

### Bank recommended attorney Tim Flanagan facilitates conflicts of interest?

Banks have lobbyists and lots of them. In 1999 they succeeded in having Bill Clinton repeal Glass - Steagall, thus setting the path for bank bailouts and a tremendous transfer of wealth to America's privately owned banking system. It is apparent that these same lobbyists have succeeded in having a vast number of states change their laws so that previously prevented conflicts of interest can now be legally implemented when managing the estates of the deceased - but only if authorized in some form or fashion. At the time of this writing - Wikipedia United States Trust Law - gives a good description of how the law has changed.

It is the authorizations for conflicts of interest where things get tricky. Some 10 years ago an acquaintance of Mr. Flanagan, LPL Adviser Michael McCranie (CRD# 1536627), presented an "Investment Policy Statement" to the beneficiaries of the trust account established by our father's Will. The document sought to obtain retroactive approval for conflicts of interest that had already occurred. Mr. McCranie had converted over half of the trust assets to "Variable Annuities" that paid him commission. Mr. McCranie bought the annuities from himself. And by doing that he made a tremendous commission that in comparison dwarfed any proper management fee. Mr. McCranie's actions made it so that he would make a bundle of money no matter what happened to the value of the trust. A document presented by Mr. McCranie stated that Mr. Flanagan was in agreement with the investment strategy.

One of the effects of Mr. McCranie's actions was that the fees applied to trust assets were multiplied several times over. Our mother had been promised that there would be no change in fees. Eventually, due to the efforts of the remainder beneficiaries, a token settlement was made by LPL Financial to our mother. It is a matter of record and shown on Mr. McCranie's CRD.

In 2015 we became aware of another concern involving the authorization of conflicts of interest. Financial Executive Mike Neff (now employed by Wells Fargo) attended meetings with my Mom and Mr. Flanagan to "assist" with the preparation of trust documents for our mother's grandchildren. It was discovered that those documents authorize investments that would ***"not be considered a proper investment for a fiduciary."***

Our mother, who is over 80 years of age, was unaware that the documents prepared by Mr. Flanagan open the door for conflicts of interest.

In 2016 our mother reportedly used Tim Flanagan's firm to assist with the movement of trust accounts to Wells Fargo. Authorizations were requested from the remainder beneficiaries by Wells Fargo that would approve conflicts of interest. Our mother was under the impression that the remainder beneficiaries must sign the authorizations requested by Wells Fargo in order to have the trust moved. Yet remainder beneficiary authorizations are not required for our mom to move the trust.

For an interesting perspective on the repeal of Glass-Steagall, watch the documentary "The 4 Horsemen." Currently it is available on youtube.

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