

Adam T. Gusdorff

Partner

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Fiduciary and Tax Litigation

EDUCATION

Temple University James E. Beasley
School of Law, J.D., magna cum
laude (2001)

Pennsylvania State University, B.A.
(1990)

ADMISSIONS

Pennsylvania (2001)

U.S. District Court for the Eastern
District of Pennsylvania (2002)

BIOGRAPHY

Adam Gusdorff's practice focuses on litigation involving trusts, estates, guardianships, and other fiduciary matters. He represents individual and corporate clients throughout Pennsylvania in a variety of Orphans' Court, Register of Wills and appellate court matters, including will contests, guardianship proceedings, fiduciary surcharge actions and compensation disputes, will and trust interpretation cases, trust modifications, probate disputes, and matters involving charitable organizations. Although Adam focuses his practice on litigation, he also has experience in estate planning, and he advises individual and corporate fiduciaries regarding estate and trust administration issues.

Adam frequently speaks and writes on matters concerning Orphans' Court practice, including general practice and procedure, the use of expert witnesses, evidentiary issues, prosecuting and defending claims against an estate, and the Dead Man's Rule. He is a member of the Pennsylvania, Philadelphia and Montgomery Bar Associations. He currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Philadelphia Bar Association Probate and Tax Section, and is a past chair and a current co-chair of the Section's Orphans' Court Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee.

Adam is a Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC) and is a member of ACTEC's Fiduciary Litigation Committee and its Professional Responsibility Committee. He also has completed a 20-hour Probate Mediation Training program sponsored by ACTEC. Adam is recognized as a Super Lawyer for Estate and Trust Litigation and is listed in Best Lawyers for Trusts and Estates Litigation. In 2022, Adam was recognized by Best Lawyers as the Lawyer of the Year for Trusts and Estates Litigation in the Philadelphia area.

Adam is an adjunct professor in the graduate tax program of James E. Beasley School of Law at Temple University, where he teaches a class with Pennsylvania Superior Court Judge Anne E. Lazarus on Orphans' Court pleading and trial practice. Before attending law school, Adam worked for eight years as a sportswriter in suburban Philadelphia and won a Keystone Press Award for outstanding sports writing in 1998.

MEMBERSHIPS

- Philadelphia Bar Association
 - Probate and Trust Law Section
 - Executive Committee (2010 – 2012)
 - Chair, Orphans' Court Litigation Committee (2014 – 2017)
 - Co-Chair, Orphans' Court Litigation Committee (2020 – present)
 - Rules and Practice Committee
- Pennsylvania Bar Association
- Montgomery Bar Association
 - Vice Chair, Rules of Orphans' Court Committee (2020)

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HONORS/AWARDS

- Fellow, American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, Elected 2016
 - Member, Fiduciary Litigation Committee (2020 – present)
 - Member, Professional Responsibility Committee (2020 – present)
- Pennsylvania Super Lawyer, Rising Star (2008, 2010 – 2011)
- Pennsylvania Super Lawyer (2015 – present)
- Best Lawyers in America (2016 – present)

TEACHING POSITIONS

- Adjunct Professor, Graduate Tax Program, Temple University James E. Beasley School of Law (2013 – present)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- **2022** Adam T. Gusdorff, Moderator, "Court Approval of Non-Judicial Settlement Agreements: A Blessing, But Not In Disguise?", Cambridge Forum on Private Wealth Litigation, Dallas, Tex., May 6, 2022
- **2022** Adam T. Gusdorff, Author/Speaker, "McAleer and the Fiduciary Exception," Pennsylvania Bar Institute, March 30, 2022
- **2021** Adam T. Gusdorff, Speaker, "Dealing with a 'Bad' Trustee," Cannon Financial Institute, Inc., November 16, 2021
- **2021** Adam T. Gusdorff, Author/Speaker, "Pennsylvania Rules of Evidence Pertaining to Opinion Testimony," Estate Law Institute, November 12, 2021
- **2021** Adam T. Gusdorff, Author/Speaker, "The Intersection of Death and Divorce: Estate Planning & Family Law Implications under Marital Agreements," Philadelphia Bar Association, Probate and Trust Law Section Quarterly Meeting, October 12, 2021
- **2021** Adam T. Gusdorff, Author/Speaker, "Settlement Agreements: Getting Across the Goal Line," ACTEC National Meeting, October 8, 2021
- **2021** Adam T. Gusdorff, Speaker, "Oops! I Did It Again," a panel discussion about the Britney Spears conservatorship, The Temple American Inn of Court, May 19, 2021
- **2021** Adam T. Gusdorff, Course Planner/Author/Speaker, "Litigating in Orphans' Court: Special Evidentiary Issues; Modification of Charitable Trusts," Pennsylvania Bar Institute, April 16, 2021
- **2021** Adam T. Gusdorff and Erica A. Russo, Co-Authors, "Once a Stepchild Always a Stepchild: the Fallacy of 'Former Stepchildren' and Pennsylvania Inheritance Tax," Real Property, Probate & Trust Law Section Newsletter, Pennsylvania Bar Association, Summer/Fall 2021.

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- **2021** Adam T. Gusdorff, Author/Speaker, "Settlement Agreements: Getting Across the Goal Line," American College of Trust and Estate Counsel ("ACTEC") National Meeting, October 8, 2021.
- **2021** Adam T. Gusdorff, Author/Speaker, "The Intersection of Death and Divorce: Estate Planning & Family Law Implications under Marital Agreements," Philadelphia Bar Association, Probate and Trust Law Section Quarterly Meeting, October 12, 2021.
- **2021** Adam T. Gusdorff, Course Planner/Author/Speaker, "Litigating in Orphans' Court: Special Evidentiary Issues; Modification of Charitable Trusts," Pennsylvania Bar Institute, April 16, 2021.
- **2021** Adam T. Gusdorff, Speaker, "Oops! I Did It Again," a panel discussion about the Britney Spears conservatorship, The Temple American Inn of Court, May 19, 2021.
- **2020** Adam T. Gusdorff, Speaker, "Ethical Obligations to Clients with Diminished Capacity: Concerns and Best Practices" and "Using Declaratory Judgments to Resolve Claims in the Orphans' Court Division," 27th Estate Law Institute, Pennsylvania Bar Institute, November, 2020.
- **2020** Adam T. Gusdorff, Speaker/Author, "Attorney-Client Privilege in Estate Planning, Administration and Litigation," Estate and Elder Law Symposium, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- **2019** Adam T. Gusdorff and Jennifer A. Kosteva, Co-Speakers and Co-Authors, "Estate of Han Solo: Estate Administration Problems of Galactic Proportions," National College of Probate Judges, Fall 2019, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- **2019** Adam T. Gusdorff, Author and Speaker, "Will Contests," Montgomery County Paralegal Association, Blue Bell, Pennsylvania.
- **2019** Adam T. Gusdorff, Author, "Terminating the Representation," Estate Planning in Pennsylvania, Fifth Edition (PBI Press 2019).
- **2019** Adam T. Gusdorff, Speaker, Author, "Attorney-Client Privilege in Estate Planning, Administration and Litigation," American College of Trust and Estate Counsel Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting, New York, NY.
- **2019** Adam T. Gusdorff, Speaker/Author, "The Pennsylvania Dead Man's Rule," Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges, Mid-Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, February 22, 2019.
- **2019** Adam T. Gusdorff, Speaker/Author/ Course Planner/Moderator, "Litigating in the Orphans' Court," Pennsylvania Bar Institute, "Orphans' Court Practice and Procedure," (Author and Speaker, Philadelphia and Mechanicsburg) and "Modification of Trust and Nonjudicial Settlement Agreements," (Speaker, Mechanicsburg), Philadelphia and Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.
- **2018** Adam T. Gusdorff, Speaker, "Hot Topics in Orphans' Court litigation," Montgomery Bar Association, Membership Celebration & Legal Symposium, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, November 9, 2018.

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- **2018** Adam T. Gusdorff, Speaker/Author, "Will Contests: What Have I Gotten Myself Into?", Philadelphia Bar Association, Probate and Trust Law Section Quarterly Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 9, 2018.
- **2018** Adam T. Gusdorff, Speaker/Author/Planner, "Dead Man's Rule," Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, August 27, 2018.
- **2017** Adam T. Gusdorff, Author/Speaker, "Resolving Trust Issues – Hopefully Without Court Intervention," ACTEC Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting, Long Branch, New Jersey.
- **2017** Adam T. Gusdorff, Author/Speaker, "Will Contests: Preparing your Case," Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- **2016** Adam T. Gusdorff and Jennifer A. Kosteva, Co-Course Planners/Co-Authors/Co-Speakers, "Estate of Han Solo: Unusual Aspects of Estate Administration," Montgomery Bar Association, Norristown, Pennsylvania.
- **2016** Adam T. Gusdorff, Author, "Terminating the Representation," Estate Planning in Pennsylvania, Fourth Edition, (PBI Press, 2016).
- **2016** Adam T. Gusdorff, Author/Speaker, "The Pennsylvania Dead Man's Rule," Monroe County Bar Association, Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania.
- **2016** Adam T. Gusdorff, Speaker, "New Orphans' Court Rules," Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Philadelphia and Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.
- **2016** Adam T. Gusdorff, Speaker, "The New Pennsylvania Orphans' Court Rules," Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.
- **2015** Adam T. Gusdorff, Course Planner/Author/Speaker, "The Dead Man's Rule," Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Philadelphia, Mechanicsburg and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
- **2015** Adam T. Gusdorff, Speaker/Author/Co-Course Planner/Moderator, "Litigating in the Orphans' Court," Pennsylvania Bar Institute (Course Planner with Margaret E.W. Sager), "Discovery in Orphans' Court," (Author and Speaker, Philadelphia and Mechanicsburg) and "Orphans' Court Practice and Procedure," (Author and Speaker, Philadelphia and Mechanicsburg), "Powers of Attorney and Trust Modification," (Moderator and Speaker, Pittsburgh) Philadelphia, Mechanicsburg, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
- **2014** Adam T. Gusdorff, Speaker, "Hot Topics in Fiduciary Litigation: Discovery in Orphans' Court," Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- **2014** Adam T. Gusdorff, Speaker/Author and Bradley D. Terebello, Speaker, "Orphans' Court Litigation Update: The Pennsylvania Uniform Trust Act and Family Settlement Agreements," Montgomery County Estate Planning Council of Pennsylvania, Blue Bell, Pennsylvania.
- **2014** Adam T. Gusdorff, Speaker/Author/Course Planner, "Trial of a Will Contest," Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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- **2013** Adam T. Gusdorff, Speaker/Author, "The Dead Man's Rule," Pennsylvania Bar Institute, co-presented with the Hon. Lois Eisner Murphy, Orphans' Court Division, Court of Common Pleas of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, and David Inscho, Esquire, of Kline & Specter, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- **2012** Adam T. Gusdorff, Speaker/Author, "Orphans' Court for the Estate and Trust Practitioner," with Alison Gross, Esquire, Mary Kenney, Esquire, the Honorable Lois E. Murphy, Quarterly Meeting of the Philadelphia Bar Association Probate Section, Pennsylvania Bar Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- **2012** Adam T. Gusdorff, Speaker/Author, "Utilizing Experts in the Orphans' Court," (with Jennifer Gayle, Esquire, and Amanda DiChello, Esquire) Pennsylvania Bar Institute, "19th Annual Estate Law Institute," Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.