

## **Statutory Research Exercise**

**Due: December 10, 2020**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Purpose:** The purpose of this assignment is to analyze a set of facts and select proper statutes and then use annotations, Shepard's, and KeyCite to locate relevant cases and secondary sources to interpret and understand the statutes.

**Task:** Please read the following hypothetical and answer the questions below:

Your client Ruthie resides in Commerce, Georgia. Ruthie has been best friends with Geraldine since Ruthie was five years old. Geraldine became a musician and has become very financially successful. Geraldine and Ruthie stayed good friends throughout their lives. Ruthie stayed in Commerce and became a veterinarian. On September 1, 2020, Geraldine e-mailed Ruthie that she wants her to have her residence in Commerce because she never has a chance to visit it anymore. The letter stated that a valid deed to the residence was in Geraldine's safe deposit box at the First National Bank in Commerce. Geraldine's e-mail told Ruthie that she is to go to the bank and get the deed in the safe deposit box. Geraldine had already prepared and received all of the necessary paperwork and approvals to get Ruthie access to the safe deposit box.

Ruthie was so excited, Geraldine's residence in Commerce is a mansion and she was overjoyed that she could move there. Ruthie planned on going to the bank later in the week to obtain the deed to the property. The deed was perfectly valid. However, unfortunately, Geraldine passed away on September 3, 2020, before Ruthie could obtain the deed. Geraldine's estate is contesting Ruthie's ownership of the Commerce residence. Ruthie wants some help in getting her property.

1. Provide proper Bluebook citation for two statutory sections that are critical to advising your client. For each statutory section, provide a short explanation of what it is, why it is critical, and how it assists in advising your client (no more than 100 words).

**Criteria:** In order to receive full credit for each statutory section provided, each answer must:

- (i) Provide a statutory section from an authoritative jurisdiction;
- (ii) Provide a statutory section that significantly assists in resolving the relevant legal issue(s);
- (iii) Clearly explain what the statutory section does, why it critical to, and how it assists in advising your client;
- (iv) Provide correct Bluebook citation.

2. Using the statutory annotations, or citing references in KeyCite or Shepard's, provide the proper Bluebook citation for two (2) cases that are critical to advising your client. For each case, provide a brief summary of the case including its holding, why it is critical to your client, and how it helps you advise your client (no more than 100 words).

**Criteria:** In order to receive full credit for each case, each answer must:

- (i) Provide a published case from an authoritative jurisdiction;
  - (ii) Provide a case that significantly assists in resolving the relevant legal issue(s);
  - (iii) Clearly summarize the case with the correct holding, provide why it is critical and how it assists in advising your client; and
  - (iv) Provide correct Bluebook citation.
3. Using Shepard's or KeyCite, provide a link and a screenshot to a secondary source that will give you significant help in advising your client. Provide a short explanation of what it is, why you chose it, and what it teaches you about the law that helps you client (no more than 100 words).

**Criteria:** In order to receive full credit the answer must:

- (i) Provide a secondary source that clearly addresses the legal issue;
  - (ii) Provide a secondary source that contains citations to cases and statutes from an authoritative jurisdiction;
  - (iii) Provide a secondary source that provides insightful treatment and in-depth discussion on the legal issue;
  - (iv) Provide the type of secondary source (Legal Encyclopedia, Treatise, Law Review Article, ALR or restatement)
  - (v) Provide a discussion of why you chose the particular secondary source and what it teaches you about the legal issue
4. Provide a summary of your research findings. Limit your response to 350 words

**Criteria:** In order to receive full credit the answer must:

- (i) Identify the relevant legal issue(s);
- (ii) Provide an accurate summary of the relevant law based upon the statutes, cases, and secondary sources;
- (iii) Apply the facts of our case to the law; and
- (iv) Provide a predicted outcome.