

Lauren S. Martin

Partner

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The primary goal of my practice is to support my clients while also helping them navigate the often overwhelming and contentious world of fiduciary litigation. Unfortunately, I typically meet my clients immediately following the loss of a family member or in the midst of an escalating dispute. Whether my client is concerned about the validity of a will or is worried that a loved one has been subjected to power-of-attorney abuse, I take the time to listen and understand each client's specific goals and priorities, taking into consideration all factors and attendant circumstances in order to determine the best course of action for that particular client. A client's definition of success may range from the restoration of family harmony to obtaining a significant monetary recovery, and it is important for me to adjust my approach accordingly. Once I understand my client's individual goals, I zealously pursue and advocate for them. At the end of the day, I hope to serve as an advisor and trusted confidant for my clients during difficult situations and to cheer them on in times of triumph, not only as their attorney, but also as a member of their team.

Lauren Martin practices primarily in the areas of **fiduciary litigation**, **estate planning**, and **estate administration**. Having previously served as a law clerk to judges on both of North Carolina's appellate courts, Lauren brings a unique perspective and experienced-based insight to her litigation practice. She routinely represents fiduciaries and beneficiaries in actions aimed at preserving the testator's or grantor's true wishes. Whether

Practices

Asset Protection Planning
Elder Law & Special Needs Planning
Estate Administration
Fiduciary Litigation
Trusts & Estates
Litigation

Bar Admissions

North Carolina
South Carolina

Education

Campbell University, Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law (JD, with Honors, 2015)
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (BA, with Distinction, 2011)

Associations

Professional

- **Southeast Fellows Institute of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC)**
 - Participant – Class III
- **North Carolina Bar Association**
 - Estate Planning & Fiduciary Law Section
 - Member, CLE Committee
 - Litigation Section
- **Mecklenburg County Bar**

assisting her clients with a will contest, negotiating the resolution of an estate-related dispute, or advocating for a surviving spouse's right to an elective share, Lauren never loses sight of the fact that her clients are frequently mourning the loss of a loved one or losing sleep over the matter with which she is assisting them. Therefore, while she brings technical skill to her practice, she also approaches each of her clients with compassion and strives to mitigate the burden associated with litigation as much as possible. In addition to her fiduciary litigation practice, Lauren helps her clients implement estate plans that achieve the client's personal objectives. Specifically, her practice includes the negotiation of premarital agreements and the preparation of wills, trust agreements, powers of attorney, and healthcare documents to help her clients plan for the future. She also assists her clients with the proper administration of trusts and estates and, when the situation calls for it, she is equipped to facilitate the judicial or nonjudicial modification of irrevocable trusts to address the changing needs of the trust's grantor and beneficiaries.

Representative Experience

- Represents individuals, charities, and corporate fiduciaries in the administration of trusts and estates, including litigation of issues stemming from breaches of fiduciary duties, the interpretation of wills and trust agreements, and disputes as to the validity of estate planning documents.
- Represents individuals, charities, and fiduciaries in connection with will caveats and the removal of executors and trustees from their fiduciary roles.
- Assists individuals with their estate planning—preparing wills, revocable and irrevocable trust agreements, powers of attorney, and living wills, and establishing business entities to aid in property transfers.
- Advocate for surviving spouses and in pursuit of his or her rights under premarital agreements or to an elective share of their predeceasing spouse's estate under North Carolina law.

- Civil Litigation Section
- Estate Planning & Probate Section

Community

- **United Way of Central Carolinas, Inc.**, Corporate Fundraiser

Community

About Our Firm

Recognition

- Represents beneficiaries of estates before the Clerk of Court to prevent unfit individuals from qualifying as personal representative.
- Handles the modification and consolidation of trusts, either by agreement or judicial approval, to adjust to unanticipated circumstances or to better serve the beneficiaries.
- Represented charitable remainder beneficiary of a trust from which the trustee misappropriated funds.
- Negotiates and prepares premarital agreements to preserve personal assets or family inheritance.
- Engages in pre-litigation negotiation to mediate and resolve conflicts and disputes without the emotional and monetary expense of litigation.
- Represents individuals or attorneys-in-fact in connection with claims of power-of-attorney abuse and misappropriation of the principal's assets.

Publications

- Author, "*North Carolina Recent Developments*" published in the Estate Planning & Fiduciary Law Section newsletter, *The Will & The Way* (July 2021 – June 2023)
- Co-Author, "*Chapter: Tortious Interference with Inheritance*" of the North Carolina Fiduciary Litigation Manual (2018)

Speaking Engagements

- Speaker, "*Federal and State Recent Developments*," 43rd Annual Estate Planning & Fiduciary Law Conference, Kiawah Island, SC, July 2022

Honors

- **Super Lawyers**® North Carolina – Rising Star – Estate & Probate (2023 – 2025)

- ***The Best Lawyers in America*®** – Ones to Watch: Elder Law (2023-2025), Trusts & Estates Law (2023-2025), Litigation – Trusts & Estates (2025), Family Law (2024)
- Law Clerk, the Honorable Robert H. Edmunds, Jr., Supreme Court of North Carolina
- Law Clerk, the Honorable Hunter Murphy, North Carolina Court of Appeals
- Intern, the Honorable Rick Elmore, North Carolina Court of Appeals
- Richard A. Lord Moot Court Competition, Best Oralist Award and Rick Edmundson Award for best overall advocate
- Third-Year Academic Achievement Award (highest overall GPA during the third academic year), Campbell Law School
- *Campbell Law Review*, Chief Comments Editor
- Book Award (highest grade) – Legal Research and Writing I, Family Law, Property I, the Black American Lawyer, Client Counseling, and Advanced Criminal Law, Campbell Law School
- The South Texas Mock Trial Challenge, Quarterfinalist (2014)
- Legal Research and Writing Scholar, Campbell Law School (2013-2015)