

Michelle A. Ross

Counsel

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Michelle Ross focuses her practice on trusts and estates planning and administration, elder law and guardianships, and various other Orphans' Court fiduciary litigation.

Michelle has tried cases in the Orphans' Court Division of various counties in Pennsylvania regarding power of attorney disputes, will contests, surcharge actions, and demands for accountings. She is also an experienced elder law attorney, often assisting clients with obtaining, modifying, and terminating guardianships, as well as obtaining Medicaid benefits for long-term care. Michelle currently serves as outside general counsel for a non-profit corporate fiduciary that serves in all fiduciary capacities and manages a pooled trust. In addition to her litigation experience, Michelle assists numerous families with all aspects of their estate planning needs, whether simple or complex, and the corresponding tax implications. She often navigates the probate and trust administration channels for her clients as well.

Michelle has previous experience serving as an Assistant Public Defender in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, and has worked at various firms throughout the Pittsburgh area, practicing Orphans' Court fiduciary litigation, trusts and estates, criminal defense, personal injury defense, workers' compensation defense, municipal and school law, and dependency and family law. She also ran a successful campaign for a sitting judge in the Court of Common Pleas of Beaver County, Pennsylvania. While attending law school, Michelle served as a clerk for Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas Judges, The Honorable Michael F. Marmo and The Honorable Kevin G. Sasinoski. She was also a member of the Trial Advocacy Team, competing in both the American College of Trial Lawyers National Trial Competition in Philadelphia, PA, and the William W. Daniel National Invitational Trial Competition in Atlanta, GA, in which her participation earned her induction into the Louis L. Manderino Honor Society.

Capabilities

Trusts & Estates
Litigation
Tax
Trusts & Estates Litigation (Co-Leader)
Guardianships (Leader)
Medicaid Planning (Leader)

Admissions

Pennsylvania
New Jersey
U.S. District Court, Western District of Pennsylvania

Academics

J.D., Duquesne University School of Law
B.S. in Psychology, *magna cum laude*, University of Pittsburgh

Licenses & Certifications

Pennsylvania Association of Notaries (Notary Public)

Experience

The Lynch Law Group, LLC
Robb Leonard Mulvihill LLP
Carpenter, McCadden & Lane, LLP
Public Defender's Office of Beaver County
Law Offices of Mitchell P. Shahan, Esq.

Professional Memberships

Pennsylvania Bar Association (Zone 12 Delegate, House of Delegates, 2022-2025; Bar Leadership Institute Class, 2018-2019; Zone 12 Co-Chair, Young Lawyers Division)
Allegheny County Bar Association (Member, Elder Law, Probate and Trusts Sections)
Pennsylvania Bar Association (Member, Elder Law, Real Property, Probate and Trust Sections)
Beaver County Bar Association (Former Member; Former Treasurer and Secretary, Young Lawyers Division)
Duquesne University Alumni Association (Member, Board of Governors)

Professional Accolades

Pennsylvania Rising Star, *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers Magazine* (2019-2023)

Community Involvement

Beaver County Dependency Division, Family Engagement Initiative
Committee to Elect Mitchell P. Shahan Judge (Treasurer)
Board of Trustees of the Carnegie Free Library of Beaver Falls (Secretary; Chairperson of Governance and Administration Committee)
Christian Legal Aid (Volunteer; Recipient of Pro Bono Certificate while at Duquesne Law School)