

Title: Trusts, Death and Divorce ■■ The Parts of Ken Griffin's Life That Haven't Been Published, From High School On ■ - Untangling the web of Ken Griffin's Citadel Empire

Author: disoriented_llama

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0. Intro

We have learned over the last year that Ken Griffin tries to project a certain public image. For example, he just took \$1.15 billion of outside investor money, then went [bragging about how much richer he is](<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-01-11/griffin-fortune-soars-to-28-billion-on-citadel-securities-deal>). Just a few days ago the *Financial Times* released a [feel-good piece on Griffin](<https://www.ft.com/content/efd00f80-b436-4e21-8a66-edd1bb2f6ce7>), which simply regurgitated stories from decades old articles, recapped recent news, and called him the “Elon Musk of finance.” Gross ■

This post will delve into parts of Ken Griffin's life which haven't received much attention. Some information you will see here has been touched upon by the mainstream media, but a lot has not.

I have previously published on Ken Griffin and Citadel: key posts are pinned in my profile and an interactive network diagram of the “Citadel Empire” can be found [here](<https://kumu.io/cruxhub/the-citadel-empire>). Several apes have asked for an update on my research, so I thought I would post some new findings.

In this post I will draw from that prior work and present new findings from public records. I will start with brief chronological highlights, covering Ken's high school and the following ten years. Then I will show examples of how trusts have been employed by the Griffin family. Finally, I will reveal an interesting connection between the two: see if you can spot it while reading.

As always I appreciate the feedback, dialogue and great leads you apes provide - keep them coming!

1. The Start - High School and the Next 10 Years

If you've read about Ken in the mainstream media then you've heard some of this before. He graduated from Boca Raton High School in 1986, and as it's been reported Ken was president of his math club; it looks like he did that and a lot more.

[1986 - Senior year of high school](<https://preview.redd.it/udhrzh8fgjc81.png?width=287&format;=png&auto;=webp&s;=2ca8e5e973ed82f1c2689c334875071c9a373c72>)

<https://preview.redd.it/xpgdryk1gjc81.png?width=599&format;=png&auto;=webp&s;=d4b2d1315cf518cc82a45d5dbbaa099c374b8331>

It's tough to read, here is the text:

>GRIFFIN, KENNETH “Ken”; Cross Country - 1, 4; JV Soccer - 1; Varsity Soccer - 2; BASE - 3; Math Team - 1, 3, 4; Key Club - 3, 4; National Honor Society - 1, 2, 3, 4; French Club - 3; SADD - 3, 4; Silver Knight Nominee in Science, Pride Award in Math and Social Sciences; Top 5% Award - 1, 2, 3, 4

Looks like he took a nice field trip to Los Angeles during his senior year.

[Hughes Aircraft Space and Communications Center, Los Angeles](<https://preview.redd.it/yboy2b34gjc81.png?width=404&format;=png&auto;=webp&s;=5e3ca0aaf2165f10c3e42265f350d2c4fe31f26f>)

[Exhausted from sightseeing in LA](<https://preview.redd.it/qx1rj496gjc81.png?width=697&format;=png&auto;=webp&s;=043e595d9109727259802ccba2ec8e37ff7f675d>)

It has also been reported that Griffin started his own business in high school, selling educational software. I could only find a business he incorporated February 10, 1984, along with his parents, [Personal Computer Software, Inc](https://opencorporates.com/companies/us_fl/G84212).

It has also been widely reported that Ken started his first hedge fund during his undergrad at Harvard. Corporate records support the [stories that have been told](<https://www.institutionalinvestor.com/article/b15134ls4fbx7/boy-wonder>), and his initial investors were Saul Golkin, Rush E. Simonson, and Ken's mother and grandmother. [G & S Capital Corporation was formed October 6, 1987](https://opencorporates.com/companies/us_fl/M60402), shortly before Black Monday (October 19, 1987). Simonson later sued Griffin but [dropped the case](<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-xpm-2007-01-22-0701220190-story.html>).

Ken married Katherine Anne Weingart on February 9, 1991 in Delray Beach, Florida.

[Happily married, until death do us part.](<https://preview.redd.it/om7e0l39ijc81.png?width=843&format=png&auto=webp&s=873a56b294e5fccfdb283aba3a344f8726c19d8c>)

Griffin's parents, Donald G. Griffin and Catherine A. Griffin (Gratz) filed for divorce in 1992.

[Ken's parents filed for divorce in 1992](<https://preview.redd.it/ibplvcjsjgc81.png?width=1250&format=png&auto=webp&s=51c05c451fdf351d9282f2731f102d7a6d84f1ba>)

Ken and Katherine didn't last long as a married couple, they filed for divorce in 1994.

[Maybe not so happily married](<https://preview.redd.it/trkpluufijc81.png?width=1006&format=png&auto=webp&s=f1dcee1cb1708873012b005dfddd3b03f6056246>)

Ken's parents, despite being divorced, appear to have maintained some kind of relationship. In 1996, Donald and Catherine were d/b/a (doing business as) "KLK Properties, LLC", they won a small judgment.

[Sticking together for the kids?](<https://preview.redd.it/dcpwhczhijc81.png?width=628&format=png&auto=webp&s=0250f511b9d8afcd49fa81670a9448cb4964b1ff>)

KLK existed for some time but Donald may have stepped away. In 2012 Catherine transferred two properties in Libertyville, Illinois to KLK, which the company still holds.

<https://preview.redd.it/phgujgklijc81.png?width=622&format=png&auto=webp&s=0c7013bdf154d1a51c7d8af5533a7bcc1bd87592>

What does KLK mean? I speculate at least the name has something to do with Ken's siblings, possibly the first initials of their first names: **K**enneth, **L**oren, and **K**elly.

2. Trusts

Trusts are a well known vehicle the wealthy can use to hide assets and reduce their taxes. The

International Consortium of Investigative Journalists [reported on offshore

"mega-trusts"](<https://www.icij.org/investigations/paradise-papers/secret-world-offshore-mega-trusts/>),

including those used by Jim Simmons, founder of the hedge fund Renaissance Technologies, being used to hide potentially billions of dollars. *ProPublica* recently reported that [more than half of America's 100 richest people exploit special trusts to avoid estate taxes](<https://www.propublica.org/article/more-than-half-of-americas-100-richest-people-exploit-special-trusts-to-avoid-estate-taxes>).

In a previous post I identified a trust, *Red Admiral U-A-D 12-20-07*, for which Griffin was the trustee. It turns out trusts have been used in Ken's family for several generations.

Griffin's maternal grandparents were [Wayne and Genevieve Gratz](<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/dailyherald/name/genevieve-gratz-obituary?pid=143936229>).

They owned a farm in Libertyville, Illinois, and a business:

>They owned and operated Wayne Gratz Oil Company in Libertyville, which served the needs of local families. As a couple, Genevieve and Wayne would travel to the Upper Peninsula in Michigan, where Wayne would hunt for birds with Genevieve as his hunting companion.

[Wayne Gratz \\"Your Dependable Oil Man\\"](https://preview.redd.it/ydmzs3i7jic81.jpg?width=810&format;=jpg&auto;=webp&s;=ad7af9578f04aad1ae0bc9a24b649c8fd95f8e56)

The *Wayne R Gratz trust #51527* was formed August 15, 1961. Wayne passed away soon after, in 1963, and Genevieve took over the company and farm.

https://preview.redd.it/3a43k36gjjc81.png?width=925&format;=png&auto;=webp&s;=8b067ad3c4071cd3c07f60718731bd8bcf6b8f27

At least one property was put into the trust - 117 East Park Ave in Libertyville. In 1983 Genevieve, as trustee of the Trust #51527, granted the property back to Genevieve, the individual.

https://preview.redd.it/ldl1q1rnjjc81.png?width=795&format;=png&auto;=webp&s;=6a26d4bbc7a0bda009e227c8af90cc4140844a05

Ken's grandmother formed a new trust in 1987, the *Genevieve M. Gratz Trust dated June 11, 1987*. She [passed away in 2010](https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/dailyherald/name/genevieve-gratz-obituary?pid=143936229).

Although Genevieve's daughter Catherine Griffin (also Ken Griffin's mother) was still alive, Ken Griffin was listed as the trustee on all documents I found related to the *Genevieve M. Gratz Trust dated June 11, 1987*.

On November 30, 2011, Ken, as trustee, moved two properties out of his grandmother's trust into new LLCs:

[Ken transferring 117 E. Park Ave. out of his grandmother's trust](https://preview.redd.it/lncrg5epjjc81.png?width=689&format;=png&auto;=webp&s;=e078c101c91b62cbe68c1d09a9f2d8be26c60e92)

[Ken transferring 1229 W. Park Ave. out of his grandmother's trust](https://preview.redd.it/tc1egiprjic81.png?width=720&format;=png&auto;=webp&s;=def850c8c48c943cf4685c782e9dbe18fe89ef6f)

Due to the image limit I won't show the full paper trail, but 117 East Park property was sold, and 1229 West remains in the family, as Catherine Griffin (Gratz) has been listed as a representative of that LLC.

Anyone else in Ken's family use trusts? Of course.

I'm sure you recall Griffin was married to Anne Dias. In 2010 a condominium (along with the parking spots!) was transferred into the *Dias Family 2009 Trust*.

https://preview.redd.it/m03d6y96kjc81.png?width=810&format;=png&auto;=webp&s;=2e58138af59df3e2818e291215bd9bb01ad9a66c

Ken's father Donald apparently wanted in on the trust action too. He moved an Illinois property into the Donald G. Griffin 2009 Trust.

https://preview.redd.it/h6wjxd2mkjc81.png?width=916&format;=png&auto;=webp&s;=e6bfda3e1203f828307df82779bbafa97c9d5989

Donald also remarried and his Lakewood Ranch, FL home was also [moved to the *Donald G. Griffin Revocable Trust u/a dated April 20,

2015*](https://records.manateeclerk.com/OfficialRecords/DisplayInstrument/3747317)*.*

Finally, let's not forget the *Red Admiral U-A-D 12-20-07* trust for which Ken is the trustee. When I first uncovered this trust it was related to an investment in eTrade stock that was made alongside many other Citadel entities.

I found more activity. In a Pitkin, CO filing *Red Admiral U-A-D 12-20-07* states it is the sole member of *AP Holdings I LLC*.

<https://preview.redd.it/08l64q4xkjc81.png?width=699&format;=png&auto;=webp&s;=6922602657de241d87c239645bc35825405f80a8>

They do this because *AP Holdings I LLC* then purchased a property located at 31 North Willow Court, Aspen, CO. *AP Holdings I LLC* later changed its name to *31 Willow Holdings LLC*.

<https://preview.redd.it/iecmws70ljc81.png?width=648&format;=png&auto;=webp&s;=54d192d763c0ebbc8d5a88a893ea00b635e9a6a6>

There must be a good reason for all of this. This isn't financial advice, but I'm looking into using trusts post-MOASS.

3. An Odd Connection

Remember the *Dias Family 2009 Trust* and *Donald G. Griffin 2009 Trust* I showed you? What was common between them?

David Robbe was a trustee.

Who is David Robbe? Go back to the start of this post and look again at the captions on the high school photos.

Here is a photo of Robbe:

<https://preview.redd.it/syz5gyl2ljc81.png?width=949&format;=png&auto;=webp&s;=37241a9803eae9097e4f6eb4c727fb5cdf295e4>

Yes, this is from Griffin's senior high school yearbook (1986).

David Robbe was a teacher at Boca Raton High School when Griffin attended. He was also a chaperone on that nice field trip to Los Angeles.

When I came across this I was... very surprised. Here is a billionaire many times over with access to all the resources in the world and his high school teacher is a trustee for two of his family's trusts?

It turns out it wasn't just trusts, Robbe also played a role in Griffin's [purchase of \$130 of property in Palm Beach](https://www.palmbeachdailynews.com/story/news/2013/01/01/four-blossom-way-properties-fetch/9648872007/). Some of the property was purchased under the name *Black Calabash Family Holdings LLC*, which is tied to Ken Griffin. The deed listed as the address in care of David Robbe, which is odd, as all other paperwork around this purchase I found pointed back to Citadel.

<https://preview.redd.it/s4e4wtv8ljc81.png?width=768&format;=png&auto;=webp&s;=dea23cd92f7ad80998afc28ea72d68a76290ee2d>

What does this mean? I tried following the money and have not found a link.

Griffin made [two small donations](https://www.opensecrets.org/search?order=asc&q;=kenneth+griffin&sort;=D&type;=donors) \- \$1,000 total - when Robbe ran for office in 2002 for Florida House Representatives District 87.

Robbe and his wife lived in the same modest house for years (his wife was also a teacher) and his wife recently passed away.

Maybe Robbe is just a nice, trustworthy guy?

Like all things Ken Griffin, when you start digging it reveals more questions than answers.

That's all I have for now.

■■■■■

I hope you've found this interesting. If any sleuth-apes are interested in further investigation here are links to all the public records sites I used:

- * Cook County, IL clerk: <https://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov/service/search-recordings>
- * Florida Division of Corporations search: <https://search.sunbiz.org/Inquiry/CorporationSearch/ByName>
- * Illinois corporates search: <https://apps.ilsos.gov/corporatellc/>
- * Lake County, IL recorder of deeds: <https://lc38.lakecountyil.gov/eSearch/User/Login.aspx?bSesExp=True>
- * Lake County, IL Circuit Court case search: <https://circuitclerk.lakecountyil.gov/publicAccess/html/common/courtCaseDetails.xhtml>
- * Lincoln County, ME deeds:
■ <https://www.lincolncountymaine.me/deeds>
- * Palm Beach County, FL clerk: [http://oris.co.palm-beach.fl.us/or_web1/or_sch_1.asp](http://oris.co.palm-beach.fl.us/or_web1/or_sch_1.asp)
- * Palm Beach County, FL court records: <https://www.mypalmbeachclerk.com/records/court-records>
- * Palm Beach County, FL property records: <https://www.pbcgov.org/papa/Asps/GeneralAdvSrch/SearchPage.aspx?f=a>
- * Pitkin County, CO clerk: <https://countyfusion6.kofiletech.us/countyweb/disclaimer.do>