



## Douglas A. Mielock

Shareholder

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A native of Lansing, Doug Mielock joined Foster Swift in 1993. He is the leader of Foster Swift's Trusts & Estates Group. Devoted to helping clients achieve their goals, Doug represents and counsels clients in the following areas:

- **Estate Planning** - Meets with clients to determine their goals. Draft wills, trusts, powers of attorney, and other documents to achieve these goals, including the avoidance or reduction of federal income tax and federal estate, gift, and generation-skipping transfer tax.
- **Estate Litigation** - Represents fiduciaries and beneficiaries in probate court litigation. This includes disputes such as the construction of wills and trusts, the contested validity of wills and trusts, and breach of trust actions brought against fiduciaries.
- **Estate Administration** - Represents fiduciaries and beneficiaries in the administration of probate estates and trust estates following the death of an intestate decedent, testator, or settlor.
- **Marital Agreements** - Counsels individuals on their legal rights prior to marriage. Drafts pre-marital and post-marital agreements.

Doug is a frequent speaker on trust and estate-related topics. He has addressed dozens of groups and forums throughout Michigan, including testimony before state legislative committees, and is a member of the Probate Advisory Committee for the Institute of Continuing Legal Education. It's for these reason that Douglas is a highly sought after estate planning attorney in Lansing.

### REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Develop, draft, and implement estate plans that permitted clients to pass a significant amount of wealth free of federal estate tax at death.
- Successfully represented beneficiaries of \$7.5 million trust in defending action contesting validity of trust.

### PRACTICE AREAS

Estate Planning  
Trust & Estate Litigation  
Trusts & Estates  
Marital Agreements

### EDUCATION

University of Michigan Law School,  
J.D., 1987  
Michigan State University, B.A.,  
1984, General Business  
Administration, with honors

### BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

Michigan  
Illinois  
U.S. District Court for the Northern  
District of Illinois  
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribal  
Court

### HONORS & RECOGNITIONS

AV® Preeminent™  
Martindale-Hubbell  
*Best Lawyers in America* (Trust and  
Estates, Elder Law,  
Non-Profit/Charities Law)  
*Michigan Superlawyers* (Estate  
Planning & Probate, Estate & Trust  
Litigation)  
- Top 100 Lawyers, 2008 and 2009  
1997 Boss of the Year Award -  
Lansing Legal Support Professionals



- Successfully represented beneficiary under unsigned draft amendment in trust action to establish validity of unsigned trust amendment.
- Successfully represented bank trustee in defending separate actions for breach of trust brought by beneficiaries of multi-million dollar trusts.
- Represented beneficiaries of trust in successfully defending multiple actions brought contesting validity of trust; obtained complete victory for clients following bench trial.

## **SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

**Probate Litigation Under the Michigan Trust Code**, *50th Annual Probate and Estate Planning Institute, State Bar of Michigan, Probate and Estate Planning Section*, May/June 2010

**Drafting Trust Protector Provisions**, *19th Annual Drafting Estate Planning Documents Seminar, Institute for Continuing Legal Education*, January/February 2010

**Michigan Trust Code Preview: Conversations with the Commentator - Trust Protectors**, *Institute for Continuing Legal Education*, November 2009

**The Wrap of RAP: What You Should Know About the New Michigan Rule Against Perpetuities**, *49th Annual Probate and Estate Planning Institute, State Bar of Michigan, Probate and Estate Planning Section*, May/June 2009

**Drafting with the New Michigan Rule Against Perpetuities**, *18th Annual Drafting Estate Planning Documents Seminar, Institute for Continuing Legal Education*, January/February 2009

**Post-Death Estate Planning Issues**, *Financial Planning Association of Michigan*, June 2008

**Undue Influence**, *48th Annual Probate and Estate Planning Institute, State Bar of Michigan, Probate and Estate Planning Section*, May/June 2008

**Uniform Trust Code**, *Elder Law and Advocacy Section Conference, State Bar of Michigan*, April 8, 2005

**Drafting an Estate Plan for an Estate Under \$5 Million**, *Institute for Continuing Legal Education*, March 2005, April 2005, March 2006, June 2007, February 2008, February 2009

**Planning Techniques for the Taxable Estate**, *Institute for Continuing Legal Education (Funding Trust)*, December 2003-2009

**Update of Recent and Proposed Legislation**, *Jackson Estate Planning Council*, December 2000

**Update on Recent and Proposed Michigan and Federal Legislation and Regulations**, *40th Annual Probate and Estate Planning Seminar, State Bar of Michigan, Probate and Estate Planning Section*, May/June 2000

**Probate and Trust Administration Under EPIC**, *Wayne County Probate Court Mandatory Attorney Training*, October 21, 1999

**Estate and Protected Individuals Code: Preview and Overview**, *Michigan Bankers Association Seminar*, October 5, 1999

**Update on Recent and Proposed Michigan and Federal Legislation and Regulations**, *39th Annual Probate and Estate Planning Seminar, State Bar of Michigan, Probate and Estate Planning Section*, May/June 1999



**Recent Developments in Estate Planning**, *Mid-Michigan Study Group of the Michigan Society of the Institute of Certified Financial Planners*, June 1998

**Update on Recent and Proposed Michigan and Federal Legislation and Regulations**, *38th Annual Probate and Estate Planning Seminar, State Bar of Michigan, Probate and Estate Planning Section*, May/June 1998

**Update on Recent and Proposed Michigan and Federal Legislation and Regulations**, *37th Annual Probate and Estate Planning Seminar, State Bar of Michigan, Probate and Estate Planning Section*, May/June 1997

**Testimony on Senate Bill 290 (Estate Settlement Act)**, *Senate Judiciary Committee*, February 25, 1997

**The Estate Settlement Act: Changes in the Law and Your Practice**, *Annual Meeting, State Bar of Michigan, Probate and Estate Planning Section*, September 1996

**Testimony on Senate Bill 490 (Powers of Attorney)**, February 1, 1996

**FLPs, LLCs, GRATs & QPRTs**, *Flint Estate Planning Council*, October 1995

**Estate Planning for Terminally Ill Clients (Dealing with Closely-Held Business Interests)**, *Institute for Continuing Legal Education*, October 1995

**Estate Planning with Family Limited Partnerships and Limited Liability Companies**, *Institute for Continuing Legal Education*, February and March 1995

**The Cooperative Roles of the Financial Planner and Attorney**, *International Association of Financial Planners*, January 1995

## **PUBLICATIONS**

**Avoiding Conflict Over Tangible Personal Property**, *Foster Swift Estate Planning Insights*, Fall 2010

**Michigan Trust Code Takes Effect April 1, 2010**, *Foster Swift Estate Planning Insights*, Winter 2009

**Recent Court of Appeals Case Highlights Importance of Estate Planning in Multiple Marriage Situations**, *Foster Swift Estate Planning Insights*, Winter 2009

**Nonprobate Transfers Under the Estate Settlement Act**, *Michigan Probate & Estate Planning Journal*, Summer 1995

**GRATs & QPRTs - Sophisticated Planning Techniques for Selective Situations**, *Ingham County Bar Association Briefs*, 1995

**The Use of Multiple-Party Accounts as Nonprobate Transfer Devices**, *Michigan Probate & Estate Planning Journal*, Spring 1992

**Michigan Estate Planning Handbook**, *Institute of Continuing Legal Education, Chapters on Revocable Trusts*,

**Michigan Revocable Grantor Trusts**, *Institute for Continuing Legal Education (Chapter on Trustees)*,



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**MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS**

**Legal Affiliations:**

- State Bar of Michigan, Probate and Estate Planning Section
- American Bar Association; Real Property Section, Probate and Trust Law Section
- Ingham County Bar Association

**Industry & Professional Associations:**

- The American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, Fellow
- Institute of Continuing Legal Education, Probate Advisory Committee
- Greater Lansing Estate Planning Council

**Community Involvement:**

- Capital Region Community Foundation
    - Member of the Board of Trustees since 2006
    - Treasurer, 2007- 2009
    - Chair, 2011
  - Sparrow Foundation, Planned Giving Committee Member, Past Chairperson
  - Elder Law of Michigan, Inc., Board Member, Past Chairperson
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