

People



Lansing R. Palmer

Co-Chair, Probate and Fiduciary Litigation

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For more than four decades, clients have turned to Lansing Palmer to protect their interests and rights in high-profile trusts and estates disputes as well as commercial and business litigation matters. Over his career, he has appeared in state and federal courts in multiple jurisdictions, including a landmark case in the U.S. Supreme Court that established the test for “excusable neglect” for late filings in bankruptcy, and by extension other types of cases, and which has since been cited more than 16,000 times. Lansing serves as co-chair of Akerman’s Probate and Fiduciary Litigation Practice.

Lansing has litigated numerous cases involving estate taxes and the valuation of complex assets. His experience also includes litigation risk analysis and alternative dispute resolution, as well as testimony at trial as an expert witness on issues of professional responsibility and the valuation of legal services.

Notable Work

Estate Tax Litigation: Represented the widow of prominent author Tom Clancy in a much-publicized decision in 2016 when the Maryland Court of Appeals affirmed a lower court decision exonerating a trust for her and her daughter from the payment of estate taxes.

Injunctive Relief: Represented Patti Hansen, the wife of Rolling Stones’ guitarist Keith Richards, and obtained preliminary injunction against a magazine which had published pirated photographs in right-of-privacy violation.

Guardianship Litigation: Represented co-guardians of the \$170 million estate of an incapacitated minority entrepreneur and negotiated a favorable court-approved settlement with the spouse prior to the ward’s death.

Surcharge of Trustee: Represented the beneficiary of a terminated trust whose assets were being held hostage by a trustee who

Areas of Experience

Litigation
Trusts and Estates
Probate and Fiduciary Litigation

Education

J.D., Boston University School of Law
B.A., Yale University

Admissions

Bars

Florida
New York

Courts

U.S. Tax Court
U.S. Court of Appeals, Armed Forces
U.S. Supreme Court
U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York

Related Content

Akerman Lawyers Ranked in New York by *Super Lawyers Magazine*
November 04, 2024

112 Akerman Lawyers Across the U.S. Named to 2023 *Super Lawyers* and Rising Stars Lists
September 28, 2023

123 Akerman Lawyers Across the United States Named to 2022 *Super Lawyers* and Rising Stars Lists
October 10, 2022

wrongfully refused to distribute them as they declined precipitously in value, in a trio of favorable decisions.

Prior Professional Experience

Military Service

- U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps (Trial/Defense Counsel)
- Lt. Comdr., JAGC, USNR [Ret.]

Community Involvement

- Timothy Dwight College, Yale University, Associate Fellow, 1980-2002
- The Saint Nicholas Society of the City of New York, President, 1997-1999

Published Work and Lectures

- NYSBA Journal, Trusts and Estates Law Section, Author, "Accountant's Fees in Estates and Trusts," Vol. 53 No. 2, Summer 2020
- Author, "Cross-Examination: Using Depositions at Trial," reprinted with permission, *The Art of Cross-Examination: Essays from the Bench and Bar*, American Bar Association, 2014

Affiliations

- American Bar Association, Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Section, Committee on Probate & Fiduciary Litigation, 2016-present
- American Bar Association, Section of Litigation, Committee on Litigation Involving Decedents' Estates (former member)
- The Florida Bar, Real Property, Probate & Trust Law Section, Member
- Palm Beach County Bar Association, Member
- Martin County Bar Association, Member
- New York State Bar Association, Commercial and Federal Litigation Section, Committee on Federal Procedure (former member); Trusts and Estates Law Section, Committee on Surrogate's Courts (former member); Committee on Estate Litigation, 2000-present
- New York City Bar, Committee on Military Justice and Military Affairs (former member)

Honors and Distinctions

- *Super Lawyers* Magazine, 2012-2024, Listed in New York for Estate & Trust Litigation