# GRATUITOUS TRANSFERS WILLS, INTESTATE SUCCESSION, TRUSTS, GIFTS, FUTURE INTERESTS, AND ESTATE AND GIFT TAXATION

CASES AND MATERIALS

Fifth Edition

Elias Clark Louis Lusky Arthur W. Murphy Mark L. Ascher Grayson M.P. McCouch

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# CASES AND MATERIALS ON GRATUITOUS

## TRANSFERS

#### WILLS, INTESTATE SUCCESSION, TRUSTS, GIFTS, FUTURE INTERESTS AND ESTATE AND GIFT TAXATION

#### Fifth Edition

 $\mathbf{B}\mathbf{y}$ 

#### Elias Clark

Lafayette S. Foster Professor Emeritus of Law Yale University

#### **Louis Lusky**

Late Betts Professor of Law, Emeritus Columbia University

#### Arthur W. Murphy

Joseph Solomon Professor Emeritus in Wills, Trusts, and Estates Columbia University

#### Mark L. Ascher

Joseph D. Jamail Centennial Chair in Law University of Texas

#### Grayson M.P. McCouch

Professor of Law University of San Diego

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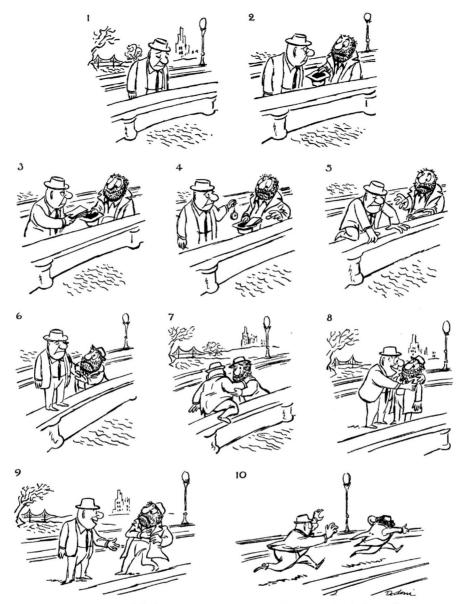
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Who owns the watch? See Chapter 6, Section B.

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#### **Preface to the Fifth Edition**

Every casebook is constructed primarily to meet the teaching needs of its editors, and this one is no exception. The book has two main objectives. It is designed, first, to equip the general practitioner for practice in the estates field—more specifically, for planning, drafting, and administration in estates of medium size which do not involve major tax problems. The second purpose is to provide a broad base of general information from which the prospective specialist may proceed to more detailed study.

The opening chapter asks the student to consider the role of wealth transmission in contemporary society and to appraise various theories concerning testamentary freedom and its limitations. The next six chapters (2 through 7) deal with the law of intestate succession; protection of the family; wills, including grounds for contest and formalities of execution and revocation; gifts; and trusts. The chapter on trusts covers methods of creation and termination, and considers special problems involving, inter alia, spendthrift, discretionary, self-settled, constructive, resulting, and charitable trusts. These chapters include a substantial amount of note and text material to expedite consideration of essential but relatively uncomplicated points.

The final three chapters (8 through 10) are intended to be introductory rather than definitive. The primary purpose is to introduce the student to fiduciary administration, future interests, and wealth transfer taxation, without precluding more detailed study of the subject matter in more advanced courses.

Chapter 8 on fiduciary administration explains the procedures for probating a will, appointing a fiduciary, and processing claims of the decedent's creditors. It also surveys several important aspects of fiduciary responsibility, with particular reference to management of trust funds. These materials touch on the significant doctrines but do not attempt to explore their application in all possible situations.

Chapter 9 on future interests opens with an introduction to classification and terminology, then proceeds directly to coverage of the Rule against Perpetuities, and concludes with a section on powers of appointment. Relatively little attention is given to problems of construction or to the historical development of future interests, which could easily form the subject matter of a full separate course. Instead, the focus here is on aspects of planning and drafting which a general practitioner is likely to encounter in the trusts and estates field. Substantial economy of time and space has been achieved by dealing with various topics such as class gifts in the context of the perpetuities materials rather than under separate headings.

Chapter 10 provides an overview of the federal wealth transfer taxes, which affect almost all substantial gratuitous transfers of property. Here,

as in the chapter on future interests, the materials have been selected with an eye to the needs of the generalist rather than the expert. Accordingly, the primary emphasis is on the structure of the estate and gift taxes and their relationship to each other and to the generation-skipping transfer tax.

The book has considerable flexibility as a teaching tool. It is possible, for example, to cover substantially the entire book in a single comprehensive course, or to cover only the first seven chapters in a basic survey course and leave the last three chapters for a more advanced course.

This book began as a set of mimeographed teaching materials prepared by Professor Gulliver for use in his courses on the law of wills and trusts at Yale in the 1930s. For the next three decades the materials were regularly used and revised first by Professor Gulliver and then by Professor Henry A. Fenn. In 1965 Professor Clark of the Yale faculty joined with his colleagues at Columbia, Professors Lusky and Murphy, to produce a book that could be used at both schools. They broadened the coverage of the existing materials and added the chapters on future interests and wealth transfer taxation. In 1997, Professors Clark, Lusky, and Murphy invited Professors Ascher and McCouch to collaborate on the Fourth Edition, and Professors Ascher and McCouch have assumed primary responsibility for the current edition, which reflects developments since the publication of the Fourth Edition in 1999. From its inception the book has evolved considerably, but the basic structure and many of the original editors' contributions remain essentially intact.

In the text and notes, we have used the words "testator," "executor," and "administrator" to include both males and females. In editing the cases and other materials, we have freely omitted footnotes and renumbered those that remain. Furthermore, we have conformed punctuation and citation form to standard usage, and have corrected obvious typographical errors.

We are grateful to the authors and publishers who have consented to our use of excerpts from their copyrighted works. In addition, we wish to express our gratitude to the many students who served as research and editorial assistants in the preparation of successive editions of this book, to colleagues from other schools for their helpful suggestions, and to support staff at our respective institutions for their invaluable assistance in preparing the manuscript for publication.

> ELIAS CLARK ARTHUR W. MURPHY MARK L. ASCHER GRAYSON M.P. McCOUCH

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### Table of Abbreviations Used in Referring to Texts

Am. L. Prop.: American Law of Property (1952), written by various authors and edited by A.J. Casner.

Atkinson: Atkinson, The Law of Wills (2d ed. 1953).

Gray: Gray, The Rule Against Perpetuities (Gray ed.) (4th ed. 1942).

Holds.: Holdsworth, History of English Law (1922-38).

Mait. Eq.: Maitland, Equity (1909).

Page: Bowe & Parker, Page on the Law of Wills (rev. ed. 1960).

P. & M.: Pollock & Maitland, History of English Law (2d ed. 1923).

Scott on Trusts: Scott, The Law of Trusts (Fratcher & Ascher eds.) (4th ed. 1987-91 & Supp.).

Scott and Ascher on Trusts: Scott and Ascher on Trusts (5th ed. 2006 & Supp.).

Simes & Smith: Simes & Smith, Law of Future Interests (2d ed. 1956).

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