



Douglas A. Mielock

Shareholder

313 South Washington Square
Lansing, MI 48933-2114
T: 517.371.8203
F: 517.371.8200
DMielock@fosterswift.com

Doug Mielock is devoted to helping clients achieve their goals, Doug represents and counsels clients in the following areas:

- **Estate Planning:** Meets with clients to determine their goals. Drafts wills, trusts, powers of attorney and other documents to achieve these goals. This includes the avoidance or reduction of federal income tax and federal estate, gift and generation-skipping transfer tax.
- **Estate Litigation:** Represents fiduciaries and beneficiaries in probate court litigation. This includes disputes such as the construction of wills and trusts, the contested validity of wills and trusts and breach of trust actions brought against fiduciaries.
- **Estate Administration:** Represents fiduciaries and beneficiaries in the administration of probate estates and trust estates following the death of an intestate decedent, testator, or settlor.
- **Marital Agreements:** Counsels individuals on their legal rights prior to marriage. Drafts pre-marital and post-marital agreements.

Doug is a frequent speaker on trust and estate-related topics. He has addressed dozens of groups and forums across Michigan, including testimony before state legislative committees. He is also a member of the Probate Advisory Committee for the Institute of Continuing Legal Education. A native of Lansing, Doug is a former leader of the firm's Trusts & Estates Practice Group and currently serves on the firm's Executive Committee as Co-Vice President of the Lansing office. He also formerly served on the firm's Executive Committee as Secretary.

PRACTICE AREAS

Estate Planning
Trust & Estate Litigation
Trusts & Estates

EDUCATION

University of Michigan Law School,
J.D., 1987
Michigan State University, B.A.,
1984, General Business
Administration, with honors

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

Michigan
Illinois
U.S. District Court for the Northern
District of Illinois
U.S. District Court for the Western
District of Michigan
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribal
Court

HONORS & RECOGNITIONS

Martindale-Hubbell 2023 AV®
Preeminent™ Attorney - Judicial
Edition
Michael W. Irish Award (2016 –
Probate and Estate Planning Section,
State Bar of Michigan)
Best Lawyers in America®
2001-2024 (Trusts & Estates; Elder
Law; Non-Profit / Charities Law;
Litigation - Trusts & Estates)
Best Lawyers® 2022 Elder Law
"Lawyer of the Year" in Lansing



REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Develop, draft, and implement estate plans that permit clients to pass a significant amount of wealth free of federal estate tax at death.
- Successfully represented beneficiaries of \$7.5 million trust in defending action contesting validity of trust.
- Successfully represented beneficiary under unsigned draft amendment in trust action to establish validity of unsigned trust amendment.
- Successfully represented bank trustee in defending separate actions for breach of trust brought by beneficiaries of multi-million dollar trusts.
- Represented beneficiaries of trust in successfully defending multiple actions brought contesting validity of trust; obtained complete victory for clients following bench trial.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Apply 2020 Discovery Rules in Probate Litigation, *Institute for Continuing Legal Education (ICLE)*, January 9, 2020

Anatomy of a Trust, *59th Annual Probate and Estate Planning Institute, State Bar of Michigan, Probate and Estate Planning Section*, May 16, 2019

Nonprobate Transfers, *58th Annual Probate and Estate Planning Institute, State Bar of Michigan, Probate and Estate Planning Section*, May 17, 2018

Estate Planning 101, *Michigan Farm Bureau: 2018 Take Root Conference*, February 26, 2018

You're Just the Scrivener: How to Avoid Being a Witness in a Will or Trust Contest, *57th Annual Probate and Estate Planning Institute, State Bar of Michigan, Probate and Estate Planning Section*, May 2017

Drafting Effective Joint Trusts, *Upper Michigan Legal Institute: State Bar of Michigan*, June 2016

How to Disinherit a Spouse or Child, *56th Annual Probate and Estate Planning Institute, State Bar of Michigan, Probate and Estate Planning Section*, June 2016

Estate Planning in the Era of Portability and High Exclusion Amounts, *Ingham County Bar Association*, April 2016

Best Lawyers® 2013, 2016, 2024
Litigation - Trusts & Estates "Lawyer of the Year" in Lansing

Best Lawyers® 2017, 2023
Trusts and Estates "Lawyer of the Year" in Lansing

Best Lawyers® 2018, 2020
Litigation-Trusts and Estates
"Lawyer of the Year" in Lansing

Michigan *Super Lawyers*, Estate & Probate, 2005-2023

Top 100 Michigan Super Lawyers, 2008 & 2009

AV® Preeminent™
Martindale-Hubbell rating since 1998

1997 Boss of the Year Award -
Lansing Legal Support Professionals

Inductee - Lansing Eastern High
School Sports Hall of Fame

Inductee - Greater Lansing Sports
Hall of Fame



Estate Planning in the Era of Portability and High Exclusion Amounts, *Institute for Continuing Legal Education*, November 2015

Estate Planning in the Era of Portability and High Exclusion Amounts, *Northeastern Michigan Estate Planning Council*, September 24, 2015

Wrapping Up Trust Administration, *55th Annual Probate and Estate Planning Institute, State Bar of Michigan, Probate and Estate Planning Section*, June 2015

Farm Succession and Estate Planning, *Michigan Farm Bureau*, January 27, 2015 & February 4, 2015

Court Rules You Must Know, *54th Annual Probate and Estate Planning Institute, State Bar of Michigan, Probate and Estate Planning Section*, June 18, 2014

Court Rules, *Probate and Estate Planning Institute*, May 8, 2014

Michigan's Trust Decanting Rules, (co-presented with James P. Spica), *Web-Cast/On-Demand Seminar, Institute for Continuing Legal Education*, August 2013

Fundamentals of Funding Trusts, *53rd Annual Probate and Estate Planning Institute, State Bar of Michigan, Probate and Estate Planning Section*, May/June 2013

Probate Settlements: Maximizing Results for your Client, (co-presented with Sheldon J. Stark), *52nd Annual Probate and Estate Planning Institute, State Bar of Michigan, Probate and Estate Planning Section*, May/June 2012

Creative Planning Available Under the Michigan Trust Code, *51st Annual Probate and Estate Planning Institute, State Bar of Michigan, Probate and Estate Planning Section*, May/June 2011

Probate Litigation Under the Michigan Trust Code, *50th Annual Probate and Estate Planning Institute, State Bar of Michigan, Probate and Estate Planning Section*, May/June 2010

Drafting Trust Protector Provisions, *19th Annual Drafting Estate Planning Documents Seminar, Institute for Continuing Legal Education*, January/February 2010

Michigan Trust Code Preview: Conversations with the Commentator - Trust Protectors, *Institute for Continuing Legal Education*, November 2009

The Wrap of RAP: What You Should Know About the New Michigan Rule Against Perpetuities, *49th Annual Probate and Estate Planning Institute, State Bar of Michigan, Probate and Estate Planning Section*, May/June 2009

Drafting with the New Michigan Rule Against Perpetuities, *18th Annual Drafting Estate Planning Documents Seminar, Institute for Continuing Legal Education*, January/February 2009

Post-Death Estate Planning Issues, *Financial Planning Association of Michigan*, June 2008

Undue Influence, *48th Annual Probate and Estate Planning Institute, State Bar of Michigan, Probate and Estate Planning Section*, May/June 2008

Uniform Trust Code, *Elder Law and Advocacy Section Conference, State Bar of Michigan*, April 8, 2005

Drafting an Estate Plan for an Estate Under \$5 Million, *Institute for Continuing Legal Education*, March 2005, April 2005, March 2006, June 2007, February 2008, February 2009, May 2010, June 2011, June 2012, June 2013, June 2014, October 2014, June 2015, June 2016, September 2017, March 2019



Planning Techniques for the Taxable Estate, *Institute for Continuing Legal Education (Funding Trust)*, December 2003-2009

Update of Recent and Proposed Legislation, *Jackson Estate Planning Council*, December 2000

Update on Recent and Proposed Michigan and Federal Legislation and Regulations, *40th Annual Probate and Estate Planning Seminar, State Bar of Michigan, Probate and Estate Planning Section*, May/June 2000

Probate and Trust Administration Under EPIC, *Wayne County Probate Court Mandatory Attorney Training*, October 21, 1999

Estate and Protected Individuals Code: Preview and Overview, *Michigan Bankers Association Seminar*, October 5, 1999

Update on Recent and Proposed Michigan and Federal Legislation and Regulations, *39th Annual Probate and Estate Planning Seminar, State Bar of Michigan, Probate and Estate Planning Section*, May/June 1999

Recent Developments in Estate Planning, *Mid-Michigan Study Group of the Michigan Society of the Institute of Certified Financial Planners*, June 1998

Update on Recent and Proposed Michigan and Federal Legislation and Regulations, *38th Annual Probate and Estate Planning Seminar, State Bar of Michigan, Probate and Estate Planning Section*, May/June 1998

Update on Recent and Proposed Michigan and Federal Legislation and Regulations, *37th Annual Probate and Estate Planning Seminar, State Bar of Michigan, Probate and Estate Planning Section*, May/June 1997

Testimony on Senate Bill 290 (Estate Settlement Act), *Senate Judiciary Committee*, February 25, 1997

The Estate Settlement Act: Changes in the Law and Your Practice, *Annual Meeting, State Bar of Michigan, Probate and Estate Planning Section*, September 1996

Testimony on Senate Bill 490 (Powers of Attorney), February 1, 1996

FLPs, LLCs, GRATs & QPRTs, *Flint Estate Planning Council*, October 1995

Estate Planning for Terminally Ill Clients (Dealing with Closely-Held Business Interests), *Institute for Continuing Legal Education*, October 1995

Estate Planning with Family Limited Partnerships and Limited Liability Companies, *Institute for Continuing Legal Education*, February and March 1995

The Cooperative Roles of the Financial Planner and Attorney, *International Association of Financial Planners*, January 1995

PUBLICATIONS

Michigan Probate Litigation, *Institute for Continuing Legal Education (ICLE)*, October 15, 2017

Introductory Trust Clauses, *Michigan Estate Planning Handbook*, July 2017

Office of Trustee, *Michigan Estate Planning Handbook*, July 2017



Using Revocable Grantor Trusts, *Michigan Estate Planning Handbook, Institute for Continuing Legal Education (ICLE)*, July 2017

Avoiding Conflict Over Tangible Personal Property, *Foster Swift Estate Planning Insights*, Fall 2010

Michigan Trust Code Takes Effect April 1, 2010, *Foster Swift Estate Planning Insights*, Winter 2009

Recent Court of Appeals Case Highlights Importance of Estate Planning in Multiple Marriage Situations, *Foster Swift Estate Planning Insights*, Winter 2009

GRATs & QPRTs - Sophisticated Planning Techniques for Selective Situations, *Ingham County Bar Association Briefs*, 1995

The Use of Multiple-Party Accounts as Nonprobate Transfer Devices, *Michigan Probate & Estate Planning Journal*, Spring 1992

Michigan Estate Planning Handbook, *Institute of Continuing Legal Education, Chapters on Revocable Trusts*

Michigan Revocable Grantor Trusts, *Institute for Continuing Legal Education (Chapter on Trustees)*

MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

Legal Affiliations:

- State Bar of Michigan
 - Probate and Estate Planning Section
 - Council Member/Officer 1996-2007
 - Chair 2006-2007
 - Estates and Protected Individuals Code Committee, Member 1992-2000
 - Michigan Trust Code Committee, Member 2005-2010
- American Bar Association
 - Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section
- Ingham County Bar Association

Industry & Professional Associations:

- The American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, Fellow 2002-Present
- Institute of Continuing Legal Education
 - Probate Advisory Committee, 2006-2018
- Greater Lansing Estate Planning Council
- Elder Law of Michigan Inc., Former Chair and former Board of Directors
- Capital Region Community Foundation
 - Board of Trustees 2006-2014
 - Treasurer 2007- 2009
 - Chair Elect 2010



- Chair 2011

Community Involvement:

- Sparrow Foundation
 - Planned Giving Committee, Former Chair and former Committee member