



Wintter & Associates, P.A.: Experienced Probate, Trust and Estate Attorneys



Christopher Q. Wintter, Esq.

PARTNER

- Member of the Florida Bar (1987)
- Admitted to Practice
 - U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit (1988)
 - U.S. District Courts for the Southern (1988), Middle (1988) and Northern (1993) Districts of Florida
- AV Preeminent Rating with Lexis - Nexus Martindale Hubbell
- Formerly practiced as CPA
- Past president South Broward Bar Association
- Juris Doctor, Duke University School of Law (1987)
- B.S. Accounting, University of Florida (High Honors 1982)
- Member of Real Property, Probate and Trust Law section of the Florida Bar (Executive Council 2013-2014) (Probate and Trust litigation Committee 2001-Present) (Adhoc Committee on Jurisdiction and Service of Process 2011-Present)



Nina Z. Chepp, Esq.

PARTNER

- Member of the Florida Bar (1990)
- Admitted to Practice
 - U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida (1991)
 - All state courts in Florida
- Juris Doctor, University of Miami School of Law (1989)
- B.A. Marketing, Boston University (1982)



Max G. Soren, Esq.

ASSOCIATE

- Member of the Florida Bar (2003)
- Admitted to Practice
 - U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida (2004)
- Former assistant state attorney, Office of the State Attorney, Miami-Dade County
- Juris Doctor, Fordham University School of Law (2003)



Christin C. Gallardo, Esq.

ASSOCIATE

- Member of the Florida Bar (2004)
- Member of the U.S. Patent Bar (2004)
- Former probate staff attorney and guardianship counsel for the Probate Division of the 17th Judicial Circuit
- Juris Doctor, Stetson University College of Law (2004)
- B.S. Biology, University of North Florida (2000)



Our Mission

Wintter & Associates, P.A. is dedicated to using our professional expertise to assist families through the process of the post death fulfillment of estate plans created by Florida residents (or nonresidents with real estate in Florida) that reflect the true intentions of the decedent.

Our mission involves assisting families not only in the administration and timely distribution of the decedent's estate, but often involves serving our clients in the courtroom prosecuting or defending will contests, trust litigation, inheritance disputes and litigation concerning the breach of fiduciary duty of agents misusing powers of attorney, trustees who fail to properly discharge their duties, and personal representatives who fail to properly handle the duties entrusted to them.

We are advocates for the elderly and for others who are damaged by exploitation committed by unscrupulous opportunists. Through a protective trust, our firm has the ability to act to insure that the person's intentions are fulfilled. If it's too late to protect the person or the property through planning, we strive to right the wrongs visited upon victims of exploitation through the ethical and aggressive initiation of litigation.



Christin C. Gallardo
ASSOCIATE

- Probate Litigation
- Trust Litigation
- Guardianship Litigation

Christin Coleman Gallardo was admitted to the Florida Bar in 2004 and has practiced probate and guardianship law since her admission. Prior to joining Wintter & Associates, P.A., Ms. Gallardo worked as a staff attorney for the Probate Division of the 17th Judicial Circuit and later accepted a position as Probate and Guardianship Counsel for the Circuit.

During her tenure in the court system, she was a member of the Florida Court Technology Commission's Probate Data Elements Committee and the Probate Workgroup for the Office of the State Court Administrator's Trial Court Case Management Solution Project. She also assisted with the Circuit's electronic filing effort for all divisions and participated on the electronic access standards workgroup of the Supreme Court Electronic Filing Committee.

Ms. Gallardo attended the University of North Florida where she received her Bachelor of Science in Biology (2000) and she attended law school at Stetson University College of Law where she received her Juris Doctor degree in 2004. Ms. Gallardo was admitted to the United States' Patent Bar in 2004.

Ms. Gallardo co-authored the chapter "The Role of the Attorney in Guardianship Proceedings" in the Seventh Edition of *Florida Guardianship Practice*, 2011, and is a chapter contributor in the eighth edition.



About Us

We are a trust and estate law firm focusing our practice in the specialized areas of:

- Probate litigation
- Trust litigation
- Guardianship litigation
- Probate administration
- Trust administration
- Guardianship administration
- Estate planning

WE ARE DEDICATED TO OUR CLIENTS

Our professionals are devoted to the representation of clients in probate, trust, and guardianship proceedings. With more than 40 years of continuous service to our clients, we are well respected by our colleagues, competitors, adversaries and judges.

A TEAM APPROACH

We use a team approach in order to deliver the best results for our clients. Our attorneys and paralegals all draw from our many decades of experience in trust, estate, and guardianship matters to create new strategies and add value for our clients in resolving the legal issues that arise in their matters.

Mr. Wintter is board certified by the Florida Bar in wills, trusts, and estates. As a seasoned trial lawyer and a specialist in trust and estate matters, Mr. Wintter tenaciously and effectively advocates for our clients in matters related to probate, trust and guardianship. Mr. Wintter also mentors the firm's attorneys to continually strengthen their abilities as strong advocates and meticulous counselors to our clients.

Ms. Chepp's can-do and empathetic attitude benefits her clients during emotionally difficult times. Ms. Chepp and her team are compassionate throughout every phase of the probate, trust and guardianship administration process.

Our clients receive personal attention and ongoing guidance from the initial consultation until their matter is successfully completed.



Our Services

PROBATE & TRUST LITIGATION

When someone attempts to take advantage of a vulnerable adult and acts to change the victim's intended disposition of his or her estate, damage occurs to the previous designated beneficiaries and to innocent family members. Unfortunately, the victim's lips are sealed by death or incapacity and the wrongdoer's lips are sealed by self-interest. Our attorneys can act quickly to challenge fraudulent documents and protect the decedent's true intentions.

With our significant experience as trial lawyers and our in-depth knowledge of probate and trust law, our attorneys can act quickly to challenge the questionable trust or will, challenge the acts of a personal representative or trustee acting in breach of his or her fiduciary duties, or otherwise take action to right wrongs being committed by an unscrupulous opportunist.

Whether you are dealing with claims of fraud, undue influence, lack of testamentary capacity, breach of fiduciary duty, or any other disagreement, you can trust our attorneys to initiate action and guide you through the troubled waters of litigation.

PROBATE ADMINISTRATION

Probate law can be complex and an inexperienced personal representative charged with carrying out the provisions of a will can often become overwhelmed or make costly mistakes.

Max G. Soren

ASSOCIATE

- Probate Litigation
- Trust Litigation
- Guardianship Litigation



Max G. Soren is an experienced trial attorney practicing in the areas of probate, trust, guardianship, and commercial litigation matters.

Mr. Soren began his legal career with a Miami firm practicing in probate, commercial, and bankruptcy litigation for four years. He then joined the Office of the State Attorney, Miami-Dade County, for three years as an assistant state attorney, gaining significant criminal trial experience before joining Wintter & Associates, P.A.

Mr. Soren is an aggressive, ethical advocate with significant bench and jury trial experience. Mr. Soren has been a member of the Florida Bar since 2003 and is admitted to practice before the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida.

Mr. Soren earned his Juris Doctor degree from Fordham University School of Law, New York, NY, in 2002.





Nina Z. Chepp

PARTNER

- Guardianship Administration
- Probate Administration
- Trust Administration
- Estate Planning

Nina Zuckerman Chepp, a partner at Wintter & Associates, P.A., has been a practicing attorney since 1990. For over two decades, Ms. Chepp has focused her practice in the areas of guardianship, probate and trust administration.

Ms. Chepp maintains longstanding client relationships and truly cares about the well-being and professional representation of her clients. Her passion for her work and her compassion for her clients during emotionally difficult times develops trust and a foundation for a solid attorney client relationship.

Ms. Chepp earned her undergraduate degree in marketing from Boston University in 1982. Upon graduation, she worked as a paralegal with a prominent South Florida firm for several years prior to entering law school. Ms. Chepp attended the University of Miami School of Law and earned her Juris Doctor degree in 1989. Ms. Chepp also attended Oxford University Institute of International and Comparative Law in Oxford, England. While in law school, Ms. Chepp clerked with a prestigious Miami firm and joined that firm upon graduation, practicing in the areas of probate, corporate and real estate transactions.

In 1998, Ms. Chepp began to limit the focus of her practice to guardianship, probate and trust administration and now practices solely in these areas. Ms. Chepp maintains an excellent reputation in the South Florida legal community. She has been a member of the Florida Bar since 1990 and is admitted to practice before all the courts of the State of Florida. Ms. Chepp is also admitted to practice before the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida since 1991.

Ms. Chepp is on the Guardianship Committee of the Elder Law Section of the Florida Bar and she is a member of the Broward Bar Association and the South Broward Bar Association.



Our Services

The probate attorneys at Wintter & Associates, P.A., can help you administer the estate in accordance with the terms of the will, avoid errors, and reduce the risk of future litigation. Our probate lawyers will help you minimize taxes, file the appropriate tax returns, inventory the estate's assets, complete the final accounting, and make timely distributions to creditors and beneficiaries while protecting the personal representative from potential liability.

Our primary goal is to protect the assets, protect the personal representative, and satisfy the provisions of the will to the benefit of all interested parties.

TRUST ADMINISTRATION

A trust is similar to a will in that it provides for the distribution of property to heirs and beneficiaries through the administration of the trust assets by a trustee. Unlike a will, however, administration of a trust can commence before the grantor's death. Trust administration is complicated and it is easy for an inexperienced trustee to make serious mistakes that can subject the trustee to personal liability.

With the help of our trust administration lawyers, errors and the risk of litigation are minimized. Our trust administration legal team will help you through every step of the process, including marshalling assets, notifying beneficiaries, preparing an annual accounting of the trust transactions, preparing notices to limit the trustee's exposure to liability, distributing property, minimizing and filing taxes, and other services.



Our Services

GUARDIANSHIP ADMINISTRATION

Establishing guardianship for your loved one, whether he or she is a minor or an incapacitated adult, is a complicated procedure that can take an enormous emotional toll.

We will walk you through every step of the procedure, from the initial court petition to filing the annual accountings and annual plans. In addition, we can provide sensitive, compassionate guidance in choosing caregivers and medical facilities for your vulnerable family member.

GUARDIANSHIP LITIGATION

Though courts try to make guardianship decisions that are in the best interests of the ward, guardianships are sometimes challenged due to accusations of emotional, physical, or financial abuse.

Whether you are a guardian being unfairly accused or you are a family member concerned about your loved one's well-being, guardianship litigation is extremely stressful. Let us use our decades of experience to help guide you to a resolution of the issues facing both vulnerable adults and the family.

ESTATE PLANNING

Every adult should have a distribution plan for his or her assets no matter the size of the estate. As experienced estate planning attorneys, we can help ensure that your estate planning matters are properly documented and implemented to achieve your objectives and avoid disharmony.

Christopher Q. Wintter

PARTNER



- Probate Litigation
- Trust Litigation
- Guardianship Litigation

Christopher Q. Wintter graduated from the University of Florida with a B.S. in Accounting in 1982 and from the Duke University School of Law in 1987. Chris is Board Certified by the Florida Bar as a specialist in Wills, Trust and Estates and his practice is almost exclusively concentrated in the areas of probate litigation and trust litigation including, but not limited to, will contests, trust contests, actions for breach of trust and breach of fiduciary duty, petitions to remove personal representatives and trustees, tax apportionment matters, determination of beneficiaries, pretermitted spouse litigation and elective share disputes. Chris also handles guardianship litigation matters.

Chris serves on the Executive Council of the Real Property Probate and Trust Law (RPPTL) Section of the Florida Bar and is an active member of the Probate and Trust Litigation Committee of the RPPTL Section since 2001. As a member of various committees, Chris has been involved with many of the statutory changes to the probate and trust codes that affect probate and trust litigation over the last 10 to 12 years. Chris currently serves as a Co-Vice Chair of the Section's Ad-Hoc Committee on Jurisdiction and Service of Process and has been a member of that committee since its formation in 2011. Chris is also a member of the Trial Lawyers Section of the Florida Bar, the Elder Law Section of the Florida Bar, the Broward County Bar Association, and the South Broward Bar Association (Vice-President 1993–1994, President 1994–1995).

Chris is AV rated by Martindale Hubbell and is admitted to practice before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit (since 1988), U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit (since 1990), the U.S. District Court for the Middle (since 1988), Northern (since 1993) and Southern (since 1988) Districts of Florida, and the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia (since 1990).



WINTTER & ASSOCIATES, P.A.
Attorneys and Counsellors at Law

PROBATE LITIGATION

TRUST LITIGATION

GUARDIANSHIP LITIGATION

PROBATE ADMINISTRATION

TRUST ADMINISTRATION

GUARDIANSHIP ADMINISTRATION

ESTATE PLANNING

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Preparing For Difficult Times

PROBATE

- Educate the Personal Representative as to his or her duties and responsibilities
- Notify the Beneficiaries of the terms of the will
- Notify and satisfy the decedent's creditors
- Implement procedures to avoid and limit a will contest or other litigation
- Protect the assets of the estate
- Evaluate issues concerning exempt property, family allowance, and elective share benefits
- Minimize estate taxes
- Prepare final accounting
- Protect Personal Representative from personal liability
- Distribute the estate's assets in accordance with the terms of the will

TRUSTS

- Notify qualified beneficiaries of Trustee's acceptance of duties
- Prepare inventory of trust assets and notify beneficiaries of the terms of trust
- Implement procedures to avoid and limit the possibility of a trust contest
- Insulate Trustee from interaction with unpleasant beneficiaries
- Handle any and all trust contests and disputes
- Protect the assets of the trust
- Evaluate discretionary distribution issues
- Tax planning strategies
- Prepare Trustee's annual accounting of all trust transactions
- Provide appropriate limitation notices to limit time period for challenging trust accountings
- Distribute assets in accordance with the terms of the trust instrument
- Obtain releases of liability for the Trustee

GUARDIANSHIP

- Petition for the appointment of a guardian
- Oppose the appointment of a guardian
- Seek the removal of a guardian due to financial abuse, emotional abuse, or failure to properly care for the ward
- Recover damages from guardians who have hurt the ward
- Initiate lawsuits on behalf of guardian to recover assets from persons who have financially exploited the ward

ESTATE PLANNING

- Will and living trust
- Irrevocable life insurance trusts
- Personal residence trusts and other grantor-retained interest trusts
- Educational trusts and related family trust planning
- Pre-marital and post-marital agreements
- Business and succession planning