

TRAILBLAZERS

DIVORCE, TRUSTS & ESTATES

ADAM STREISAND

SHEPPARD, MULLIN, RICHTER & HAMPTON LLP



PIONEER SPIRIT Adam Streisand was an entertainment litigator when his firm approached him about taking trusts and estates work. "I said, 'I'll try one case' and was absolutely riveted. I was also able to marry entertainment work with the trusts and estates litigation, and I have done a lot of celebrity estates as a result."

TRAILS BLAZED After successfully representing Steve Ballmer in his purchase of the NBA's Los Angeles Clippers, Streisand got a jersey with the number 1310(b) on it from the team. "That's the section of the probate code I used to get a quick trial against former owner Donald Sterling, but also a judgment after the trial that protected it from being undone by any appeal. That was a pioneering move." On behalf of Marilyn Monroe's estate he drafted legislation adopted by the California legislature that created a descendible right of publicity for celebrities. When representing Bing Crosby's estate, Streisand helped write the winning appellate brief on issues involving copyright and community property. He then convinced the court to order some of the estate's heirs to pay attorneys' fees, even though none had joined the case. "That was the first time ever in California."

FUTURE EXPLORATIONS For years, Streisand has predicted that contests over wills and trusts would occur while people are still alive. "Because of the rise in cases of dementia, people are starting to lose their capacity, and relatives don't want to wait. For a number of years, I've been able to bring a will or trust contest into the context of a conservatorship."