

Mary Mason Counsel

Board Certified in Estate Planning & Probate Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, Mary Mason focuses her practice on all matters related to probate and the administration of decedent's estates, trust administration and estate planning.

Leader of the Probate and Trust Administration Practice Group, Mary guides families and fiduciaries through every phase of the probate and estate administration process, from making required filings and meeting critical deadlines, gathering and appraising assets, and filing the federal estate tax return to paying debts and ultimately distributing assets to the beneficiaries and funding testamentary trusts. She has extensive experience in handling non-contested matters and also regularly representing executors and beneficiaries in will contests, accounting disputes and other contested matters. Mary also has significant experience in trust administration matters and has successfully handled a number of trust modification matters for both trustees and beneficiaries where changes to irrevocable trusts were required.

Mary's practice also includes advising clients on all aspects of estate planning with the goal of achieving their post-mortem objectives and minimizing income, estate, gift and generation-skipping transfer taxes. This includes drafting wills, trust agreements, powers of attorney, directives to physicians and other ancillary estate planning documents and coordinating beneficiary designations for life insurance and retirement accounts. Whether she is representing a high-net worth individual with significant assets and business interests or a client with a more modest estate, Mary takes the same compassionate, detail-focused approach and seeks to make the process as economical and efficient as possible.

Press Releases

- "Twenty-Nine Gray Reed Attorneys Named 2018 Top Lawyers in Houston" (December 3, 2018)



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Practices
Trusts & Estates

Education
J.D., South Texas College of Law
Houston (1999)
B.B.A., Texas A&M University (1993)

Bar Admissions
Texas

- “Gray Reed & McGraw Welcomes New Attorneys to Houston Office” (June 1, 2016)

Thought Leadership

- “POAs: Possibilities, Obstacles and Abuses II”, Houston Disability and Elder Law Attorneys Association (February 2016)
- “Big Returns Using Low Interest Rates”, *Texas Lawyer* (August 2014)
- “How to Handle the Legal Challenges of the ‘Sandwich Generation’”, *Houston Business Journal - Online* (August 2013)

Speeches and Presentations

- “Lost in Translation: How to Apply What You Heard Today to What You Do Everyday”, Intermediate Estate Planning and Probate Course (June 2014)
- “POAs: Possibilities, Obstacles and Abuses”, Houston Bar Association, 2012 Wills and Probate Institute, Fundamentals Course (February 2012)
- “Non-Probate Assets”, South Texas College of Law, Wills and Probate Institute (September 9-10, 2004)

Honors

- Named a “Super Lawyer” by Texas Super Lawyers (a Thomson Reuters business) as published in *Texas Monthly* (2016 – 2019)
- Named a *Houstonia Magazine* Top Lawyer in Houston (2018 - 2019)

Organizational Involvement

- Houston Bar Association
 - Council Member, Probate, Trusts & Estates Section (2015 –

present)

- State Bar of Texas
 - Planning Committee, Intermediate Estate Planning and Probate Course, San Antonio, Texas (2013, 2014, 2016)
- College of the State Bar of Texas
- Disability and Elder Law Attorneys Association
- State Bar of Texas
 - Real Estate, Probate and Trust Law Section
- Fort Bend County Bar Association
 - Probate, Trusts & Estates Section
- Fellow, Texas Bar Foundation (2016 – present)