



# INDEPENDENT TRUSTEE ALLIANCE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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## **“Technology and Teamwork”**

May 15–16, 2025 | Dallas, Texas

Dallas/Addison Marriott Quorum by the Galleria  
14901 Dallas Parkway, Dallas, Texas 75254

Note: Conference attendance qualifies for 8.5 hours MCLE (approval pending).

### **Pre-Conference Kickoff**

Wednesday, May 14, 2025 – Vista Ballroom

6:00 PM – Welcome Reception & Dinner

Enjoy dinner and connect with fellow trustees and legal professionals.

### **Day 1: Discussions & Presentations**

Thursday, May 15, 2025 – Vista Ballroom

7:30 AM – Breakfast

8:00 AM – Opening Remarks

8:15 AM – "45 Helpful Apps for Trustees and Attorneys" (60 min)

Chris Downs reviews digital tools useful for trustees and attorneys.

9:15 AM – Refreshment Break

9:30 AM – "Understanding the Uniform Prudent Investor Act" (60 min)

Matthew Borque explains the act and its relevance to trustees.

10:30 AM – "Working with Aging Life Care Professionals" (60 min)

Angela Thomas discusses collaboration between trustees and eldercare specialists.

11:30 AM – Luncheon & ITA Annual Business Meeting

Lunch and ITA updates provided by Kevin Quinn.



1:00 PM – "Managing Digital Assets as Fiduciaries" (60 min)  
Jeremy Lau discusses how technology is reshaping financial advisory services.

2:00 PM – "Defusing Explosive Trust Situations" (45 min)  
Dan Felix shares strategies for addressing trust problems before they escalate.

2:45 PM – Networking Coffee Break

3:00 PM – "Effective Communication with Legal Counsel" (60 min)  
Marin Bradshaw offers practical tips on communicating with attorneys.

4:00 PM – "Innovative Trustee Practices" (60 min)  
Dana Garnett discusses new approaches in trustee leadership.

5:00 PM – Day 1 Wrap-Up

6:00 PM – Social Event at Frisco RoughRiders Baseball Game  
Relax and network at a baseball game.

## **Day 2: Looking Ahead & Open Discussions**

Friday, May 16, 2025

7:30 AM – Breakfast & Networking

8:00 AM – "Artificial Intelligence in Trust Management" (90 min)  
Dave Folz and Frazer Rice explore how AI will affect trust administration.

9:30 AM – "Cybersecurity Essentials" (30 min)  
Hannah DeLucca provides updates on managing cyber risks.

10:00 AM – Refreshment Break

10:15 AM – Open Discussion  
Participants discuss technology and teamwork.

11:30 AM – Conference Summary  
Review key points and wrap up the event.

12:00 PM – Adjourn



## **45 Apps for Trustees and Attorneys**

45 applications easily accessible and available to Trustees and Attorneys to help you remain proficient in the benefits and risks of technology to maintain and grow your practice.



**Christine “Chris” Krupa Downs, Esq.**

Chris is an attorney at Krupa Downs Law, PLLC in Plano, Texas. She focuses her practice on wills, trusts, advance directives, estate planning, guardianships, and probate. She has 13 years of legal experience handling estate planning, probate & guardianship legal matters for clients in Allen, Frisco, McKinney, Plano and throughout Collin, Dallas, and Denton counties.

In addition to her practice, Chris writes and lectures for local and state bar associations, and at legal seminars. She is a member of various professional organizations, including the Collin County Bar Association, the Dallas Bar Association, and the Texas Bar College. She is also active in the State Bar of Texas and served on the Computer and Technology Section Council.

## **Dear Prudence: an examination of the legal standards, practical applications, and historical backdrop of the Uniform Prudent Investor Act**

Trustees across 45 states and the District of Columbia are subject to the standards, exceptions, and exclusions of the Uniform Prudent Investor Act. This presentation examines the evolution of law governing trustees’ investment decisions, focusing on the mandates of the UPIA. The presentation will also venture outside the UPIA’s statutory text to provide common-law interpretations and practical applications of its standards. When market volatility arises, the last thing a trustee wants to face is a breach of trust suit. Trustees should get a better night’s sleep upon learning the ins and outs of the UPIA.



**Matthew Borque, Esq.**

Managing Attorney of the Dallas office of RMO LLP, a trust and probate estate litigation law firm focused on representing trustees, executors, beneficiaries, heirs, conservators, guardians, and creditors across California and Texas in contentious probate and civil court matters.



## **Aging Life Care Professionals & Trustees**

A discussion of how an Aging Life Care Professional® can benefit you and your client and the importance and benefits of collaboration between professionals serving the same client.



**Angela Thomas**

Angela is a master's trained nurse with over 40 years of experience. She received her BSN and MSN from the University of Pennsylvania, School of Nursing. In 2006

Angela founded Caring with Grace in Dallas to enable her to share her passion, knowledge, and experience to assist seniors, adults with disabilities and their families navigate the challenges of aging.

In 2016 the Aging Life Care Association® conferred upon Angela the designation, Fellow of the Leadership Academy, for her exemplary dedication to the association and the profession of Aging Life Care™ /care management. This designation signifies excellence, devotion, and dedication to serving individuals and their families in the aging community. She is an advanced professional member of the ALCA. Angela is the past president of the South Central Chapter and in 2018 she received the Outstanding Chapter Member award.

## **Managing Digital Assets as Fiduciaries**

A look at how to navigate modern asset management challenges including a history of trade and financial models evolving to crypto assets. Case studies are used to illustrate a fiduciary's duty regarding these most modern means of conducting trade



**Jeremy Lau, CFA, CFP**

Jeremy L. Lau serves as the CEO of Prudent Investors. He frequently speaks on investment management and financial planning to professional fiduciaries and trust and estate attorneys around the country. Jeremy regularly advises fiduciaries on managing their clients' assets and financial planning needs and also works with estate litigators as a financial expert witness.

Before Prudent Investors he worked in senior roles in the investment banking industry in Tokyo and Hong Kong. He graduated in Accounting from Brigham Young University and has earned the right to use the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA®) and Certified Financial Planner (CFP®) designations.



## **Defusing Explosive Trust Situations: The under-appreciated power of pre-fiduciary preparedness work**

Festering legal, financial and relational issues consume an inordinate amount of trust assets while simultaneously challenging calm, collaborative, efficient administration. These toxic issues threaten damage to the viability of the trust as well as to both professional and family relations. Though quite real and often daunting, these issues are not always inevitable. The under-publicized truth is that many of these issues can be successfully mitigated -- and sometimes avoided entirely -- by engaging in a more robust preparedness process in advance of the fiduciary taking charge. In this program you will learn about the primary elements of a successful pre-fiduciary preparedness process. Independent trustee Dan Felix has invested years in developing his unique pre-fiduciary preparedness program. Dan will share the fundamentals, including supporting handouts.



**Daniel P. Felix, Esq.**

Daniel P. Felix is a licensed Illinois attorney using his legal and other essential skills to help families navigate the waters of disability and death.

Dan has developed his services and team from his 30+ years of working and teaching. Certified as a "Master Trustee" by the Independent Trustee Alliance, Dan has lectured to attorneys as well as trustees, including a year-engagement to teach a law firm the art and science of the trustee job. He has written extensively on trusts, including two books.



## **My Lawyer said to call you**

The presenters will address the all-to-common situation where an attorney refers a client to a professional fiduciary as a potential successor trustee in that client's revocable living trust. When this is handled well, it can result in a relationship that benefits the trustee, the attorney, and--most-importantly--the client. When it is handled poorly it can result in confusion, wasted time, and unauthorized legal advice. The presentation will include a real-time survey and discussion of participants' experiences with client referrals; a legal analysis of the statutes, rules, and ethical issues surrounding fiduciaries' consultations with trustors; and a model set of "best practices" for hand-offs between attorneys and fiduciaries. Checklists and sample forms will be provided in the materials.



**Marin Bradshaw, Esq.**

Marin is a California Bar Certified Specialist in the area of Estate Planning, Trust, and Probate Law. Marin's legal practice focuses on high net worth [estate planning](#), complex trust administration, and trust and probate disputes. She speaks throughout California on trust and estate topics and has written for national publications. Marin works extensively with individual trustees and beneficiaries, professional fiduciaries, and their professional advisors.

She earned her BA degree in Communication Studies with minors in Music and Statistics from Brigham Young University. She received her JD, cum laude, also from Brigham Young University, where she was President of the Public Interest Law Foundation and Associate Editor for the Education Law Journal. She coaches a local high school mock trial team and regularly donates her time with Public Law Center's immigration clinics.

## **The Transformative Trustee: How One Person Can Shift Family Dynamics and Preserve Wealth**

Addresses a critical challenge facing independent trustees: managing complex family conflicts while maintaining professional ethics and preserving wealth. The presentation demonstrates how one person, specifically the trustee, can be the catalyst for transformative change in family trust dynamics without requiring all parties to participate in traditional mediation.

Using compelling real-world examples from recent news headlines, the presentation illustrates the significant impact of unresolved family conflicts on trust wealth and beneficiary wellbeing. It explores how trustees' own life experiences and implicit biases can



affect their ability to fulfill their fiduciary duties effectively, while also showing how these same insights can be leveraged for positive change.

The presentation introduces the innovative concept of the "One Degree Shift" - a method that empowers trustees to transform conflict situations through individual action rather than requiring all parties' participation. This approach aligns with the ITA Code of Ethics while providing practical tools for maintaining professional independence and impartiality. The material emphasizes the connection between conflict resolution and both professional ethics and personal wellbeing, offering trustees concrete strategies for managing inevitable human conflict with greater ease and effectiveness.

### **Dana Garnett**



Dana Garnett is a Credentialed Advanced Mediator with the Texas Mediator Credentialing Association for Civil and Family cases, a Conflict Resolution Specialist and CPA. Founder of The Mindful Strategy LLC she merges her Big 8 Accounting and International Fortune 100 experience with vastly acquired global life lessons.

Prior to relocating to Dallas, she worked and lived as an expatriate for more than 20 years across diverse cultures, including Lagos, Nigeria; Brussels, Belgium; Casablanca, Morocco; and seven years in Bangkok, Thailand where she learned mindfulness directly from Eastern philosophy teachings. First-hand experience to divorce litigation that resulted in personal hardship and serious financial loss lead Dana to the practice of Alternative Dispute Resolution.

Dana's education and training include: ▪ Master of Arts in Dispute Resolution - Southern Methodist University ▪ Master of Science in Accountancy - University of North Texas ▪ Graduate Certificate in Executive Coaching - Southern Methodist University ▪ Certified Trainer - HeartMath Institute® ▪ Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance - University of North Texas



## AI and Trustees

A look at how Artificial Intelligence may change the Trustee profession (presentation created by AI).



### Dave Folz

Dave has spent his entire career in the professional trust world advising individuals and families and has been involved in all phases of trust administration.

After graduating from Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C., he got his real world trust training at two large banks, one in Chicago and one in Dallas. Asked by Ray Nasher and Tom Abbott to start a Trust Group at NorthPark National Bank in 1987, he went on to be responsible for Comerica's Trust Services in Texas when Comerica acquired NorthPark. When Texas Capital Bank opened its doors, he was asked by the founders to start a Wealth Management and Trust Group for Texas Capital Bank.

As a consultant he seeks to demystify and simplify for trustees their roles and to help them have a positive impact on the multi-generational transfer of a family's wealth. He brings a wide array of experience, resources, contacts, and inspiration to each assignment. Over his career, he has helped many trustees and families assess and make trust related decisions, including disclaimers, power of appointments, splitting and combining trusts, and evaluating complex investment strategies.





**Frazer Rice**

**Director of Family Office Services for Next Capital Management, LLC.**

Frazer is responsible for developing the firm’s Family Office Services offering and implementing it for select clients. Frazer has spent a more than twenty-year career advising high net worth clients and families around wealth management, estate planning and fiduciary issues. Most recently, he was the Regional Director for Pendleton Square Trust, building their presence in the Northeast and advising clients and advisers around fiduciary issues. He spent 16 years at Wilmington Trust advising high net worth clients and family offices, rising to the level of Managing Director in the firm’s New York office. Frazer has written the book *Wealth, Actually: Intelligent Decision-Making for the 1%* and produces the successful “Wealth Actually” Podcast. He appears on a variety of media and industry panels to discuss wealth management practice, trusts and estates, family dynamics issues, and tax policy. He is on the Board of the New York City Estate Planning Council and is Co-Head of its Programming Committee. He received his B.A. in Political Science and History from Duke University and his J.D. from Emory University School of Law. Frazer lives in Manhattan and enjoys golf, travel, horror movies, media production and writing.



## Update on Cyber Liability

An update on the rapidly evolving cyber liability field including real world examples to illustrate best practices.



**Hannah DeLucca**

**Vice President of Precision Brokers, LLC**

Born and raised in Jersey City, NJ, Hannah Noel DeLucca has carved a distinctive path in the insurance industry, transitioning from a broad base of knowledge to a specialized niche in financial institutions.

Hannah's career focuses on financial institutions, particularly Family Office, Trust Company, and Trustee Liability.