




# Anthony R. La Ratta

Partner

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Estate & Trust Litigation

 856.354.3094

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## Overview

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Tony concentrates his practice in the area of Trust & Estate litigation, with an emphasis in litigation involving probate matters, estates, trusts, guardianships, and fiduciaries.

Tony has represented institutions and individuals in a variety of contexts, including banks, corporate fiduciaries, executors, trustees, beneficiaries of estates and trusts, incapacitated persons, surviving spouses, and intestate heirs. He has handled cases involving will contests, undue influence, diminished capacity, contested guardianships, writings intended as wills, breach of fiduciary duty, and accountings of estates and trusts.

Tony is also admitted by the State of New Jersey to the roster of court-approved mediators for probate cases and has been appointed by the courts to assist in resolving such disputes through mediation.

Tony served as a judicial clerk for the Honorable Joseph C. Visalli (Ret.), Judge of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Law Division, Cape May County.

## Representative Experience

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- Representing corporate and individual fiduciaries in actions brought by beneficiaries concerning the administration of estates and trusts.
- Representing will contestants in disputes over the validity of wills, based on undue influence, lack of testamentary capacity, and similar grounds.
- Handling accounting actions and exceptions thereto.

- Representing institutions seeking reformation and cy pres relief relating to charitable bequests or endowments.
- Litigating will construction cases involving the doctrine of probable intent.
- Representing surviving spouses, omitted spouses, and those claiming an elective share.
- Litigating cases concerning holographic wills and writings intended as wills, including the successful admission to probate of a videotaped will.
- Representing family members in contested guardianship disputes.
- Serving as court-appointed counsel to alleged incapacitated persons.
- Serving as court-appointed guardian of the person and the property of elderly adults or those adjudged to be mentally incapacitated.
- Serving as court-appointed mediator in probate and general equity cases.

## Professional and Community Involvement

- Fellow, American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC)
- Vice-Chair, Jefferson Health Foundation - New Jersey
- Estate and Financial Planning Council of Southern New Jersey (2012-2013 Immediate Past President; 2011-12 President; 2010-11 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; 2009-10 2nd Vice President; 2008-09 Treasurer; 2007-08 Secretary)
- American Bar Association Section of Real Property, Trust and Estate Law - Standing Committee on Career Development and Wellness; Litigation, Ethics and Malpractice Group (Former Chair); Probate & Fiduciary Litigation Committee (Former Chair); Standing Committee of National Conference of Lawyers and Corporate Fiduciaries (Former Chair)
- New Jersey State Bar Association - Equity Jurisprudence Committee (2013 - present ); Bylaws Committee (2009 - 2013)
- Burlington County Bar Association, Probate Committee
- Camden County Bar Association, Probate & Trust Committee (Co-Chair)
- Cape May County Bar Association, Chancery & Probate Committee (Former Co-Chair)
- Gloucester County Bar Association, Probate Committee
- Justinian Society (Former Member)
- Member, New Jersey Supreme Court District IV Ethics Committee, Camden and Gloucester Counties (2014-2018)



- Former Alumni Advisory Board, La Salle University Communication Department
- Former Lector, Saints Peter and Paul Church
- Former Saints Peter and Paul Church Parish Council

## Select Articles

- “What’s in a Name: Writings Intended as Wills,” *ABA Probate & Property* (May 2014)
- “No Signature Required: NJ Leads the Way with Writings Intended as Wills,” *NJ Law Journal* (August 2013)

## Select Speaking Engagements and Seminars

- “Dealing with Marginal Capacity: Navigating Problems Facing Independent Adults in Cognitive Decline,” American Bar Association Section of Real Property, Trust and Estates Law Annual RPTE National CLE Conference (April 2025)
- 15th Annual Probate Symposium,” NJICLE/NJSBA Real Property, Trust & Estate Law Section (October 2024)
- “Estate Litigation Update,” Mercer County Bar Association Xtreme CLE (October 2024)
- “New Estate & Trust Litigation Cases,” Constitutional Officers Association of New Jersey (October 2024)
- “Developing Trends in Probate Law & the Exercise of Judicial Discretion in the Surrogates’ Courts: Understanding the Unique Position of the Surrogate in the New Jersey Judiciary and the Statutes, Cases and Court Rules Which Guide the Operation of the Surrogates’ Courts and the Exercise of Judicial Discretion,” Surrogate’s Section’s Annual Convention, Constitutional Officers Association of New Jersey (September 2023)
- “Annual Estate Litigation Seminar,” Archer & Greiner (2013-2014, 2018, 2022-2023)
- “Recent Developments Facing the Legal and Banking Communities,” 35th Annual Real Property, Trust and Estate Law’s National CLE Conference, American Bar Association (May 2023)
- “Hot Trends in Probate Litigation,” Camden County Bar Association (2003- 2023)
- “The Steve & Tony & Friends Show,” 21st Annual Forum: Hot Trends in Estate Litigation, Camden County Bar Association (February 2023)
- “Hot Trends in Probate Litigation,” Burlington County Bar Association (2007, 2011-2014, 2021-2022)
- “Annual Latest Trends in Estate Litigation,” NJICLE (2009 - 2021)
- “It’s a World of Tears and a World of Fears: Crisis Management of Estates,” Section of Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Spring Symposia, American Bar Association (May 2018)



- “Estate and Trust Fiduciary Litigation: Minimizing and Defending Breach of Duty Claims,” Strafford (August 2015)
- “Recent Developments in New Jersey Law: 2015 Update,” NJICLE (July 2015)
- “Writings Intended as Wills,” CMCBA / Cape May Court House (March 2015)
- “Writing Intended as Wills,” NCPJ (November 2014)
- “Potential Ethical Pitfalls of Estate Practice,” CMCBA / Cape May Court House (October 2014)
- “Developing Trends in Probate Litigation,” COANJ (September 2014)
- “Anatomy of a Will Contest: How to Succeed at Trial,” Lorman (August 2014)
- “What PA Lawyers Need to Know about NJ Estate Practice,” PBI (August 2014)
- “Estate and Trust Fiduciary Litigation: Minimizing and Defending Breach of Duty Claims,” Strafford (July 2014)
- “Contested Guardianships: Effective Strategies To Quickly and Confidently Handle These Challenging Situations,” NJSBA (July 2014)
- “Recent Developments in New Jersey Law: 2014 Update,” NJSBA (July 2014)
- “Preparing And Trying An Undue Influence Case,” ABA (June 2014)
- “Ethics CLE Series: Part 1,” NJICLE (April 2014)
- “Anatomy of a Will Contest: How to Succeed at Trial,” Lorman (February 2014)
- “Trust & Probate Challenges: Minimizing and Litigating Claims of Undue Influence, Fraud, Capacity, and Mistakes,” Strafford (January 2014)
- “Special Situations in Estate Administration,” NJICLE (January 2014)
- “What Pennsylvania Lawyers Need to Know About NJ Estate Practice,” PBI (March 2014)

## Recognitions

- Named to New Jersey “Super Lawyers Rising Stars” list for Estate & Trust Litigation (2011)
- Named to New Jersey “Super Lawyers” list for Estate & Trust Litigation (2024, 2025)

Click [here](#) for methodology.

\*No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.



# Credentials

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## Education

- Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law, JD
- La Salle University, BA, *maxima cum laude*

## Admissions

- New Jersey
- Pennsylvania
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

## Offices

- Voorhees, NJ

# Areas of Focus

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## Practice

- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Estate & Trust Litigation
- Private Wealth, Estates & Trusts

