

**Introductory:**

Sheila Ridgway has an extensive background in the litigation of trust, probate, guardianship and fiduciary matters. Ms. Ridgway is an expert in the area of law covered by the Trust and Estate Dispute Resolution Act (TEDRA). She routinely speaks at seminars on estate and trust litigation and probate on behalf of the Washington State and King County Bar Associations.

Ms. Ridgway handles cases involving family trusts, estate disputes, vulnerable adults, guardianship proceedings, and attorneys-in-fact.

**Education:**

- Gonzaga School of Law, *cum laude* 1984
- University of Washington, 1980

**Professional Recognition:**

- Super Lawyer, 2013 – 2020
- Best In Client Satisfaction Award, Seattle Magazine, 2009
- AV Attorney Rating, Martindale-Hubbell, 2002 to Present, AV Preeminent Rating and Bar Register of Preeminent Women Lawyers

**Speaking Engagements:**

- Washington State Bar Association Fraud in the Family: Practical Tools to Help Vulnerable Adults, May 2018
- Washington Bar Association Estate Planning Practice Premier, November 2017
- The Ultimate Guide to Probate, December 2016
- TEDRA: Maintaining a Balance: Ethics and Probate Litigation: Community vs. Separate Property, KCBA, August 2015
- Current TEDRA Issues and Updates, WSBA CLE: Estate Planning: Under the New Paradigm: If Not Estate Tax, Then What?, Presenter, 2014
- Arbitration, Mediation or Both, WSBA 11th Annual Trust & Estate Litigation, Panelist, 2014

- Trust and Estates Disputes Resolution Act (TEDRA), Centralia Community College Continuing Professional Education Seminar, Presenter, 2014
- Trust and Estate Litigation: Estate Planning from a Litigator's Perspective and Current Issues, WSBA Tax Section CLE: International Tax and Estate Planning- What to Avoid and How to Plan for Your Clients, Presenter, 2013
- Program Co-Chair and Presenter, TEDRA: How it Works and How to Use it, Probate & Real Property: The Intersection Between Estates & Trusts and Real Property Issues, KCBA, 2010
- Probate Practice, Office Of Disciplinary Counsel, WSBA 2009
- Trust and Estate Litigation, King County Bar Association Real Property Probate & Trust Meeting, 2009

**Publications:**

- Estate Planning, Probate and Trust Administration in Washington Deskbook, WSBA, 2020 Editor
- Teach Those Children Well: Successor Fiduciary Administration (and Litigation), *The Codicil*, RPPT Newsletter, 2012, Co-Author
- Court of Appeals Sets Aside Banker's Unintentional Estate Planning, *The Codicil*, RPPT Newsletter, Fall, 2010, Co-Author
- TEDRA: How it Works and How to Use It, Probate & Real Property: The Intersection Between Estates & Trusts and Real Property Issues, KCBA, 2010, Author
- Prosecuting and Defending Will Contests, KCBA 9th Annual Probate Litigation & Ethics, 2006, Co-Author
- Remedies & Attorneys' Fees in Trust & Estate Litigation, WSBA Trust & Estate Litigation, 2004, Author
- Claims of Unmarried Partners, KCBA 7th Annual Probate Litigation & Ethics, 2004, Author

**Expert Witness/Mediation Services:**

- Expert: Community Law Principles in Washington, supplied for a decedent's estate being administered in Canada
- Expert: Vulnerable Adult Protective Proceeding Procedural Law, supplied in a legal malpractice action
- Expert: Personal Representative's Fees, testimony provided in trial regarding reasonableness of co-personal representative's fees incurred in complex estate

- Expert: Attorney's Fees, testimony provided for hearing on reasonableness of attorney's fees incurred in guardianship and vulnerable adult protective proceedings
- Expert: Analysis, testimony and opinion regarding reasonableness of personal representative's fees of attorney serving as personal representative
- Expert: Analysis, testimony and opinion regarding characterization of community property and separate property in estate matter
- Expert: Analysis, testimony and opinion regarding reasonableness of settlement in contested estate and trust proceeding
- Mediator: TEDRA matter concerning Probate Proceeding and Creditor Claim

**Fiduciary Administration:**

- Court appointments as Personal Representative and Trustee
- Service as Trustee of four Living Trusts

**Memberships:**

- Washington State Bar Association
- WSBA TEDRA Litigation Subcommittee, Real Property Probate and Trust Section
- WSBA Real Property, Probate & Trust Section
- WSBA Alternative Dispute Resolution Section
- Oregon State Bar
- King County Bar Association
- KCBA Real Property, Probate & Trust Section
- KCBA Alternative Dispute Resolution Section
- KCBA Guardianship & Elder Law Section
- Gonzaga University School of Law Board of Advisors