

TRUSTS

WHAT ARE THEY AND HOW CAN THEY BE
USEFUL IN MY ESTATE PLAN?

Under Louisiana law, a trust is a legal relationship where one person holds and manages property for the benefit of another as directed by the settlor—the creator of the trust. Trusts can be created during a person's lifetime (inter vivos) or through a will (testamentary), and may be revocable or irrevocable depending on the settlor's goals. They are valuable estate planning tools used for many purposes, including providing for disabled beneficiaries without affecting government benefits, managing gifts for minors, protecting inheritances from creditors or poor money management, and reducing estate tax liability through proper planning. If you'd like to explore whether a trust fits your estate or tax planning goals, our office is here to help.

[CLICK HERE TO READ OUR SEPTEMBER 2024
ARTICLE ON TRUSTS](#)

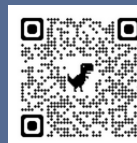


MONTHLY MEMO

EDITION 21 | SEPTEMBER 2025

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LABOR DAY TRIBUTE

This Labor Day, we celebrate the dedication and perseverance of families, employees, and small business owners throughout our community. Their commitment keeps our local economy strong and demonstrates the value of teamwork in everyday life.

Labor Day also serves as a reminder of the protections and rights that Louisiana law provides for workers and businesses alike. From fair employment practices to business compliance protections, these safeguards help ensure that the contributions of hardworking individuals are recognized and respected.

CONSTITUTION DAY: KNOWING YOUR RIGHTS

SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

Each year on September 17, we celebrate Constitution Day, the anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution in 1787. It's more than just a historical date, it's a reminder of the foundation that protects our freedoms, guides our justice system, and defines what it means to live under the rule of law.

The Constitution guarantees vital protections such as the right to due process, the right to a fair trial, the freedom of speech, and the right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures. These aren't abstract concepts from a history book, rather they are living rights that affect people's lives in real and practical ways.

When someone is charged with a crime, the Constitution ensures they are presumed innocent until proven guilty and that they have the right to an attorney. Constitutional principles also ensure that individuals have equal access to justice and protection from discrimination.

As we acknowledge Constitution Day, it's important to remember that the document's power lies not just in its words, but in how we live them out. Every time a citizen stands up for fairness, every time a lawyer advocates for a client's rights, and every time a judge applies the law with integrity, the Constitution continues to do its work.

LEGISLATING FOR LIFE:

On September 23, Ryan had the honor of speaking at SMU Dedman School of Law to the Christian Legal Society about Legislating for Life. During his presentation, Ryan discussed the legal and moral considerations surrounding the period following the Supreme Court's June 2022 decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which overturned the nearly 50-year precedent of *Roe v. Wade* and eliminated the federal constitutional right to abortion.

Ryan shared his experiences from the legislative process and the challenges faced in crafting laws that reflect both compassion and conviction. He emphasized the importance of thoughtful advocacy and the vital role that attorneys play in shaping and interpreting laws that impact people's lives.

This event held special meaning for Ryan, as his daughter Katherine is currently a student at SMU. Speaking on campus allowed him to not only connect with future attorneys but also to share in a community that his family has become a part of.

He expressed gratitude to SMU Dedman School of Law and the Christian Legal Society for the opportunity to engage with students who are eager to make a difference in the world through their practice of law.



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT:



In honor of Celebrate Freedom Week, Ryan had the privilege of speaking to students at Plantation Park Elementary School. During his visit, he donated an American flag and a Louisiana state flag to the school, emphasizing the importance of civic pride and community.



Ryan shared a powerful message with the students about the significance of freedom, responsibility, and the role each person plays in preserving our rights. His visit served as both an educational and inspiring moment, reminding young citizens of the values that guide our country and state.