

# Elective Share:

## A Fresh Look



# An Overview



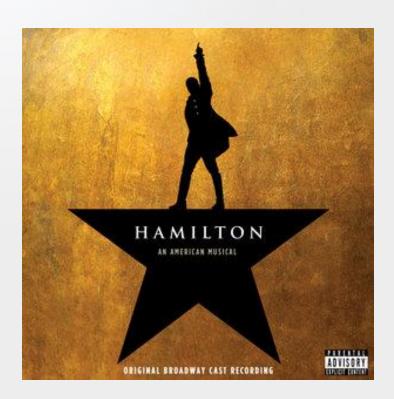


#### An Overview

- History Lesson
- Elective Estate
  - What's In and What's Out
- Satisfaction
  - Including Trusts
- Predictions
- Recent Cases
- And, then maybe something a little different



## A History Lesson





## A History Lesson

1999

2001, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010



#### Elective Estate

• Step 1 in determining the elective share

A number to multiply by 30%



### Florida Probate Rules

• The Procedure: Rule 5.360

• Elective Share Inventory: Rule 5.340(g)



#### Elective Estate

What's In?



## Elective Estate: What's In

- Probate Estate
- Payable on Death/Transfer on Death Accounts
- Co-ownership with Rights of Survivorship
- Tenancies by Entireties
- Revocable Transfers, including Revocable Trusts
- Certain Irrevocable Transfers
- IRAs and other Retirement Accounts
- Life Insurance on Decedent only net CSV
- Gifts Within One Year of Death, with exceptions
- Transfers in Satisfaction of Elective Share



### Elective Estate

# What's Out?

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## Elective Estate: What's Out?

- Irrevocable Transfers prior to October 1, 1999
- Irrevocable Transfers prior to Marriage to Spouse
- Transfers for Adequate Consideration in Money, etc.
- Transfers with Written Consent of Spouse
- Life Insurance on Decedent in Excess of net CSV
- Life Insurance Maintained pursuant to Court Order
- Decedent's one-half of Community Property
- Qualifying Special Needs Trust
- General Power of Appointment
- Protected Homestead



## Elective Estate: What's Out?

#### One More Hidden In Effective Date Provisions

732.2155(6): Elective share does not apply to trusts if:

- (a) In trust at all times between October 1, 1999, and death;
- (b) Not married to surviving spouse when transferred; and
- (c) A nonmarital asset as defined in s. 61.075.



## An Election?

That's a floor





## Elective Estate

Satisfaction of Elective Share Amount



#### Satisfaction

- Decedent's estate plan
  - Specified source
  - Assets passing to or for spouse
- If shortfall:
  - Probate estate and revocable trust
  - Direct recipients



# Satisfaction: In Trusts

- Elective Share Trusts, including conditional
  - All income and right to make productive
  - No other current beneficiaries
  - -50%, 80%, 100%
- Qualified Special Needs Trusts
  - Ill or disabled spouse



# Predictions







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#### **Predictions**

- Revisit elective share percentage
  - Why is it currently 30%?
  - Sliding Scale originally proposed in 1999:

Decedent and Spouse Married:	Elective Share Percentage:
Less Than 5 years	10% of the Elective Estate
5 Years But Less 15 Years	20% of the Elective Estate
15 Years But Less Than 25 Years	30% of the Elective Estate
25 Years or More	40% of the Elective Estate



#### **Predictions**

- Chancery regime for costs and attorney fees
- Protected Homestead and Elective Share



#### Recent Cases

- Dinkins v. Dinkins
  - A choice is not a penalty; conditional elective share trust
- Estate of Magee
  - Elective share is constitutional
- Janien v. Janien
  - Must comply with Elective Share Trust Requirements



#### And now, for something a little different







# Sour Creme