

**QUESTION 5 THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION SHOULD GO IN BLUEBOOK II
OR IN SOFTEST ANSWER SCREEN 5**

Bridget, who lived in Seasaw, Michigan, had sizeable assets. She kept a journal in which she wrote about her thoughts almost daily. One day in her 2014 journal on the page preprinted with the date June 20, 2014, Bridget wrote the following entry in her own handwriting:

Today is a glorious day and I'm in a good and generous mood. I think I'd like to leave all of my possessions to my dear cousin Abe when I make my earthly transition. Abe has always been my confidante and has struggled financially in the past, but he has great ideas and a kind heart. I know he would be so grateful if I did so.

Nothing further was written in that entry. At the time of the journal entry, Bridget was 53 years of age and had sufficient mental capacity to make a will. Bridget had a \$500,000 life insurance policy for which she designated her only two children, Brandon and Stephanie, as sole equal beneficiaries of the proceeds. There were no other writings distributing any assets.

Bridget died in November 2016, and both of her children and Abe survived her. Bridget was also survived by her brother, Carl. She had neither a surviving spouse nor any other living relatives. At the time of death, Bridget had approximately \$1 million in assets and the life insurance policy was still in effect. Abe wants to know whether he is entitled to all of Bridget's assets, as well as the life insurance policy proceeds, based upon Bridget's discovered journal entry.

Applying Michigan law, discuss fully:

1. Whether Bridget's journal entry constitutes a valid will.
2. How Bridget's assets, as well as the life insurance policy, would be distributed.

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