

Experienced Trust and Estate Firm Sets a New Standard

Renowned law firm Hess-Verdon & Associates excels in advocating for clients in complex estate planning, trust administration, and trust litigation.

Jillyn Hess-Verdon

Hess-Verdon & Associates' experience with complex estate planning, trust administration, and trust litigation makes this firm stand out in California. The firm has decades of experience handling complicated assets, currently representing a combined client net worth totaling more than \$12 billion. They have been recognized state-wide for the peace of mind they provide to clients, that whatever problems their beneficiaries and trustees may face, this firm has dealt with it before and can guide their family through it.

The firm's team of attorneys not only guide individuals through the estate planning process, but also have experience in handling trusts, wills, and clients after a death has occurred, and have seen the damage disputes over inheritance can cause. "This experience is incredibly valuable to our clients, and ensures the advice and guidance given is wise and is intended to prevent disputes that can typically arise post-mortem among beneficiaries, trustees, charities, and other family members," says Jillyn Hess-Verdon, who has 29 years of experience with complex litigation and planning.

Unmatched Service

While their proficiency in estate planning for ultrahigh net worth individuals and families is unequaled, what sets this firm apart is their expertise in particularly complicated post-mortem litigation and dispute resolution. The team has handled some of the most complicated trust estate litigation cases, most stemming from one or more of the following situations:

- **Succession plan for a business**

All too often a would-be beneficiary wants to take over a business, to the exclusion of others. When no plan is



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- JILLYN HESS-VERDON, MANAGING PARTNER

in place, beneficiaries face a costly legal battle instead of a strategy to seamlessly transfer assets.

- **Family disputes**

These are especially heightened when a blended family is involved. A poorly-drafted estate plan will ensure disputes, lengthy court battles, excessive fees and a loss of privacy during their bereavement.

- **Fulfillment of philanthropic goals**

Gifts to charities that are disputed must be handled carefully and there are ways to ensure that philanthropic goals are fulfilled, even when litigation is involved.

- **Management of sophisticated assets**

Experience in handling complex assets, e.g. through businesses or partnerships, is critical when there is a dispute.

- **Special-needs trust**

Protecting the wellbeing of special needs children and to ensure they have the appropriate care after the death of the primary caregiver requires experience in navigating the proper legal channels.

"Our litigators have the experience crafting solutions that are tax-wise and practical for the family members to go their separate

ways with their inheritance. This allows us to benefit our clients by ensuring they receive their inheritance and for their long-term financial benefit, rather than depleting it through litigation, waste, and unnecessary taxes."

Putting Clients First

Hess-Verdon's priority is not only to provide legal expertise but to do so in a manner where the client's personal objectives are achieved. They consider the family dynamics and help clients make good decisions, supporting them through difficult times. This legal team has gained a reputation for supporting clients through probate proceedings, conservatorships, trust administration, and trust and probate litigation. "We are proud of the work we do with families and those who have complicated situations — we explain that their conflicts and problems are normal, and they can count on us to help them with these burdens."

The firm's greatest compliment is when clients who have been through difficult probate or trust litigation cases return to the firm to plan their own estates so that their families can avoid those battles and difficulties. Hess-Verdon knows how to prevent and control the issues that can destroy a family and its wealth.



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