

# Daily Journal

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## TOP ESTATE AND WEALTH MANAGEMENT LAWYERS 2025



**JAMES G. BOHM**

BOHM WILDISH & MATSEN, LLP

COSTA MESA

**J**ames Bohm has concentrated his legal practice on trust litigation for more than 15 years, handling cases involving high-profile families and multi-million-dollar estates.

Bohm entered trust litigation through client need rather than initial career planning. "I was drawn to this practice area based on a client's need and

loved the practice area, so I started to focus on it," he said.

Among his notable cases, Bohm represented Walt Disney's grandson in litigation involving several trusts. The case resulted in the successful removal of trustees from two trusts following a three-week trial in Los Angeles County Superior Court.

In another matter, Bohm opposed a minor's compromise in a multi-million-dollar trust dispute. "We successfully tried the case in the Los Angeles Superior Court, where the compromise was being advocated by four parties, each represented by major law firms," Bohm said. He prevailed against the combined opposition of multiple major law firms.

Bohm also handled trust litigation involving the estate of a holocaust survivor, which settled during trial. He has represented children of a public corporation president in disputes against their stepmother over trust amendments made after the former president lost mental capacity.

Trust litigation presents unique challenges beyond standard commercial disputes. "The main challenge in trust cases in general is dealing with family dynamics," Bohm explained. "Everything is very personal and sometimes family members that have had a long history of being adverse have difficulty being objective -- similar to a family law matter."

The personal nature of trust disputes stems from the family relationships involved and the emotional weight of inheritance matters. Unlike business litigation between unrelated parties, trust cases often pit family members against each other over deceased relatives' estates and intentions, Bohm said.

Bohm anticipates increased demand for trust litigation services in coming years. "With the significant transfer of wealth that is occurring and will occur in the future, we are seeing an increase in trust litigation," he said.