

RICHARD R. GANS is a shareholder in the Sarasota, Florida, firm of Fergeson, Skipper, Shaw, Keyser, Baron & Tirabassi, P.A. He received his preparatory education at Cornell University (B.A. 1980) and the University of Michigan (M.A. 1985). Mr. Gans received his legal education at the University of Washington (J.D. 1988) and the University of Florida (LL.M. in Taxation 1992). He was the Associate Editor-in-Chief of *The Washington Law Review*. Mr. Gans was admitted to the Bar in 1988 in the State of Washington, and in 1994 in Florida. His Bar Association memberships include: The Florida Bar, Sarasota County Bar Association and Washington State Bar Association. Mr. Gans serves as the probate and trust column editor for *The Florida Bar Journal*. He is the immediate past Chair of the RPPTL Section's Estate and Trust Tax Planning Committee (where he was primarily responsible for drafting Florida's disclaimer law, Chapter 739 of the Florida Statutes and Florida's insurable interest statute, F.S. §627.404). Mr. Gans also serves on the RPPTL IRA and Employee Benefits, Asset Preservation, and Probate Law and Procedure, and is a member of the Section's Executive Council. He is the author of the chapter "IRA and Qualified Plan Benefits" in The Florida Bar's volume entitled *Asset Protection in Florida*, and a co-author of "Protection of Inherited IRAs," in ACTEC LAW JOURNAL, Winter 2010. Mr. Gans is a member and past President of both the Southwest Florida Estate Planning Council, and of the Southwest Florida Planned Giving Council. He is Adjunct Professor at State College of Florida (formerly known as Manatee Community College), where he teaches the wills, trusts and estate course in SCF's paralegal certification program. He speaks Mandarin Chinese. Mr. Gans is certified by The Florida Bar as a Board Certified Wills, Trusts and Estates Lawyer, and is a Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC). Mr. Gans has been named in *Florida SuperLawyers*, as a *Florida Trend* Legal Elite, as a "Best Lawyer in America" and in *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*