly identify an issue while planning or administering an estate and realize that litigation is necessary.

If you are an attorney and have identified an issue and would like to discuss it further before recommending litigation to your client, please call our firm to discuss the matter. We co-counsel cases throughout the State of Florida and pay fees to co-counsel in accordance with the Division of Fees rules promulgated by The Florida Bar.

The Firm

Our law firm is located in downtown Fort Lauderdale, Florida on Las Olas Boulevard, which is one block from the Broward County Courthouse where probate and trust disputes in Broward County are litigated. While a considerable percentage of our cases are in the Tri-County area (Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach), we have cases across the state and our firm represents clients from all over the world.

Areas of Practice

Will Contests
Estate Litigation
Determination of Heirs
Trust Reformation/Construction
Probate
Undue Influence Claims
Elective Share Litigation
Last Will and Testament Disputes
Breach of Fiduciary Duty
Trust Litigation
Trust Contests
Probate Litigation
Lack of Mental Capacity (Testamentary Capacity)
Removal of Personal Representative

Attorneys

Adrian P. Thomas, LL.M., J.D.
Michele M. Thomas, J.D.
Jeffrey S. Bunin, J.D.
Merrilee A. Jobes, J.D.
Daniel A. McGowan, J.D.*
Sean G. Perkins, J.D.
Christopher P. Taylor, J.D.

Paralegals & Legal Assistants

Ruth Broder
Michele M. Carbone
Carey Gibson
Ruthy Green
Beverly J. Warren
Phyllis D. Weiner

*admitted only in Pennsylvania and Ohio