A Summary of the Trusts & Estates Section Council's April 23, 2021, Business Meeting

BY JENNIFER BUNKER SKERSTON

CLE

The Council will be providing CLE on estate planning for pets on October 6. Council members are working on future programs concerning electronic Wills and an Illinois Trust Code update.

Legislation

Multiple bills were discussed. Of most significant note was the following: The Electronic Wills Act, now SB730, moved to the House as did SB2664 regarding remote notarization. The Statute of Repose was discussed as it needed to be approved by the Senate the day of the meeting. The Council agreed to not take a position on HB3968 which would amend the Corporate Fiduciary Act to create a Special Purpose Trust Company Authority.

Access to Justice

"Guide to Estate Planning" and "Guide to Living Trusts" brochures have been updated and will be released to the public in the near future. The Council will also be updating videos on the ISBA website.

Advanced Directives

The Council discussed a proposed letter to the Illinois Department of Public Health regarding advanced directives.■

Spotlight on Trusts & Estates Section Council Member: Robert Kaufman

BY MIA O. HERNANDEZ

The Trusts & Estates Section Council has members from throughout the State of Illinois with a variety of professional achievements, skills, and practices. In this newsletter, we continue a monthly series of articles in a question-and-answer format that highlights the backgrounds, interests, and experiences of the members of the Trusts & Estates Section Council as a way to get to know more about them.

Robert Kaufman

Fischel | Kahn, Chicago, Illinois

Q: What got you into the trusts and estates practice?

A: *I had a sensational trusts and estates professor in law school. In addition, my primary interest in pursuing my LLM in Taxation was the estate tax area. I was also fortunate to have several excellent mentors in this area, once I joined Fischel | Kahn.*

Q: What is your favorite part of the practice?

A: *Although I enjoy the tax planning and the drafting, it is the post-mortem portion of the practice which interests me the most. I enjoy assisting people who need to recover from a loss and helping them see through the haze which confronts them until they can see the sunshine once again. I find that to be the most rewarding part of the practice.*

Q: What is the most challenging part of the practice?

A: *Dealing with conflicts within families, and trying to get the various family members to understand that cooperation is the best approach.*

Q: What is the most interesting part of the practice?

A: *The clients with whom I work. Each has his or her own "story," which makes every file a new adventure.*

Q: What do you like to do when you are not administering trusts/estates?

A: *Having been born and raised here, I am a lifelong fan of the Cubs, and follow the other Chicago teams as well. I also follow the teams of my alma mater, the University of Michigan. My wife and I enjoy walks along the lake and Navy Pier, as well as spending time with our grandson (who is now 19 months old).*■