JONES
FOSTER

Zachary M. Rothman

Shareholder

Contact

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Location

505 South Flagler Drive
Suite 1100
West Palm Beach
Florida 33401

Education

J.D., University of Florida Levin College of Law

B.S., University of Florida

Admissions

The Florida Bar
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida



Zack Rothman, a Jones Foster Shareholder and member of the Trust & Estate Litigation team, represents clients in litigation involving estates, trusts, guardianships and fiduciary disputes, as well as commercial litigation matters. He also counsels personal representatives, trustees, court-appointed administrators, beneficiaries and creditors in all facets of probate, trust and guardianship administration.

Zack holds leadership positions in state and local bar associations, serving as a member of The Florida Bar's Civil Procedure Rules Committee and Committee on Professionalism as well as the Palm Beach County Bar Association's Guardianship Education Committee and Estate/Probate CLE Committee. He is a past chair of the PBCBA's Probate/Guardianship Practice Committee and its Artificial Intelligence Subcommittee.

A graduate of the Florida Fellows Institute of The American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, Zack has been recognized in leading peer-reviewed legal directories including *Florida Super Lawyers* Rising Star, *The Best Lawyers in America*, and *Palm Beach Illustrated's* "Top Lawyers" for his work in trust and estate litigation.

Zack earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Florida and his J.D. from the University of Florida Levin College of Law. While earning his law degree, he was honored for outstanding achievement with book awards in the areas of Elder Law and Electronic Discovery and served as a judicial law clerk for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida.

Experience Highlights

Trial Victory in Lawsuit for Return of Funds Misappropriated by Attorney
Represented an 88-year-old man with terminal cancer who sued for the return of funds that were stolen by his attorney. Following a non-jury trial, the court found in favor of the client on all counts, ordered that all disputed funds be returned, and reserved jurisdiction to award attorneys' fees, pre-judgment interest, and costs.

Jury Award of Over $1.2 Million in Probate Lawsuit
Following a four-day trial, a jury awarded $1.22 million to the personal representative

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of a decedent's estate. The case involved promissory notes between the decedent and his ex-spouse and life insurance policy proceeds that were paid to the ex-spouse in excess of the debt owed. Following trial, the court entered a final judgment for the full amount requested by the client at trial.

Victory for Decedent's Estate at Trial

Represented the personal representative in a dispute in which the decedent's stepdaughter objected to the plan of distribution and sought damages exceeding $1 million against the estate. Following a trial, the court denied the stepdaughter's objections, awarded no damages, and ruled that the estate is entitled to recover its attorneys' fees and expenses from the stepdaughter.

Successful Defense of Summary Judgment Motion Against Trustees

Represented the trustees of family trusts where a beneficiary sued the trustees for breach of fiduciary duty, trust accountings, damages, and removal. The beneficiary's summary judgment motion was denied as to all relief requested.

Creditor Claims Against Estate Stricken

Represented a personal representative in connection with having hundreds of thousands of dollars of creditor claims stricken and denied.

Favorable Resolution Secured in Wrongful Death Allocation Proceedings

Represented a father, one of two survivors of his deceased daughter. After the daughter's tragic death, the mother brought a wrongful death action as personal representative of the daughter's estate and obtained a substantial settlement. The mother sought to allocate the entirety of the settlement proceeds to herself and none to the father. The matter was litigated and resolved by a mediated settlement agreement favorable to the father.

Validity of Decedent's Will and Trust Upheld

Represented a caretaker named as the sole beneficiary of a decedent's estate and trust. After his death, the decedent's family sought to invalidate the will and the trust. The matter was resolved in favor of the caretaker and the validity of the will and trust were upheld.

Successful Action Against Trustee of Sons' Trusts

Represented a trustee's sons, the beneficiaries of the trusts, in an action against the trustee for breach of fiduciary duty, damages, and removal. The action resulted in judgments that the trustee breached her fiduciary duties and would be removed, and awarded damages to the sons, including their attorney's fees and expenses.

Summary Judgment for Decedent's Mother in Federal Court

A decedent who was rendered a quadriplegic in a work-related accident prior to his death was awarded annuity contracts from worker's compensation claims and named his mother as the beneficiary. Days prior to his death, the decedent's ex-wife attempted to have the decedent change the beneficiary of the annuities to herself. The matter was litigated and resolved by entry of summary judgment finding that the decedent's mother was the sole and rightful beneficiary and awarding the mother her attorneys' fees and expenses.

Successful Representation of Guardian in Contested Appeal

Represented the guardian in an appeal concerning whether a guardian, upon the death of the ward, may retain guardianship assets to pay guardianship expenses. The appellate court ruled in favor of the guardian, authorizing the guardian to retain assets after the ward's death to pay expenses, and awarded the guardian's

appellate attorneys' fees and costs.

Administration of Estate as Court-Appointed Administrator Ad Litem
Appointed as Administrator Ad Litem of a complex, highly contested estate and successfully performed administration of the estate for the benefit of the beneficiaries.

Administration of Trust as Trustee
Served as trustee of a grandchild's trust and successfully performed its administration, which included numerous estate, gift, and generation-skipping tax issues.

Some matters handled prior to Jones Foster.

Honors & Distinctions

The Best Lawyers in America
Commercial Litigation, 2026
Litigation - Trusts and Estates, 2026
Ones to Watch, Litigation - Trusts and Estates, 2023-2025
Ones to Watch, Trusts and Estates, 2023-2025
Ones to Watch, Commercial Litigation, 2023-2025

Florida Super Lawyers
Rising Star, Estate & Trust Litigation, 2021-Present

Palm Beach Illustrated
Top Lawyers, Trusts and Estates, 2023-Present

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

South Florida Legal Guide
Up and Comers, 2022

Affiliations

The Florida Bar
Committee on Professionalism, 2025-Present
Civil Procedure Rules Committee, 2024-Present
Florida Probate Rules Committee, 2020-2026
- Co-Chair, Style Subcommittee, 2022-2026
- Secretary, 2022-2024
- Liaison to Code & Rules of Evidence Committee, 2021-2024

Code & Rules of Evidence Committee, 2018-2024
- Education Subcommittee, 2022-2024
- Liaison to Florida Probate Rules Committee, 2021-2024

Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation Committee, 2019-2026
- Undue Influence Codification Subcommittee, 2019-2026

Elder Law Section
Trial Lawyers Section
Real Property, Probate & Trust Law (RPPTL) Section

Palm Beach County Bar Association
Chair, Probate/Guardianship Practice Committee, 2024-2026
- Member, 2020-Present
Chair, Artificial Intelligence Subcommittee, 2024-2026
- Member, 2024-Present
Guardianship Education Committee, 2023-Present
Estate/Probate CLE Committee, 2020-Present
Co-Chair and Moderator, Probate and Guardianship Session, 2023 Bench Bar Conference
Co-Chair and Moderator, Probate and Guardianship Session, 2024 Bench Bar Conference
Young Lawyers Section

Jewish Lawyers Association of Palm Beach County
Member, 2024-Present

Florida Fellows Institute of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel
Graduate, 2022

Police Athletic League of West Palm Beach
Board Member, 2018-2021