

Wills and Trusts



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ROBERT L. MENNELL
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WILLS AND TRUSTS IN A NUTSHELL

THIRD EDITION

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DEDICATION of Third Edition

Robert Mennell dedicates this book to his wife, Toni, with gratitude for her loving assistance.

Sherri Burr dedicates this book to the following members of the University of New Mexico Law School staff: Janet Cox, her assistant of 17 years who passed away 4 July 2006 at the ripe age of eighty-one; Ethel Ortenburger, the dedicated receptionist who retired at the age of eighty; and Dan Noyes who worked at the media center for over 25 years and directed her television show *ARTS TALK*. People like Janet, Ethel, and Dan bring humanity to a workplace, making it a pleasure to step into a law school building semester after semester.

*

PREFACE

We designed this book to help law students master Wills and Trusts law and pass examination questions. It does not teach how to draft wills, trusts, or other documents. Instead, it supplements traditional casebooks.

We barely mention some subjects, such as nuncupative (oral) wills and exoneration of liens, while giving extensive coverage to others, like anti-lapse statutes, disclaimers, and pretermitted heirs because of the difficulties they present when interacting with other doctrines.

A few references are made to cases found in the common casebooks, but footnotes¹ do not appear. The book is designed to be read easily so that the student can tie together classroom and casebook discussions.

Welcome to the law of sex, greed, and family animosity, as we sometimes tell our students. Wills and trust cases can often be as entertaining as they are educational.

SHERRI L. BURR
ROBERT L. MENNELL

Albuquerque, New Mexico
Roseville, Minnesota
August 2007

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¹ We consider one footnote sufficient for this book.

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