



SA: Impact of Electronic Will Registration on Intergenerational Wealth in Communities of Color

Available

Project Title

Impact of Electronic Will Registration on Intergenerational Wealth in Communities of Color

Scope of Work

Conduct research and produce a memo on findings.

Timing

Due August 31, 2023

Jurisdiction

Washington, D.C.

Contact Information

Please contact Paul Lee (plee@Steptoe.com) to claim this project as part of the 2023 Summer Associate Project Exchange.

Description


The matter was referred by the Council for Court Excellence (CCE). CCE and partners published a report in February, 2022, Strengthening Probate Administration in the District of Columbia. The report's recommendations are rooted in the belief that probate administration plays an essential role in the intergenerational transfer of wealth, which is a key element of economic security especially for Black and Brown families in D.C. The ability to probate an estate may mean the difference

between keeping a family home or losing that asset. Making probate administration accessible to a large, and growing, number of self-represented individuals is an important access to justice issue.

Most of those recommendations have been embraced by the various actors of the probate administration process. One sticking point is Recommendation #20, which is for implementing an electronic will registry. We are looking for help with research to bolster this recommendation, including: researching further examples of electronic will registries in other jurisdictions; investigating the impact of electronic will registries on the reduction in probate contests, including claims that a will does not exist and any effects that has on the probate system overall, and some specific legal issues of concern.

Subtasks (0)

Reminders(1)

 1 day(s) before