

Compare our qualifications

WILL, TRUST AND ESTATE LITIGATION

Experience, training, reputation and accomplishments, and especially recognition by our peers, should be important considerations when you select the lawyer to entrust with your matter. When a lawyer is selected to participate on or even head an important legal committee, draft legislation to change the probate or trust laws or court rules, guide key Florida Bar committees or even a section of the bar, it is because one's fellow lawyers have determined that lawyer has unique knowledge, experience or expertise. Lawyers are other lawyers most precise critics, so when they select one of their own to perform important tasks, to receive a singular honor, or to lead them in a professional endeavor, it is especially meaningfully. Also, there are a few very exclusive publications that publish "best lawyer" lists. Some lawyers have one or maybe two meaningful accomplishments or honors they have received during their careers that they spotlight as a indication of their unique qualifications. As you see below, we are different in that regard. **The Kelley Law Firm** thanks you for considering us and invites you to compare the qualifications of our lawyers with any others you may consider.

Item	Kelley Law Firm	Firm #2	Comment
<p>In addition to their will and trust trial experience, they also have substantial experience in drafting and administration of estates and trusts.</p>	<p>Rohan Shane Tom</p>		<p>Rohan, Shane and Tom have drafted wills and trusts cumulatively numbering in the thousands. This experience and their experience in will and trust administration develops skills, provides experience and insight and requires knowledge of substantive and procedural law in this area of the practice that lawyers who only litigate don't have. It is more difficult to litigate an issue if you have little or no personal experience with the task being litigated and no knowledge of the underlying substantive law (trusts and estates). One of the questions you want to ask any prospective litigation attorney is about his or her experience actually administering estates and trusts.</p>
<p>Florida Bar Board Certified as a specialist in Wills, Trusts and Estates</p>	<p>Rohan Shane</p>		<p>Only very few have sufficient expertise to pass the rigorous exam required to become board certified in wills, trusts and estates. In Florida, only about 335 lawyers out of about 64,000 have done so – and only a few of the 335 who are board certified in this area also litigate. In 1985, Rohan was appointed by the President of The Florida Bar to serve on the first committee to identify, examine and certify lawyers as specialists in the wills, trusts and estates practice area and he later served as chairman of that committee. Since he wrote much of the first examination, he was exempted from taking the exam and was granted automatic certification.</p>

LL.M advanced law degree in estate planning or taxation	Shane Tom Paul		Very few lawyers have achieved advanced academic degrees in the technical tax or estate planning discipline. Tax issues are important in this type of litigation, and especially in structuring a tax-leveraged settlement, and are often misunderstood or not fully considered by litigators who don't spot these issues or problems until too late. All lawyers have a juris doctor degree, but only a few have gone further in their training to obtain the advanced LL.M degree in tax.
Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC) and member of the Fiduciary Litigation committee of that organization.	Rohan Shane		ACTEC is a national organization of the most widely recognized experts in trusts and estates law. Membership is by invitation. Only about 150 lawyers of nearly 64,000 Florida lawyers are fellows of ACTEC. Of these 150 fellows, most are estate planners or administration attorneys. Only very few of those practice as specialty trial lawyers in this practice area. Our small firm boasts two of them.
Martindale AV rated	Rohan Shane Tom Paul		Martindale is the most widely recognized, although least exclusive, national lawyer rating source. Although not all lawyers in the U.S. are rated, the Martindale AV rating is the highest they award. All the lawyers in this firm have the AV rating.
Chaired or vice chaired the committee of the Real Property Probate and Trust Law (RPPTL) Section of The Florida Bar which drafts the probate and trust laws for Florida.	Rohan Shane Tom		Rohan has chaired the Probate Law committee and is presently a member. (Rohan's daughter – and Shane's sister, Tae, is the present chairwoman of this committee.) Shane was the vice chair of the Probate Law committee, is a current member, and is now serves as chair of the Trust Law committee. Tom is a past vice chair and a present member of the Probate Law committee.
Chaired the Florida Bar committee that writes the rules that govern the probate court (Probate Rules Committee).	Rohan Shane		Rohan and Shane are both former chairs of the Probate Rules Committee appointed by the President of The Florida Bar. This is the committee that writes the rules which govern probate proceedings in court. Very few lawyers have even been selected to <i>serve</i> on this exclusive committee, much less to chair it.

<p>Author of legal practice manual or chapter or of articles published by The Florida Bar</p>	<p>Rohan Shane Tom</p>		<p>Rohan is the co-author (with his daughter, Tae) of The Florida Bar Probate System, first published by The Florida Bar in 1979 and now in its 4th edition. His is also the author of legal articles published by law reviews and other legal publications. Shane, Rohan and Tom have each authored or co-authored chapters in legal trusts and estates practice manuals published by The Florida Bar. For example, both Shane and Rohan contributed a chapter in the Florida Bar publication, “Litigation Under Florida Probate Code” and “Practice Under Florida Probate Code.”</p>
<p>Member of the Executive Council of the Real Property, Probate and Trust Section of The Florida Bar</p>	<p>Rohan Shane Tom</p>		<p>This section of The Florida Bar is the largest section with approximately 10,000 lawyers who concentrate their practice in real property law or wills, trusts and estates law. It is managed by an executive council of approximately 200 members. Rohan, Shane and Tom are members of that executive council.</p>
<p>Past chairperson of the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section of The Florida Bar.</p>	<p>Rohan</p>		<p>In 2006 – 2007, Rohan was elected by the more than 10,000 lawyers of the section of the Florida Bar who identify themselves as real property, or wills, trusts and estates lawyers to chair the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section. This is the largest section of The Florida Bar.</p>
<p>Member of the Probate and Trust Litigation committee of the Real Property Probate and Trust Law Section of The Florida Bar</p>	<p>Rohan Shane Tom</p>		<p>This is a committee of the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section of The Florida Bar comprised of approximately 100 lawyers who have an interest in fiduciary litigation. This committee is at the cutting edge of new trial techniques, changing laws and practice rules and emerging trends in this area of the practice. Tom is a former vice chair.</p>
<p>Selected by Best Lawyers in America</p>	<p>Rohan</p>		<p>This national publication seeks out top lawyers (2.5 million in the latest survey) and asks “If you had a close friend or relative who needed a . . . lawyer and you could not handle the case yourself . . . to whom would you refer them?” The publication presently lists 123 lawyers in Florida under its Trusts and Estates listing. Rohan has more than 23 years of continuous selection and was the first Trusts and Estates lawyer in Broward County to be listed. This is the most exclusive national lawyer rating list in existence.</p>

<p>Selected as "Legal Elite" by Florida Trend Magazine and as a "Hall of Fame" member</p>	<p>Rohan</p>		<p>This is a Florida state-wide publication. It invites all in-state members of The Florida Bar to respond to the question: "Who are the lawyers you hold in the highest regard – attorneys with whom you have worked or would recommend to others." Less than 2% of lawyers in Florida are selected as "Legal Elite." In 2009 for the first time the magazine super-selected 48 lawyers out of 64,000 practicing in Florida for their Hall of Fame. Selection included the requirement (among others) that the lawyer have been listed every previous year as Legal Elite. Rohan Kelley was one of those 48 to be selected to the Hall of Fame and was the only lawyer in Broward County so selected. Again in 2010, Rohan was selected to the Hall of Fame, this year among 54 lawyers and again, the only lawyer in any practice specialty from Broward County to be selected.</p>
<p>Selected by Florida Superlawyers Magazine</p>	<p>Rohan Shane Tom</p>		<p>To be considered for selection, a lawyer must have been in practice for at least 15 years. In 2008 Superlawyers ran a special feature story on Shane highlighting among his other qualifications that he was the latest in a continuous line of Broward County lawyers that began with his great grandfather. The magazine uses 12 indicators of peer recognition and professional achievement. Only 5% of the lawyers are selected as SuperLawyers.</p>
<p>Selected as "Top Lawyer" by South Florida Legal Guide</p>	<p>Rohan Tom</p>		<p>As its name implies, this is a regional publication in South Florida. To be considered for selection, a lawyer must have been in practice for at least 15 years.</p>

The Kelley Law Firm, P.L. 3365 Galt Ocean Drive, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33308 Phone: 954-563-1400
Our practice is limited to Wills, Trusts and Estates and Litigation involving Wills, Trusts and Estates