



AJ&CO

Ben Ades

Practice Leader
Private Advisory, Wills & Estates



For me, law isn't really about court processes and pleadings, it's about people and helping them navigate the big moments in their lives.

Ben combines a thoughtful, client-centred approach to Wills & Estates with experience across private practice, private banking and trustee services.

Introduction

Ben advises on estate planning, estate litigation and estate administration, with a particular focus on cross-border planning for high net worth clients whose affairs span Australia and internationally.

He also acts on charitable trusts, superannuation (including self-managed funds), business succession, enduring power of attorney disputes, and guardianship and administration matters before tribunals.

Ben has worked in private practice and in-house at a Big Four bank, a Big Four accounting firm and a leading Australian trustee company. This experience allows him to deliver practical, commercially minded advice.

He is recognised for explaining complex legal issues clearly and for tailoring his advice to each client's circumstances, priorities and values.

Expertise

- Complex estate planning for high-net-worth and ultra-high-net-worth individuals and families
- Wills incorporating testamentary trusts, protective trusts and tailored succession structures
- Estate planning for blended families and vulnerable beneficiaries
- Business succession and intergenerational wealth transfer
- Estate administration and complex probate applications
- Estate and trust disputes
- Family provision claims
- Disputes concerning will validity, testamentary capacity and undue influence
- Advice to executors and trustees, including disputes and removal applications
- Equitable claims affecting deceased estates, including estoppel, constructive trusts and informal wills
- Enduring powers of attorney and attorney disputes
- Guardianship and administration proceedings
- Superannuation death benefits and binding death benefit nominations
- Succession planning for self-managed superannuation funds
- Trust structuring, succession and control of family entities
- Charitable trusts, philanthropic structures and charitable giving
- Family constitutions, succession governance and facilitated family meetings
- Estate planning involving companies, trusts, partnerships and family businesses
- Tax considerations in estate planning, including capital gains tax, duty and superannuation death benefits
- Cross-disciplinary advice delivered with accountants, financial advisers, private bankers and other professional advisers

Experience

- Advising individuals, families, executors, trustees, beneficiaries and family offices on complex succession matters
- Designing and implementing tailored estate plans for clients with substantial personal, business, trust and superannuation interests
- Advising blended families on competing interests, asset protection and strategies to minimise the risk of future estate disputes
- Preparing sophisticated wills incorporating testamentary discretionary trusts, protective trusts and tailored control mechanisms
- Advising on succession to the control of private companies, family trusts, partnerships and self-managed superannuation funds
- Acting in contested estate proceedings, including family provision claims, will validity disputes and equitable claims
- Guiding executors and administrators through probate, estate administration, distributions, creditor claims and potential personal liability
- Acting in disputes involving the conduct, appointment and removal of executors, trustees and attorneys
- Advising on testamentary capacity, knowledge and approval, undue influence, suspicious circumstances and informal wills
- Advising on superannuation death benefit nominations and disputes over the payment of death benefits
- Collaborating with leading accountants, tax advisers, financial advisers, private bankers and counsel to deliver integrated succession solutions
- Leading and developing specialist Wills and Estates teams
- Supervising complex matters and providing strategic direction to lawyers and professional staff
- Developing precedents, procedures, workflows and risk-management frameworks
- Building trusted referral relationships across the legal, accounting, banking, trustee and financial advisory sectors
- Presenting seminars and technical sessions for clients, professional advisers and referral networks

Qualifications

- Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Business (International Business), Queensland University of Technology

- Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice (Distinction), Queensland University of Technology
- Admitted to the Supreme Court of Queensland on 12 September 2011

Memberships

- Queensland Law Society



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