Emanuel Law Outlines: Wills, Trusts, And Estates, Keyed To Dukeminier's 8th Edition (The Emanuel Law Outlines Series)
Synopsis

The most trusted name in law school outlines, Emanuel Law Outlines were developed while Steve Emanuel was a student at Harvard Law and were the first to approach each course from the point of view of the student. Invaluable for use throughout your course and again at exam time, Emanuel Law Outlines are well-correlated to all major casebooks to help you to create your own outlines. Sophisticated yet easy to understand, each guide includes both capsule and detailed explanations of critical issues, topics, and black letter law you must know to master the course. Quiz Yourself Q&As, Essay Q&As, and Exam Tips give you ample opportunity to test your knowledge throughout the semester and leading up to the exam. Every title in the series is frequently updated and reviewed against new developments and recent cases covered in the leading casebooks. Emanuel Law Outlines provide a comprehensive breakdown of the law, more sweeping than most, for your entire study process. For more than thirty years, Emanuel Law Outlines have been the most trusted name in law school outlines. Here's why: Developed by Steve Emanuel when he was a law school student at Harvard, Emanuel Law Outlines became popular with other law students and spawned an industry of reliable study aids. (Having passed the California bar as well, Steve Emanuel is now a member of the New York, Connecticut, Maryland, and Virginia bars.) Each Outline is valuable throughout the course and again at exam time. Outline chapters provide comprehensive coverage of the topics, cases, and black letter law covered in the course and major casebooks, written in a way you can easily understand. The Quiz Yourself Q&A in each chapter and the Essay Q&A at the end provide ample opportunity to test your knowledge throughout the semester. Exam Tips alert you to the issues that commonly pop up on exams and to the fact patterns commonly used to test those items. The Capsule Summary an excellent exam preparation tool provides a quick review of the key concepts covered in the course. The comprehensive coverage is more sweeping than most outlines. Each Emanuel Law Outline is correlated to the leading casebooks. Every title is frequently updated and reviewed against new developments and recent cases covered in the leading casebooks. Tight uniformity of writing style and approach means that if you use one of these guides, you can be confident that the others will be of similar quality.

Book Information

Series: Emanuel Law Outlines
Paperback: 468 pages
Publisher: Aspen Publishers; 8 edition (April 6, 2010)
Language: English
If your casebook is the Dukeminier Wills, Trusts, & Estates 9th Edition, this is the best choice for a supplement. Although there is a newer edition of the Emanuel Outline available, that newer 2012 edition is keyed to other casebooks and (curiously) not to Dukeminier. I compared the Dukeminier 9th Edition casebook with both the 2010 (purple cover) and the 2012 (green cover) editions of the Emanuel Outlines. This 2010 Emanuel (purple), which was keyed to the prior Dukeminier 8th Edition, still covers over 90% of the cases in the Dukeminier 9th Edition that were on my course syllabus (which was pretty comprehensive). By contrast, the 2012 Emanuel (green cover) covered fewer than 10% of the cases in the Dukeminier 9th Edition casebook on my syllabus. The only topic in which the 2012 Emanuel (green cover) included more of the cases the Dukeminier 9th Edition casebook was the Admission of Extrinsic Evidence. I suggest that if you’re looking for an Emanuel Outline and you’re using the Dukeminier Wills, Trusts, & Estates 9th Edition, get this 2010 edition, but then just consult your law library for the 2012 edition when you get to the Admission of Extrinsic Evidence. P.S. This is a far better choice than Wills and Trusts in a Nutshell, which doesn’t provide enough in-depth explanation that you’d need for a final exam or even a bar question.

I usually don’t use hornbooks, but I was stumped with all the Wills and Trusts material. I initially got the Examples & Explanations book, which was a HORRIBLE MISTAKE. It lacks even the most basic concepts. I then went for Emanuel’s, which was keyed to our textbook, and it was a dream come true, especially the mini briefs.

Oddly enough, I feel that this outline was almost too comprehensive to be useful for studying for my T&E law school final exam. The detailed outline is close to 300 pages long, and attempts to address every possible iteration of the law of Trusts and Estates, including common/federal and state
specific law, the Uniform Trust Code, the Wills Act and other areas. In my opinion, this shotgun approach made weeding out the law applicable in my area from the other chaff extremely difficult. If the outline were organized in a different fashion, i.e., where how the issues in this subject were collectively addressed by the form of law (e.g., all federal law issues grouped together, all common law issues grouped together, discussion of UTC grouped together etc.) this book would have been eminently more useful to me. The sad thing is, the content of this outline is extremely good and detailed. Its organization, however, makes learning that content more of a chore than it has to be.

I really want to love this book. Currently I am 32 pages in reading the intestacy material. The book has mistakes in it. I brought it to my professor after noticing inconsistencies between this book and the Dukeminier casebook it is keyed to. On page 22 when dealing with UPC intestacy approach the Emanuels has incorrect information. This was confirmed by my professor. I wouldn't mind but I keep coming upon errors in editing and information. I will say though that I like the book and the way it is organized very much.

I agree with what's been said about typos. That said, look past the few, and you've got a great supplement. Well organized, and the content is great. I was well-prepared for my WET exam (and did very well). After reading it cover to cover, and taking an exam, I think the previous reviewer's "full of mistakes" label is a bit hyperbolic.

This outline tracks the Dukeminier casebook perfectly. If you are using that casebook, do yourself a favor and purchase this outline. It summarizes the material to just the right degree. It's doesn't skip so much that you lose the important gist of the text, but it does skip the superfluous and repetitive portions of the casebook. Best of all, the case summaries mirror class discussions, which is often a rarity with commercial outlines.

Unfortunately this edition is no longer keyed to the casebook. Unlike most new editions where the odd case is removed and a few new ones added, the publisher went for the 'let's move things around so page numbers won't even be close and make the last edition worthless' approach. Together with making the old edition worthless, they also messed up anyone using a supplement keyed to the casebook. Including this one, which is published by the same firm. As an outline it is still very good. Be prepared for a little jumping around if your class is using Dukeminier's 9th edition.
As a second-semester 3L did I do enough to prepare for this exam during the semester? No. Did I read this and still get a B? Yes. It's easy enough to understand and teaches you what you need to know, just like all the emanuel outlines. Buy it, don't get a C.

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