Robert D. Steele

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New York, New York

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Robert D. Steele is a partner in the New York law firm Schwartz Sladkus Reich Greenberg Atlas LLP, and is head of the Trusts & Estates Department. He practices in the areas of estate planning, taxation and administration of estates and trusts, and is a certified mediator in the New York State Courts.

Mr. Steele is a Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel. He is a member of the American Bar Association and is active in the Real Property, Trust and Estate Section, where he sits on the Section’s governing Council, is the editor of eReport, the bi-monthly electronic newsletter of the Section, is co-chair of the Section’s standing Committee on Publications, co-chair of the Emotional and Psychological Issues in Estate Planning Committee, and is vice-chair of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee.

He has extensive experience in estate planning for clients in numerous situations, including small business owners, entrepreneurs, and executives of publicly held corporations, and in various family situations including members of traditional and non-traditional families. He also has extensive experience in the administration of estates of all sizes and complexity and has brought or defended actions of many varieties, including will contests and contested fiduciary accountings.

Mr. Steele has been mediating in the New York State courts and at community dispute resolution centers since 2004, mediating disputes involving a variety of subject matters.

Mr. Steele was a panelist in Ethics and Mediation: The Highs and Lows of Taming Two Broncos, American Bar Association, April 2017, co-chair of The Advantages of Mediating Trusts, Estates And Adult Guardianship Disputes, New York State Bar Association, June, 2014, a panelist in Estate Litigation in New York County Surrogate's Court: Resolving Family Disputes Through Mediation, New York County Surrogate’s Court, February, 2014, Staying Out of Court: Better Mediation in Trust and Estate Disputes, American Bar Association, May 2013, and he co-chaired The Basics of Mediating Trusts & Estates Disputes, New York State Bar Association, May 2012.

Mr. Steele is the Editor of eReport, the electronic newsletter of the American Bar Association’s Section of Real Property, Trust and Estate law (2010 – present), and previously was Trust and Estate Editor of eReport (2006 – 2010). Previously, he was Managing Editor of its predecessor, *E-STATE*.

Mr. Steele is the author or co-author of: “Smartphones for Lawyers 6.0,” eReport, March 2017, and five prior articles in the series, “Revenue Ruling 2011-28: Life insurance can be subject to a grantor’s power of substitution,” eReport, February, 2013, “The Basics of Mediating trusts and Estate Law,” New York Dispute Resolution Lawyer, Fall 2012, “IRS Notice 2009-55: Transactions Of Interest,’ eReport, August, 2009, “New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, Advisory Opinion on the New York estate taxation of non-resident owned S Corporations and single member LLCs which own New York Real Estate,” *eReport*, February, 2009, “Internet Research Tools and Estate Planning and Tax Software,” *E-STATE* issue 2003.2, “The Pro Bono Response to September 11th,” *E-STATE* issue 2003.1, and co-author of “Preparation of the Federal Estate Tax Return: Schedules B, C, and F,’ The Practicing Law Institute. He has also been a frequent lecturer at the American Bar Association and the New York State Bar Association.

Mr. Steele is also a member of the New York State Bar Association, and is the liaison between the Trusts and Estates Section and the Dispute Resolution Section.

He has been selected for inclusion in the New York Metro Super Lawyers® listing every year since its inception in 2006, and is rated AV, the highest rating possible from Martindale-Hubbell®, the country's foremost legal directory.

Mr. Steele was admitted to practice law in the State of New York in 1982, and to practice before the United States Tax Court in 1996. He is a summa cum laude graduate of Brooklyn College of the City University of New York and earned his J.D. in 1981 from the University of Virginia School of Law, where he was a Senior Editor of the Virginia Journal of International Law.