

Compare our qualifications

Trust and Estate Planning and Administration

Experience, training, reputation and accomplishments, and especially recognition by our peers, should be important considerations when you select the lawyer to entrust with your matter. When a lawyer is selected to participate on or even head an important legal committee, draft legislation to change the probate or trust laws or court rules, guide key Florida Bar committees or even a section of the bar, it is because one's fellow lawyers have determined that lawyer has unique knowledge, experience or expertise. Lawyers are other lawyers most precise critics, so when they select one of their own to perform important tasks, to receive a singular honor, or to lead them in a professional endeavor, it is especially meaningfully. Also, there are a few very exclusive publications that publish "best lawyer" lists. Some lawyers have one or maybe two meaningful accomplishments or honors they have received during their careers that they spotlight as a indication of their unique qualifications. As you see below, we are different in that regard. **The Kelley Law Firm** thanks you for considering us and invites you to compare the qualifications of our lawyers with any others you may consider.

Item	KelleyLaw Firm	Firm #2	Comment
The firm's lawyers have extensive experience, not only planning estates and trusts but also settling the estate or trust when the time comes.	Rohan Shane		Rohan and Shane have drafted wills and trusts cumulatively numbering in the thousands. At the same time, they also serve the clients in seeing that those wills and trusts are administered according to the requirements of law and the specific desires of the clients for whom they were prepared.
Florida Bar Board Certified as a specialist in Wills, Trusts and Estates	Rohan Shane		Only very few lawyers have sufficient expertise to pass the rigorous exam required to become board certified in wills, trusts and estates. In Florida, only about 335 lawyers out of about 64,000 have done so. In 1985, Rohan was appointed by the President of The Florida Bar to serve on the first committee to identify and certify lawyers as specialists in the wills, trusts and estates practice area and he later served as chairman of that committee. Since he wrote a significant part of the first examination, he was exempted from taking the exam and was granted automatic certification.
LL.M advanced law degree in estate planning or taxation	Shane Tom		Very few lawyers have achieved advanced academic degrees in the technical tax or estate planning discipline. Tax issues are a very critical part of planning an estate and also administering the estate or trust after death occurs. All lawyers have a Juris Doctor degree, but only a few have gone further in their training to obtain the advanced LL.M degree in tax.

Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC)	Rohan Shane		ACTEC is a national organization of the most widely recognized experts in trusts and estates law. Membership is by invitation only. Only about 150 lawyers of about 64,000 Florida lawyers are fellows of ACTEC. Our relatively small firm boasts two of them. (Rohan's other two children – Shane's siblings – Tae and Sean are also ACTEC fellows.)
Martindale AV rated	Rohan Shane Tom		Martindale is the most widely recognized, although least exclusive, national lawyer rating source. Although not all lawyers in the U.S. are rated, the Martindale AV rating is the highest they award. All the lawyers in this firm have the AV rating.
Chaired or vice chaired the committee of the Real Property Probate and Trust Law (RPPTL) Section of The Florida Bar which drafts the probate and trust laws for Florida.	Rohan Shane Tom		Rohan has chaired the Probate Law committee and is presently a member (Rohan's daughter – and Shane's sister, Tae, is the present chairwoman of this committee.) Shane was the vice chair of the Probate Law committee, is a current member, and now serves as chair of the Trust Law committee. Tom is a past vice chair and a present member of the Probate Law committee. The Probate Law committee drafts all of the proposed statutes governing probate law and the Trust Law committee drafts all of the proposed laws regulating trusts.
Chaired the Florida Bar committee that writes the rules that govern the probate court (Probate Rules Committee).	Rohan Shane		Rohan and Shane are both former chairs of the Probate Rules Committee appointed by the President of The Florida Bar. This is the committee that writes the rules which govern probate proceedings in court. Very few lawyers have even been selected to serve on this exclusive committee, much less to chair it.
Author of legal practice manual or chapter or of articles published by The Florida Bar	Rohan Shane Tom		Rohan is the co-author (with his daughter, Tae) of The Florida Bar Probate System, first published by The Florida Bar in 1979 and now in its 4 th edition. He is also the author of legal articles published by law reviews and other legal publications. Shane, Rohan and Tom have each authored or co-authored chapters in legal trusts and estates practice manuals published by The Florida Bar. For example, both Shane and Rohan contributed a chapter in the Florida Bar books, "Practice Under Florida Probate Code" and "Litigation Under Florida Probate Code."

<p>Member of the Executive Council of the Real Property, Probate and Trust Section of The Florida Bar</p>	<p>Rohan Shane Tom</p>	<p>This section of The Florida Bar is the largest section with approximately 10,000 lawyers who concentrate their practice in real property law or wills, trusts and estates law. It is managed by an executive council of approximately 200 members. Rohan and Shane are members of that executive council.</p>
<p>Past chairperson of the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section of The Florida Bar.</p>	<p>Rohan</p>	<p>In 2006 – 2007, Rohan was elected by the more than 10,000 lawyers of the section of the Florida Bar who identify themselves as real property, or wills, trusts and estates lawyers to chair the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section. This is the largest section of The Florida Bar.</p>
<p>Member of the Probate and Trust Litigation committee of the Real Property Probate and Trust Law Section of The Florida Bar</p>	<p>Rohan Shane Tom</p>	<p>This is a committee of the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section of The Florida Bar comprised of approximately 100 lawyers who have an interest in fiduciary litigation. This committee is at the cutting edge of new trial techniques, changing laws and practice rules and emerging trends in this area of the practice. Tom is a former vice chair</p>
<p>Also practice in the area of Will and Trust litigation</p>	<p>Rohan Shane Tom</p>	<p>We are not only office lawyers who draft and administer testamentary documents. We also litigate other lawyer’s documents, when drafting or planning mistakes are made. When you litigate other lawyers’ mistakes, it makes one very sensitive to common errors in will and trust drafting or estate administration and better able to avoid them in our own practice.</p>
<p>Selected by Best Lawyers in America</p>	<p>Rohan Shane</p>	<p>This national publication seeks out top lawyers (2.5 million in the latest survey) and asks “If you had a close friend or relative who needed a . . . lawyer and you could not handle the case yourself . . . to whom would you refer them?” The publication presently lists 123 lawyers in Florida under its Trusts and Estates listing. Rohan has more than 23 years of continuous selection and was the first Trusts and Estates lawyer in Broward County to be listed. From 2010 on, Shane has also been listed. This is the most exclusive national lawyer rating list in existence.</p>

<p>Selected as "Legal Elite" by Florida Trend Magazine and as a "Hall of Fame" member</p>	<p>Rohan Shane</p>	<p>This is a Florida state-wide publication. It invites all in-state members of The Florida Bar to respond to the question: "Who are the lawyers you hold in the highest regard – attorneys with whom you have worked or would recommend to others." Less than 2% of lawyers in Florida are ultimately selected as "Legal Elite." Shane and Rohan are both so selected. In 2009 for the first time the magazine super-selected 48 lawyers out of 64,000 in private practice in Florida to the magazine's Hall of Fame. Selection included the requirement (among others) that the lawyer have been listed every previous year as Legal Elite. Rohan Kelley was one of those 48 to be selected to the Hall of Fame and was the only lawyer in Broward County so selected. Again in 2010, Rohan was selected to the Hall of Fame, this year among 54 lawyers and again in 2011 among 67 lawyers. For the first 2 years, Rohan was the only lawyer in any practice specialty from Broward County to be selected. In 2011, two Broward County lawyers in different practice specialties made the Hall of Fame list.</p>
<p>Selected by Florida SuperLawyers Magazine</p>	<p>Rohan Shane Tom</p>	<p>To be considered for selection, a lawyer must have been in practice for at least 15 years. In 2008 Superlawyers ran a special feature story on Shane highlighting among his other qualifications that he was the latest in a continuous line of Broward County lawyers that began with his great grandfather. The magazine uses 12 indicators of peer recognition and professional achievement. Only 5% of the lawyers are selected as SuperLawyers.</p>
<p>Selected as "Top Lawyer" by South Florida Legal Guide</p>	<p>Rohan Tom</p>	<p>As its name implies, this is a regional publication in South Florida. To be considered for selection, a lawyer must have been in practice for at least 15 years.</p>

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Our practice is limited to Wills, Trusts and Estates and Litigation involving Wills, Trusts and Estates