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# Wills, Trusts, And Estates (Casebook)



## Synopsis

Regarded as one of the best casebooks available for any course, this comprehensive text combines interesting cases, well-tailored notes, and a clear organization into an excellent teaching tool. The new Seventh Edition retains the late Jesse Dukeminier's unique blend of wit, erudition, insight, and playfulness and covers all the key topics in a logical, clear organization. Included are interesting cases that are not only fun to read, but fun for professors to teach as well. Cases are enhanced and connected to broader legal principles by well-written notes, questions, and problems and cartoons, illustrations, and photographs provide humorous interruptions and visual commentary at appropriate places within the text. New authors James Lindgren and Robert Sitkoff updated the book to reflect legal change while remaining careful to retain the same interesting mix of cases, engaging notes and flexible organization that makes this a highly successful casebook. Additions and improvements to the previous edition include due attention to new developments in law reform by the ALI and NCCUSL such as: Restatement Third, Trusts (2003, Uniform Trust Code (2000) including proposed 2004 amendments, Restatement (Third) of Property: Wills and Other Donative Transfers (2001, 2003) and Uniform Disclaimer of Property Interests Act (2002). Attention is given to ongoing developments in the law such as inheritance rights of posthumously conceived children, standing of donors in suits against the trustees of charitable trusts, the rise of domestic offshore self-settled spendthrift trusts, the erosion of the rule against perpetuities and the rise of the perpetual, generation-skipping trust. There is enhanced coverage of increasingly important topics such as fiduciary administration and trust investment law (including modern portfolio theory, diversification, the principal and income problem, and measuring damages; and inheritance rights of same-sex partners, inheritance rights of children, with comparison to the other common law countries (which are far more generous to children). Also included is a more logical presentation of nonprobate transfers and their role in estate planning, fully updated tax chapter with attention to new developments such as the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001. Notes, questions, and problems have been revised throughout where appropriate in light of the foregoing and other developments.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Unlike other dry law school casebooks, Dukeminier captures the humanity in this study of Trusts & Estates. The editor footnotes and some of the case studies read anecdotally--giving the concepts a historical and personal dimension. The notes after the cases study the social implications of the courts' decisions. Especially interesting are Dukeminier's discussions of the implications on the legal order caused by same-sex marriage and transgender issues. This book is thoughtfully crafted, a must read for law students or lawyers interested in this area of the law!

This is a very well written text for a very complicated subject. The chapters and sections are ordered logically. First it gives you a definition, then a basic description of a rule, system or method, then it explains exceptions to the rules, THEN you read a case. I wish all of my books were written this way! It was so easy to quickly access the information and know exactly what you are suppose to be getting out of the readings. I would even recommend it as a supplement to another, less accessible textbook.

Prof said the law in this area changed tremendously. I'm trying to follow along in this book, but it's hard (she recommended the latest). They changed around all the information, added pictures, and made some terms red. I've read through the current edition and I find it really easy to follow. But I love this area of law.

This book is of course informative. It is comprehensive. But what sets it apart is the fact that it is very educative and well written. The authors ask you to think deeply about the philosophy behind the "right" to pass down property to one's heirs, and then proceed to complicate conventional wisdom by pointing out that this is by no means a "right" in many places on planet earth. They also

complicate the picture further by furnishing examples from French and Spanish common law as well as outstanding examples from Indian and slave law. How should the federal government properly discharge its trust obligations to Indian tribes? How can property own property? Very vexing questions indeed. Do yourself a favor and pick this one up. I'm not a lawyer, just a DIY autodidact, and I appreciate this book's intellectual substance immensely, not just its command of the facts. This seventh edition is current and anticipates the 2010 and 2011 anticipated "changes" to the tax code, along with some excellent insight. Don't just get it because this casebook provides good "training" on the subject of Wills, Trusts, and Estates. Get it because the enthusiasm the authors bring to the subject shines through on almost every page and because this is a very important subject that every citizen in a "democracy" like ours needs to know.

I love this book. The authors do a great job of selecting interesting cases, covering the material thoroughly, and adding humorous footnotes that together make this the best textbook in law school.

Makes the seemingly not interesting topic of Wills & Trusts come alive and you can see the real life applicability of it.

Truly excellent textbook. Takes a complicated and tedious area of law and makes the reading engaging, entertaining, and relevant. This is the perfect introduction to the law of Wills, Trusts, and Estates in the United States. Thorough coverage of relevant law, interesting (often current) cases, thought provoking commentary, and entertaining footnotes.

The rating has nothing to do with the seller, just thought the book would be more informative

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