



Every month I summarize the most important probate cases in Michigan. Now I publish my summaries as a service to colleagues and friends. I hope you find these summaries useful and I am always interested in hearing thoughts and opinions on these cases.

PROBATE LAW CASE SUMMARY

BY: Alan A. May Alan May is a shareholder who is sought after for his experience in guardianships, conservatorships, trusts, wills, forensic probate issues and probate. He has written, published and lectured extensively on these topics.



He was selected for inclusion in the 2007-2017, 2019 issues of *Michigan Super Lawyers* magazine featuring the top 5% of attorneys in Michigan and has been called by courts as an expert witness on issues of fees and by both plaintiffs and defendants as an expert witness in the area of probate and trust law. Mr. May maintains an “AV” peer review rating with Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory, the highest peer review rating for attorneys and he is listed in the area of Probate Law among Martindale-Hubbell’s Preeminent Lawyers. He has also been selected by his peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2020 in the fields of Trusts and Estates as well as Litigation – Trusts & Estates (Copyright 2018 by Woodward/White, Inc., of SC). He has been included in the Best Lawyers listing since 2011. Additionally, Mr. May was selected by a vote of his peers to be included in *DBusiness* magazine’s list of 2017 Top Lawyers in the practice area of Trusts and Estates. Kemp Klein is a member of LEGUS a global network of prominent law firms.

He is a member of the Society of American Baseball Research (SABR).

For those interested in viewing previous Probate Law Case Summaries, go online to: <http://kkue.com/resources/probate-law-case-summaries/>.

He is the published author of “Article XII: A Political Thriller” and “Sons of Adam,” an International Terror Mystery.

DT: April 16, 2020

RE: *Estates of Ball Players*

STATE OF MICHIGAN COURT OF APPEALS

“Alan, you cannot write about baseball all your life”

- Mrs. Pollinger
- 12th Grade English Comp
- Mumford High - 1959

BASEBALL – ESTATES OF BALL PLAYERS

With very little being reported from the Court of Appeals, and absolutely nothing happening in baseball, I thought I would merge the two topics and write about the estates of certain ball players.

The Free Press ran an article citing the modesty of Al Kaline's estate. Remember this is the true gentleman who when offered a raise in salary from his \$95,000.00 to \$100,000.00, turned it down because he felt he hadn't earned it. His estate was very modest, and he could have earned five times the value of his estate in less than one year were he have to played today.

Lou Gehrig had a similar situation. He left an estate of approximately \$160,000.00; \$130,000.00 of which was in insurance. This would be about 2 million dollars in today's dollars, but in 1941 when he passed away, it did not pass tax free. His jersey today is worth much more than he was at the time of his death.

Babe Ruth had an illegitimate daughter and an adopted daughter. His wife and daughters each received \$5,000.00 from his estate and his sister \$10,000.00. His wife also received \$6,000.00 per month. The total estate would have been valued at approximately a million dollars. He should have been more like Ted Williams and marketed his memorabilia while he was alive. Harry Frazee who sold Babe Ruth to the Yankees from the Red Sox's died before the Great Depression began with an estate worth a \$1,500,000.00.

Arnold Rothstein, who fixed the 1919 World Series, was at the time of the distribution of his estate, worth only \$50,000.00.