

## Hagel Lawfirm Guides Clients Through All Aspects of Estate Planning

By Eileen Hoftzyer

**LAWYER**  
Dorothy Hagel, JD, CFP, Barrister,  
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Dealing with an estate – either planning your own or untangling a loved one’s – can be complicated, confusing and emotional. Dorothy Hagel, owner of Hagel Lawfirm in Port Credit, is an expert in estate law and can guide clients through the process, whatever the circumstances.

Dorothy opened Hagel Lawfirm nearly ten years ago. She and her team mainly focus on issues relating to estates, such as estate planning and wills, guardianship applications and power of attorney, but she also takes on cases related to business transactions and changes to assets. Whatever the issue, Dorothy’s approach is to focus on her clients’ best interests. “We’re very client focused,” she says. “We want our clients to

be comfortable with us and understand what we do, and to stay informed about what we are doing on their behalf.”

Hagel Lawfirm are specialists in estate litigation, a process that happens when a will is challenged. These cases are often difficult for clients to go through – they usually involve family members who are disagreeing with each other, and they happen at a time when clients are experiencing a range of emotions, including grief and anger.

Dorothy’s philosophy is that the best way to resolve an issue is outside a courtroom, and she makes an effort to avoid going to court whenever possible through negotiation or mediation. “Going to court is

cumbersome, public and expensive. The cost involved usually outweighs any benefit,” she says, especially when the dispute is over an estate with fixed value. Still, sometimes it is necessary, and Dorothy is an experienced litigator in the courtroom, and she fights hard for her clients.

Knowing exactly how emotional and challenging litigation can be, Dorothy is also involved in efforts to reduce the need for it, by helping to educate the public and financial planners about the importance of estate planning. Dorothy actually worked in finance before being called to the bar, and she is a Certified Financial Planner. This background adds a layer of expertise to her law practice that sets her apart – Dorothy has a solid understanding of accounting and she will notice if there are irregularities in accounts that are part of a dispute.

Estate law has allowed her to combine her skills in finance and law and her interest in helping people into a fulfilling career. “I always wanted to work with other people, and I like the interaction that I have with other people,” says Dorothy. “I like to see when my cases are done for the benefit of my clients and see that we got something accomplished.”

*Hagel Lawfirm is located at 272A Lakeshore Road East, Suite 2, in Mississauga. For more information, visit [www.dhstatelaw.com](http://www.dhstatelaw.com) or call 647-931-4244.*



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