



IN THE NEWS

Lathrop GPM Partner Marya Robben Quoted in Wall Street Journal on Blended Families, Importance of Estate Planning

Wall Street Journal

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Lathrop GPM Partner Marya Robben was featured in a recent *Wall Street Journal* article highlighting the increasing number of blended families and the critical importance of proactive estate planning in navigating the complexities of modern family dynamics.

When a parent dies, the typical order of operations for married couples with children is for everything to go to the surviving spouse, and then to their children. But this can be a disaster for blended families since a surviving spouse often has no obligation to leave assets to stepchildren.

"Once the tie that binds dies, there's no longer a need to get along," said Marya Robben. "Adult children do not have a right to an inheritance."

Read the full article here [SUBSCRIPTION REQUIRED]: [The Brady Bunch Breaks Down: Estate Fights Tear Stepfamilies Apart](#)

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