

DEBORAH J. TEDFORD

Deborah J. Tedford is an attorney and principal in the Tedford Law Firm of Mystic, Connecticut. She graduated from Yale College, *cum laude*, in one of the first classes to include women, and from Boston University School of Law. She is also a qualified mediator, having completed 40 hours of training.

Deb was elected President of the Connecticut Bar Association, an organization of over 11,000 members, for the year 2002-2003. She is a past chairman of the Connecticut Bar Association's Estates and Probate Section and also of its Elder Law Section. She was founding editor of the Estates and Probate Newsletter and a past president of the Southeastern Connecticut Estate and Tax Planning Council. She currently is co-Chair of the CBA's annual Federal Tax Institute of New England.

Deb was elected a fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC); was elected as a fellow of both the Connecticut and American Bar Foundations. She served three years as Chair of the Elder Law Committee of ACTEC, is a former Regent of the College and the current Connecticut State Chair. She is also Chair of the ACTEC/National College of Probate Judges Task Force, and the Professional Responsibility Sub-Committee of ACTEC's Fiduciary Litigation Committee. She is a member of the Special Needs Alliance, a selective organization that focuses on the unique legal needs of those with disabilities. Most recently she was appointed by the Governor as a Uniform Law Commissioner for the State of Connecticut, and serves on the Uniform Law Commission's Joint Editorial Board for estate and trust matters.

As part of her service to the Bar and her profession, Deb worked for years with colleagues and the Probate Administrator on a Connecticut version of the Uniform Trust Code, successfully passed in June, 2019. She also co-chaired and helped author the Connecticut Bar Association's Report of the Task Force on the Future of the Connecticut Probate System, published in May 2003. Deb has testified before Connecticut's Finance Committee on the effects of the estate tax laws in Connecticut and has also testified in favor of special needs trusts for the disabled. She served as ACTEC's observer to the Uniform Law Commission's amended guardianship and conservatorship act, and the model Uniform Health Care Decisions Act. She also participated as a member of ACTEC's SECURE Act Task Force to provide guidance requested by the U.S. Treasury on new regulations for retirement plan payout rules, focusing on disabilities and trusts.

Deb has written several chapters in the book *Estate Planning for Modern Families* from the Stephen Leimberg Library; and a chapter on Connecticut's new DAPT law in the ABA publication, *Domestic Asset Protection Trusts*, edited by Alexander Bove, Jr. In her spare time, she enjoys sports, including skiing, swimming, paddle boarding, and drafting model legislation.