



Challenges to Wills, Estates and Trusts

Disputes after the death of a relative can be painful, acrimonious and complex. The increase in the value of property and today's changing relationships can mean conflict for those left behind. In looking for solutions in difficult circumstances, it's important to choose the right people and expertise. We know that legal insight often works hand in hand with sensitivity and understanding.

How can we help you?

The Team

VWV has a large, long established, Contentious Trusts and Probate team led by highly-rated partner, Michelle Rose. There are 8 experienced solicitors working across the firm's offices in London and Bristol and many are members of the Association of Contentious Trusts and Probate Specialists (ACTAPS). The team is ranked in the top tier of the Legal 500.

Members of the team are recognised probate experts in a wide variety of claims, at home and abroad, offering first class contentious advice. Every member of the team brings a unique personal strength to the VWV contentious probate offering, whether it's pragmatism, compassion or tenacity. We think our holistic approach, as well as our legal reputation sets us apart from other law firms. Meet the team at www.co.uk.

Our Experience

We have a proven track record of excellence in a wide variety of trust and estate disputes.

We deal with high-value, complex, cross border disputes as well as more modest family estates. The value of our contentious work often ranges between £1 million and £150 million.

Litigation is very much a last resort. Our aim is to achieve the best possible outcome for our clients, in the most cost effective way, which often results in negotiated out of court settlements.

When a conclusion can only be reached using court proceedings, our team of highly experienced litigators will handle the claim.

Our clients range from private individuals, executors or beneficiaries to professional trustees, executors and charities.

Why VWV?

Ongoing training; cutting edge document technology; immediate access to the latest legal developments and rulings in this field; and our strong links to specialist London counsel and international legal teams means the VWV Contentious Trusts and Probate team has never been stronger or more comprehensive.

We strive to ensure that the assets of an estate are not eroded by expensive or unnecessary legal costs, and offer competitive rates for a first class service.

Our client is at the centre of everything we do. Ultimately we aim to limit the damage caused to fragile family relationships and help people move on with their lives.



Michelle Rose

Partner

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What Others Say...

"VWV is one of the best for contentious probate matters... Practice head Michelle Rose is a bright, tough litigator and excellent with clients'."

Legal 500

"VWV contentious trusts and probate team provides the sort of excellence and expertise to rival any of the firms who undertake this sort of work"

Penelope Reed QC, 5 Stone Buildings, Lincolns Inn

"A market commentator considers Michelle Rose a 'true specialist' on contentious matters. She dedicates her practice to disputes involving Wills, trusts and probate"

Chambers & Partners.



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Our Expertise

- Advising and defending executors, beneficiaries and dependants in a broad range of Inheritance Act claims.
- Advising and representing clients where inadequate provision has been made in a Will, or there is no Will - an 'intestacy'.
- Resolving disputes between executors, administrators and beneficiaries, including bringing and defending applications for the removal of executors.
- Challenging and defending Wills.
- Challenging and defending claims in disputes over the ownership of property.
- Advising trustees and beneficiaries on a broad range of trusts disputes.
- Advising when the terms of a Will are unclear and applying to the court if agreement cannot be reached.
- Court of Protection issues - especially where there is family conflict.
- Advising on complicated foreign jurisdiction issues.
- Advising and litigating in relation to the negligent drafting of Wills or estate administration.

Funding

We understand that clients are sometimes unable to find the immediate funds necessary to begin court proceedings. We carefully assess the costs and risks at the outset of any case, and are always happy to discuss appropriate financial solutions.

An Extensive Service

Our Contentious Trusts and Probate team is supported by an extensive range of specialist solicitors who are able to advise 'in house' on any related matter. We have specialist teams in tax, non-contentious estate administration issues, residential property matters and family law.

Benefits of Asking VWV to Handle your Claim:

- The expertise and specialisation of our solicitors in this field.
- Knowing that the solicitor handling your case will ensure that all members of the team are well briefed so that any time you contact us you will be able to speak to an approachable and helpful member of the team.
- We will tell you what is going on and provide regular updates on your case so that you are kept fully informed.
- We will listen to your views and treat your suggestions with respect.
- We will tell you how long we think your case will take and advise you of any significant factor that is likely to cause delay.
- We will provide an ongoing estimate of what your costs are likely to be and if they are likely to increase.
- Our reputation and track record for work in this area.

For further information, please contact Michelle Rose on 0117 314 5246 or mrose@vww.co.uk.

Your Contacts for Other Services for Individuals

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