



Ann Hetherwick Cahill

Partner

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Overview

Ann Hetherwick "Hether" Cahill represents beneficiaries and fiduciaries in fiduciary, probate, and trust disputes. Hether advises clients at every stage of litigation, sometimes avoiding litigation entirely or resolving issues through mediation. As a former law clerk of the Massachusetts Appeals Court, she brings her strong writing skills and knowledge of the appellate process to contested matters, trials, and appeals. Hether's team was named the "Litigation Department of the Year – Probate" at the 2025 New England Legal Awards.

Above all, Hether appreciates that clients are often going through a difficult time of their lives and their legal and emotional needs are unique. One 2025 *Chambers High Net Worth* interviewee commented that "[s]he has been supportive, understanding, knowledgeable and straightforward with her approach."

Hether handles wide-ranging probate and trust disputes, including:

- trustee removal actions, defense and prosecution;
- will contests and trust invalidity actions involving undue influence, lack of capacity, and/or formation issues;
- trust modification, termination, reformation, cy pres, and/or interpretation actions;
- accounting actions;
- tortious interference with inheritance actions;
- omitted spouse or child actions, including DNA and exhumation issues;
- equity actions involving real estate;
- complaints for instructions and/or declaratory judgment actions;
- divorce, including issues whether a trust is divisible as a marital asset;
- conservatorships, including expanded authority to perform estate planning; and
- guardianships and financial exploitation.

Hether is actively involved in the community and legal industry, including speaking regularly at conferences and on panels and co-authoring the chapter "Cy Pres and Deviation" in MCLE's book *Fiduciary Litigation in the Probate Court*. She is currently completing her third year as the Editor-in-Chief of the *Massachusetts Law Review*. Hether is also a Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC).

Practices & Industries

Fiduciary and Probate Litigation

Matrimonial and Family Law

Private Client

Trust & Estates

Trust Services and Fiduciary Compliance

Firm Leadership:

- Co-Leader, Fiduciary & Probate Litigation Practice

Education and Credentials

Education

Suffolk University Law School, J.D.

Skidmore College, B.A.

Admissions

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit

Affiliations

American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC), Fellow, 2025

Massachusetts Bar Association

Massachusetts Law Review, Editor-in-Chief, 2023–Present; Articles Editor, 2020–2023; Case Comment Editor, 2017–2020; Book Review Editor, 2015–2017; Associate Editor, 2014–2015

Boston Bar Association, Fiduciary Litigation Section, Co-Chair, 2018–2020

Boston Bar Association Steering Committee for the Beacon Award for Diversity and Inclusion, 2019

Boston Chamber of Commerce Women's Leadership Program, 2016–2017

Boston Probate and Estate Planning Forum

Boston Estate Planning Council

Trusts and Estates Consortium, Technology Co-Chair, 2016–2018

Recognition and Community

No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the highest court of any state. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome. [See Awards Methodology.](#)

Recognitions

Selected to Boston Magazine's Top Lawyers List, Trusts & Estates, 2025

Chosen for inclusion in [The Best Lawyers in America](#) (Woodward/White, Inc.), Family Law, 2026–2027

Chosen for inclusion in [Chambers HNW Guide](#) (Chambers & Partners) of recognized practitioners for Private Wealth Disputes in Massachusetts, 2025–2026

Selected to [The Best Lawyers in America](#) list of Ones to Watch (Woodward/White, Inc.) for Family Law, 2024-2025; Litigation – Trusts and Estates, 2024-2025

Selected to the list of Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly's "Top Women of Law," 2020

Selected to the list of Massachusetts [Super Lawyers](#)[®], Estate and Trust Litigation, 2020-2025

Selected to the list of Massachusetts [Super Lawyers](#)[®] Rising Stars, Estate and Trust Litigation, 2009, 2011-2012, 2017-2018

Selected to the list of Massachusetts [Super Lawyers](#) Top 100: 2025 Massachusetts Super Lawyers

Selected to the list of Massachusetts [Super Lawyers](#) Top 50: 2024 & 2025 Women Massachusetts Super Lawyers

Participated in the Boston Chamber of Commerce Women's Leadership Program, 2016-2017

Community Involvement

The Mount, Boston Committee

Certified Bar Association of Norfolk County Pro Bono Conciliator

Ran Boston Marathon with Team Brookline, 2019

Insights

5 Things You Should Know About Trustee Fees

July 29, 2024

Fiduciary Litigation in the Probate Court, Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education (MCLE)

Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education (MCLE), June 7, 2024

Day Pitney Boston Office Hosts Client Holiday Event at Wang Theatre

November 29, 2023

UPDATED: Massachusetts Legislature Passes Wide-Ranging Tax Bill Impacting Estate and Income Taxes

September 29, 2023

News

Day Pitney Continues Strong Performance in Chambers High Net Worth 2026 with 23 Attorney Rankings

Day Pitney Press Release, July 23, 2026

Boston Magazine's Top Lawyers of 2025

Boston Magazine , November 25, 2025

Day Pitney Boston Partner Ann Hetherwick Cahill Elected as an ACTEC Fellow

Day Pitney Press Release, November 17, 2025

Day Pitney's Chambers High Net Worth Recognition Climbs to 22 Attorneys in 2025 Edition

July 24, 2025

Day Pitney Names New Chairs of Fiduciary and Probate Litigation Practice Group

November 21, 2024

Day Pitney Adds Four Lateral Partners, Solidifying Firm as One of the Largest Private Client Teams in Boston

June 1, 2023

In The Media

"13th Annual Probate Law Conference", Massachusetts Bar Association

March 19, 2026

New England Legal Awards 2025 Winners: Litigation Departments of the Year

October 28, 2025

"A Judge, a Litigator, and an Estate Planner Explore No Contest Clauses," Boston Bar Association

April 30, 2025

On the Move - Florida | December 2024

Florida Bar News, December 23, 2024

"Updates in Probate Law" and "Capacity Issues and Burden Shifting," 12th Annual Probate Law Conference, Massachusetts Bar Association (MBA)

November 22, 2024

Day Pitney Names Mark Romance and Ann Hetherwick Cahill Chairs of Fiduciary and Probate Litigation Practice Group

November 21, 2024

"Masterfully Defusing Aggressive, Obstructionist and Hostile Opposing Counsel and Clients" MCLE Live Webcast

October 21, 2024

"Taking Deposition Interactive Workshop 2024," MCLE

Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education (MCLE), October 18, 2024

The Boston Marathon: Philanthropy, a Dare, and a Fellini

Super Lawyers Magazine , April 18, 2024

Cy Pres and Deviation

MCLE Fiduciary Litigation in the Probate Court; 3rd Edition, 2016; 4th Edition, 2019; 5th Edition, 2021; and 6th Edition, 2024

Pursuing & Defending Against Torts Associated with Estate Planning

February 5, 2024

Updates in the Law, Massachusetts Bar Association Probate Law Conference

November 17, 2023 and November 22, 2024

New Associations

Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly, July 7, 2023

Day Pitney Adds 4 Ex-Burns & Levinson Attys in Boston

Law360, June 5, 2023

Trusts and Estates Course

October 4, 2023, March 6, 2023 & October 5, 2022

How do Tort Law and Jurisdiction Questions Affect Trust and Estate Litigation?

January 27, 2023

Representing Clients in Cases Involving Rogers/Medical Treatment

November 4, 2022

Depositions

October 2015-2017, 2019, & 2022

Pretrial Litigation Primer

October 2019 & November 2021

What We Can Learn from Britney Spears: When Guardianships and Conservatorships Go Wrong
September 2021

Conflicts of Interest in Estate Planning and Administration, and Best Practices to Avoid Them, from the Perspective of a Probate and Trust Litigator
June 2021

Why Trusts/Estates Lawyers need to Know Divorce Law Basics of Trusts, Inheritances, Gifts, and Other Interests
November 12, 2020

Pumphrey, Daughter, Named to Super Lawyers List
The Berkshire Eagle, November 2020

Victim's Son Can't Access Murderer's Spendthrift Trust
Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly, October 2020

Protecting the Interests of Incapacitated Persons: Issues and Considerations for Fiduciaries and Agents
June 2, 2020

From a Litigation Perspective, Conflicts of Interest Arising in Estate Planning and Trust and Estate Administration
February 5, 2020

Breaking Through the Glass Ceiling
January 21, 2020

Understanding and Utilizing the Fiduciary Litigation Session
October 15, 2019

Evidentiary Issues in Guardianship Cases
November 2018

Limits on Attorney's Fees
Massachusetts Bar Association Fifth Annual Probate Law Conference, November 2017

Using Guardianship of Minors as Leverage to Change Addiction Issues of Parents
Massachusetts Bar Association Fifth Annual Probate Law Conference, November 2017

Wills, Trusts, Probate and Estate Litigation," Newton Community Education Seminar
June and September 2016, and May and October 2017

Guardianship
MCLE Using Estate Planning to Leverage Treatment of Addiction and Mental Illness, April 2017

Estate Planning Strategies to Help Avoid Family Strife
March 2017

Equity Actions to Determine Ownership, Recover Assets
Massachusetts Bar Association Fourth Annual Probate Law Conference, November 2016

It's STILL Not Too Late to Act!
Massachusetts Divorce Law Monitor, June 2016

It's Not Too Late to Act!
Massachusetts Divorce Law Monitor, June 2016

Guardianship, Conservatorship and Special Needs Planning
May 2016

Civil Law – When to Appeal from a final Decision: After a Decision on the Merits, or After a Subsequent Decision Concerning Attorney's Fees? Roy Haluch Gravel Co. v. Central Pension Fund, U.D., 134 S. Ct. 773 (2014)
Massachusetts Law Review Volume 96, No. 4, August 2015

