

# SPILLANE LAW OFFICES



Contact: Kelly Marshall  
(617) 328-9100  
kmarshall@spillanelawoffices.com  
1212 Hancock St., Suite 200  
Quincy, MA 02169

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **SMALL FIRM SEES BIG RESULTS AGAIN Spillane Law Offices Battles Prestigious Opponent in Will Contest**

Quincy, MA July 2, 2009 – A will contest involving an estate worth approximately \$600,000 ended last week in victory for South Shore law firm Spillane Law Offices.

The last will of John L. Sullivan was contested by his estranged adopted daughter Valerie Sullivan Inconiglios, represented by Boston law firm Burns & Levinson, LLP. Attorney Robert J. O’Regan from Burns & Levinson presented an outdated, hand-canceled, photocopied will naming Ms. Sullivan Inconiglios the alternate beneficiary of Sullivan’s entire estate after his predeceasing wife. Attorneys Kathleen L. Kane and Kateri MacDonald-Bousaleh of Spillane Law Offices represented Susan Paine, the nominated executrix of the estate and a longstanding friend of John Sullivan and his deceased wife.

Mr. Sullivan and his attorney had drafted four separate wills between 2002 and 2004, each revoking all previous wills and naming three family friends as the intended beneficiaries. The 1995 photocopied will presented by O’Regan on behalf of Ms. Sullivan Inconiglios predated these four and bore the handwritten words “not valid copy” in blue ink across the front page.

Over six trial days spanning from September 2008 to June 2009 in the Norfolk County Probate and Family Court, O’Regan presented theories that Mr. Sullivan did not possess full mental capacity when the four wills were created, and that he was unduly influenced by his wife of forty-seven years.

These theories were strongly refuted by close friends of Mr. Sullivan and his wife as well as by witnesses and notaries public present at the execution of the four wills. The findings of Spillane’s expert witness Dr. Barry H. Roth, M.D. a Clinical Instructor in Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, supported Mr. Sullivan’s medical records and the case of Susan Paine. Dr. Roth’s report stated there was “medical certainty” that Mr. Sullivan was of sound mind when he executed the wills and that there was no evidence of undue influence.

A judgment was reached by the Norfolk County Probate and Family Court last week in favor of Susan Paine and the three rightful beneficiaries of Mr. Sullivan’s estate.

This is the fourth significant victory for Spillane Law Offices in the past two years, following the \$4.3 million settlement of a personal injury case in 2007, a forged will case Kane won at trial earlier this year, and a second will contest recently settled in excess of \$800,000.

Spillane Law Offices is a general-practice law firm that has been serving the Boston and South Shore area for over twenty years with offices in Quincy and Hanover. David Spillane and five attorneys provide exceptional client service and a personal touch to a wide variety of practice areas.

# # #

For more information about Spillane Law Offices, the attorneys or practice areas, or to schedule a free consultation, please visit [www.spillanelawoffices.com](http://www.spillanelawoffices.com), call (877) 774-5526 or email [dspillane@spillanelawoffices.com](mailto:dspillane@spillanelawoffices.com).