JONES
FOSTER

# Peter A. Sachs

## Shareholder

**Florida Bar Board Certified**
Civil Trial & Business Litigation Attorney

**Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers**




## Contact

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## Location

505 South Flagler Drive
Suite 1100
West Palm Beach
Florida 33401


## Education

J.D., Duke University

B.A., Emory University, *cum laude*

## Admissions

The Florida Bar
U.S. Supreme Court
U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida
U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida

Jones Foster Shareholder Peter Sachs, Co-Chair of the **Trust & Estate Litigation Practice Group**, represents individuals and institutions in the prosecution and defense of complex trust and estate, guardianship, and commercial litigation matters. He advises trust companies and banks regarding fiduciary duties as personal representatives and trustees under Florida law.

Peter is a Fellow of the **American College of Trial Lawyers** (ACTL) and is certified by the National Board of Trial Advocacy. He is double Board Certified by **The Florida Bar** in the areas of Civil Trial and Business Litigation, an honor granted only to lawyers who have been determined by their peers and the judiciary to possess special knowledge, skills and proficiency, and professionalism and ethics in the practice of law.

Peter shares his extensive knowledge and insight into the complexity of familial relationships through published articles and speaking engagements on the topics of will, guardianship, and trust contests, land trust litigation, the parol evidence rule, removal to Federal Court, pre-judgment remedies, and challenges to charitable gifts and bequests. He holds leadership roles in several industry and community organizations, including Chair of the ACTL Attorney-Client Relationship Committee and Board Member for the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County and the Alzheimer's Community Care organization. He served as Past Chair of The Florida Bar's Civil Procedure Rules Committee and the Probate Rules Committee.

Peter is consistently recognized as a preeminent attorney in his area of practice by peer-reviewed publications including *Florida Super Lawyers*, *The Best Lawyers in America, Palm Beach Illustrated's* "Top Lawyers," *and Doyle's Guide*, where he was named to the Leading Trusts, Estates & Probate Litigation Lawyers – Miami list. He was named by *The Best Lawyers in America* as 2020 "Lawyer of the Year" for Trusts & Estates Litigation in West Palm Beach, an honor conferred upon a single outstanding lawyer for each specialty and location, based upon the highest overall peer-feedback.

## Experience Highlights

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1924

### $70 Million Trust Contest

Representation of surviving spouse in $70 million trust contest against children of first marriage, which resulted in client receiving over 90% of the trust residue.

### Multiple Charitable Organization Defense of $100 Million Estate Proceeding

Representation of seven charitable organizations in a $100 million estate proceeding in defending a claim which would have resulted in the charities receiving no residuary distributions. The claim was settled, resulting in the charities receiving an amount in excess of $30 million, almost 95% of the residue.

### Undue Influence and Return of Funds in Will Dispute

Representation of two siblings as personal representatives of their father's $25 million estate. Successfully defended an attack of the decedent's will by his surviving spouse, resulting in a judgment finding the surviving spouse guilty of undue influence and ordering the return of funds misappropriated by her during the final months of the decedent's life.

### $7 Million in Damages Awarded for Improper Sale of Annuity Contracts

Representation of trustees in successfully prosecuting a claim against a brokerage firm for the improper sale of $30 million in annuity contracts to an elderly couple, receiving a jury award of over $7 million in compensatory and punitive damages.

### Successful Defense of Claims of Breach of Trust and Fiduciary Duty

Successful defense of testator's daughter and attorney in fact at trial and in appellate proceedings against claims of breach of trust and breach of fiduciary duty associated with the administration of the testator's multi-million dollar revocable trust.

### Successful Defense of Validity of Last Will and Testament

Representation of personal representative in successfully defending the validity of the decedent's Last Will and Testament against claims of undue influence and lack of testamentary capacity.

### Successful Representation of Client in Attorneys' Fees Dispute

Successfully defended client against a Motion for Attorneys' Fees seeking over $104,000 following a lawsuit contesting the validity of a trust amendment based on allegations of fraud and undue influence. The Court denied the motion and found the fee request was "objectively unreasonable."

### Successful Defense of Publicly Traded Company in Defective Product Dispute

Representation of a publicly traded company in the oil and gas industry in jury trial and appellate proceedings against international shipping company in a multimillion-dollar claim relating to the supply of allegedly defective products and services.

## Honors & Distinctions

### The Best Lawyers in America

Commercial Litigation, 2019-Present
Trust and Estates Litigation, 2011–Present
Lawyer of the Year, West Palm Beach, Trusts & Estates Litigation, 2020

### Florida Super Lawyers

Estate & Trust Litigation, 2006–Present

**Palm Beach Illustrated**
Top Lawyers, Trusts and Estates, 2018, 2021-Present
Top Lawyers, Alternate Dispute Resolution, 2024-2025

**Doyle's Guide**
Leading Trusts, Estates & Probate Litigation Lawyers – Miami, 2026

**Florida Trend**
Legal Elite, 2012

**Martindale-Hubbell AV® Peer Review Rated**

## Affiliations

**American College of Trial Lawyers**
Chair, Attorney-Client Relationship Committee, 2017-Present

**The Florida Bar**
Past Chair, Civil Procedure Rules Committee
Past Chair, Probate Rules Committee
Past Member, Probate & Trust Litigation Committee

**Palm Beach County Bar Association**
Circuit Civil Practice Committee, 2006, 2017-Present
Estate & Probate CLE Committee, 2010, 2017-Present
Past Member, Probate & Guardianship Practice Committee

**Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County**
Board Member, 2020-Present

**Trustbridge Hospice Foundation**
Board of Directors, 2021-2023
Chair, Planned Giving Committee, 2016-Present

**Alzheimer's Community Care**
Board of Directors, 2018-Present

**U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida**
Ad Hoc Committee on Rules and Procedures Committee, 2004-2012

**Center for Children in Crisis**
Director, 2002-2005

**Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches**
Chair, Board of Directors,1999-2000

**Leadership Palm Beach County**
Graduate, 1992