

WEISS'S CONCISE TRUSTEE HANDBOOK

A GUIDE TO THE ADMINISTRATION
OF AN EXPRESS TRUST UNDER THE
COMMON LAW,
FUNCTIONING UNDER THE
GENERAL LAW-MERCHANT

BY
CARLTON ALBERT WEISS

NACRS Edition
Jan. 2006

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**With updates, revisions, additions,
and added sample forms*

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INTRODUCTION

THIS HANDBOOK is about the administration of Express Trusts created under the original American common law and functioning under the General Law-Merchant, i.e., the unique system of commerce in the American states, as it stands in twenty-first century America.

The material presented herein has been reduced from various sources which the reader is encouraged to examine for his own knowledge and further understanding. The material herein has been rendered into a concise handbook format, intended to allow the reader to refer to each section for guidance on decisions regarding the most pertinent aspects of the administration of an Express Trust. So, only secondary attention has been given to all other matters.

All in all, the author's objective by this handbook is to devise a simple guide, with clearly outlined methods and sample forms, for the effective handling of affairs of Express Trusts, while also showing the many options for growth and prosperity, and profound protections afforded by Express Trusts (when created and administered properly). This book is written in a somewhat unconventional manner in order to accommodate this objective.

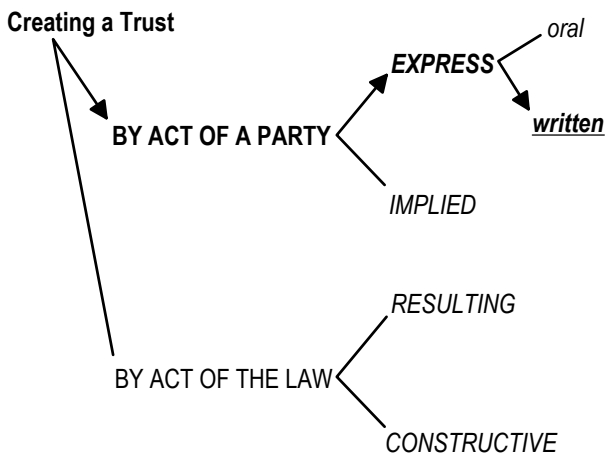
If the reader should find, after examining the sources, that this work has failed in its objective, then let it be attributed to a fault of the author, not to any supposed faultiness of the sources or the Express Trust itself, for it will be admitted by all honest and learned¹ lawyers (as it once was when "lawyers" were, by definition, "[any] person learned in the law"²) that the Express Trust, especially one created with proper care to its trust instrument, is a far superior method of carrying out any voluntary contractual organization between individuals *sui juris*.

¹ It was the strongly held belief of U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren E. Burger that seventy-five to ninety percent of all trial lawyers are either incompetent, dishonest, or both. See 102 Reports of the American Bar Association, 205-206 (1978).

² Black's Law Dictionary, p. 695 (1st ed. 1891).

TRUST BASICS

FIRST, it must be understood that any trust, regardless of the many designations applied to them, is, in its most basic sense, “a property interest held by one person (the *trustee*) at the request of another (the *settlor*) for the benefit of a third party (the *beneficiary*).”³ The classification applied to a trust is based upon its mode of creation, in which it may be created either by act of a party (*express* or *implied*), or by act of the law (*resulting* or *constructive*).



Without getting into the various subclasses of express and implied trusts, the basic difference between one created by express act of a party and one created by implied act of a party is that the former is stated fully in language (oral or written), while the latter is inferred from the conduct of the parties. These are very generalized definitions so presented for want of space, since there are many intricacies concerning the true meaning of the term *implied*. (It has been shown that, in a sense, the classification of “express”

trust can only be applied based on what is “implied” by the language of the instrument giving rise to the trust.)⁴ So, we won’t get into that. Our focus is on a particular written express trust type, and even though the above definition is essentially accurate, it does little to define the Express Trust as it is known in its fullest sense under the protections of the common law.

EXPRESS TRUSTS UNDER THE COMMON LAW

THE MOST adequate definition of the Express Trust is to be understood from the earlier case law which has been eloquently summed up and restated into a clear, concise definition by Alfred D. Chandler, Esq.⁵ in the first of his two papers submitted as a report to the Tax Commissioners of Massachusetts on “voluntary associations”⁶ as

³ Black’s Law Dictionary, p. 1513 (7th ed. 1999). An even more basic definition is provided therein as “[t]he right, enforceable solely in equity, to the beneficial enjoyment of property to which another person holds the legal title[.]” There are many more sub-definitions, as well as expansions upon the nature of a trust relationship, being a fiduciary one, but we won’t get into them for want of space.

⁴ See George P. Costigan, Jr., *Classification of Trusts*, 27 Harv. L. Rev. 437, 438-439 (1914).

⁵ *Express Trusts Under the Common Law: A Superior and Distinct Mode of Administration, Distinguished from Partnerships, Contrasted with Corporations* (1912).

⁶ Mr. Chandler lucidly brought to the attention of the Massachusetts Tax Commission the misapplication of the term

part of a legislative investigation into their economic effect on the state in 1911. At page 6, he offers the following definition:

Express Trusts . . . put the legal estate entirely in one or more [persons], while others have a beneficial interest in and out of same, but are neither partners nor agents. This simple, adequate, common-law right, any person or group of persons *sui juris* may exercise, the Trustees issuing certificates of beneficial [and capital] interest divided into shares, as well as issuing bonds and other obligations, as freely as they open a bank account, have a pass book, and draw and circulate checks, **or make whatever contractual relations are allowed to persons as a natural right.** [Italics emphasis supplied in original; bold emphasis and bracket information added.]

What becomes clear from this definition is that the Express Trust is not merely a property interest held by one for the benefit of another, but rather a private contract for the holding of a divisible property interest accepted by one at the offer of another, having full power to do whatever he may naturally do for himself as an individual *sui juris*,⁷ for the benefit of a third party of his choosing. What has been created here is a trust organization, purely *sui juris*. “As a general proposition, it may be asserted that one who creates a trust may mold it into whatever form he pleases, and that whatever one may lawfully do himself he may authorize another to do for him[,]”⁸ without receiving any benefit, privilege or franchise from any government or other outside-party;⁹ and, therefore they owe no duty to any government or other outside-party to the extent that no common-law criminal or civil wrong is the purpose of the contract.¹⁰ If this is so, then the trust is afforded all the common-law protections ordinarily given to private contracts, particularly the obligation of them.¹¹ Now, the question is whether the parties

voluntary association to the Express Trust. It is well-settled that “[t]he term ‘association’ for income tax purposes taxable as a ‘corporation’ embraces ‘business trusts’, and what Congress did not intend to embrace within the term ‘association’ was a pure [express] ‘trust’, that is a trust of traditional pattern where property is conveyed by will, deed, or declaration to a trustee[.]” *Pennsylvania Co. for Insurance on Lives and Granting Annuities v. U.S.*, 138 F.2d 869 (C.C.A.3 (Pa.) 1943). In *Crocker v. Malley*, 249 U.S. 223, 63 L.Ed. 573 (1919) the court made it clear that a pure Express Trust, active and functioning as such, has standing in law as a trust, not an association.

⁷ See Pres. Woodrow Wilson’s address before the American Bar Association, at Chattanooga, Tenn. (Aug. 31, 1910), entitled *The Lawyer and the Community*. He says that “Liberty is always *personal*, never aggregate; always a thing inhering in individuals taken singly, never in groups or corporations or communities. The individual unit of society is the individual.” It has long been held that trustees of Express Trusts have greater latitude than ordinary trustees, simply because such trusts, created by individuals *sui juris*, may do whatever individuals *sui juris* may do.

⁸ *Harwood v. Tracy*, 118 Mo. 631, 24 S.W. 214, 216; also see *Shaw v. Paine*, 12 Mass. 293; “The person who creates a trust may mould it into whatever form he pleases.” Perry on Trusts, I, §§ 67, 287 (4th Amer. ed.); Underhill on Trusts, p. 57 (Amer. ed.).

⁹ See *Hale v. Henkel*, 201 U.S. 43, 74 (1906).

¹⁰ *Lawson on Contracts* § 294, p. 381 (3^d ed. 1923).

¹¹ In *Berry v. McCourt*, 204 N.E.2d 235, 240 (1965) the court held that the Express Trust is a “contractual relationship based on trust form”; and in *Smith v. Morse*, 2 Cal. 524, it was held that any law or procedure in its operation denying or obstructing contract rights impairs the contractual obligation and is, therefore, violative of Article I, Section 10 of the Constitution. Because the Express Trust is created by the exercise of the natural right to contract, which cannot be abridged, the agreement, when executed, becomes protected under federally enforceable right of contract law and not under laws passed by any of the several state legislatures.

In *Eliot v. Freeman*, 220 U.S. 178 (1911), the court made it clear that the Express Trust is not subject to legislative

to the contract are truly acting *sui juris*, i.e., of their pure, unadulterated common-law rights, because if the parties have prior contractual obligations which grant an outside party a vested interest in all their personal relations, then the contract has acquired a third-party overseer/intervenor.¹²

DECLARATION OF THE EXPRESS TRUST¹³

THE DECLARATION OF TRUST is the trust instrument that constitutes the trust. It has been noted in trust law that no technical expressions are required to create a valid declaration, so long as the words used make clear the settlor's intent to create the trust or confer a benefit of some sort that would be best carried out by means of a trust.¹⁴ A trust instrument doesn't necessarily need to be a declaration either, for a trust may be, and often is, formed out of a simple agreement or even a will.¹⁵ But with an Express Trust, the declaration has been preferred since the beginnings of trusts under the common law of England. This is where careful attention to detail is most crucial, because in order to properly construe the intent of the settlor, the objects, property, and manner in which all is to be carried out, the terms and provisions must be set forth in unambiguous, precise language so as to particularly create the Express Trust; and where the intent of the settlor is unclear, under equity, interpretation is required to construe the intent of the parties, and the trust may, depending on the degree of ambiguity, be deemed invalid.¹⁶ However, when all is done properly, obviously there can be no lawful impairment of the obligations of contract created thereby.¹⁷

Moreover, the declaration, by its terms and provisions, serves to establish the entire contractual arrangement, including the identities and positions of the parties, the trust's name, jurisdiction and situs, and all particulars of administration, all of which the courts of equity will fully support by the principle that equity compels performance.¹⁸ The

control. It went further to acknowledge the right-wise stance of the United States Supreme Court that the trust relationship comes under the realm of equity, based upon the common-law right of contract, and is not subject to legislative restrictions as are corporations and other organizations created by legislative authority. To clarify the equity and common-law distinctions, the basis for Express Trusts under the common law in this instance, is not that such organizations are creatures of common law, as distinguished from equity, but that they are created under the common law of contracts and do not depend upon any statute.

¹²See Lee Brobst et al., *U.S.A. The Republic, Is The House That No One Lives In*, available at <<http://www.usa-the-republic.com/Lee%20Brobst/USA%20The%20Republic.htm>> (last visited Aug. 6, 2005).

¹³This is sometimes referred to as the *trust indenture* for the purpose of denoting that it outlines the terms and conditions governing the conduct of the trustee (referred to in this sense as an *indenture trustee*) as an indentured servant to the beneficiary under contractual arrangement.

¹⁴See Underhill, *supra* at art. 3, p. 10; also see *Chicago M. & St. PR. Co. v. Des Moines Union R. Co.*, 254 U.S. 196, 65 L.Ed. 219 (1920).

¹⁵Underhill on Trusts, art. 5, p. 19 (Lond. ed. 1878).

¹⁶*Id.* at p. 11.

¹⁷See the Constitution for the United States of America, art. I, § 10 (1789): "No State shall . . . pass any . . . Law impairing the Obligation of Contracts[.]"

¹⁸See *Clews v. Jamieson*, 182 U.S. 461, 21 S.Ct. 845, 45 L.Ed. 1183 (1901).

ultimate result is the creation of a *bona fide* legal entity,¹⁹ having a separate and distinct juridical personality,²⁰ standing to sue and be sued²¹ and to function as a natural (contrasted with artificial) person in commerce by and through its trust officers. The term *natural person* has been applied to Express Trusts by courts of equity because of its mode of creation and administration, being by way of the exercise of natural rights and not franchises (i.e., civil rights).²² However, this implied right of contract of the trust is alienable, whereas its creators' right of contract is unalienable.²³ But it nevertheless possesses *inter alia* the right to all enjoyments stemming from the contracts into which it enters, as well as all the obligations imposed under such contracts. Needless to say, the Express Trust possesses the ability to own property, engage in business transactions, and to incur liabilities (including tax liabilities depending on the activity which renders it liable to pay the tax, which I will get into in a later section).

THE TRUST CORPUS

THE BODY of the trust is the property being held in trust for the beneficiary(s), the very subject-matter of the declaration. It should be noted that virtually any *thing*²⁴ may be held in trust, however, there are certain things which, given their innate traits recognized in Law, make for better subject-matter, so to speak.

Initially, the legal minds who perfected the Express Trust in America did so to accommodate for the great obstacles in procuring special charters for corporations intended to deal in real estate, which trusts eventually came to be known as the "Massachusetts Land Trusts". It was when those individuals came to realize the immense benefits of employing the trusts for the purpose of holding land, that they

¹⁹See *Burnett v. Smith*, S.W. 1007 (1922); and *Muir v. C.I.R.*, 182 F.2d 819 (C.A.4 1950).

²⁰ See *Brigham vs. U.S.*, 38 F.Supp. 625 (D.C.Mass. 1941), appeal dismissed 122 F.2d 792 (reported in Title 26 I.R.C. 31, p. 356).

²¹See *Waterman v. MacKenzie*, 138 U.S. 252 (1891).

²²The trustee(s) of an Express Trust are protected under the Constitution as "citizens" throughout the *continental* United States. The trustee(s) under a will or declaration of an Express Trust are natural persons, "citizens" within the meaning of Article IV, Section 2 of the Constitution, and are therefore entitled to all the "privileges and immunities" of same. *Paul v. Virginia*, 75 U.S. 168 (1868). Even though, in today's economic situation, the term "citizen" is presumed to signify the 14th Amendment citizen, the term cannot be applied to the Express Trust which is specifically created under the original common law. The trust is a *natural* person because of how and by whom it was created. And even under common law, the officers having natural rights, acting for a corporation can only do what they are permitted to do by the state in which they seek to act, because they are not such "citizens" entitled to those "privileges and immunities," and hence the foreign corporation statutes of the several states. Corporations, as *artificial* persons, are "citizens of the United States," within the meaning of the 14th Amendment, which should give the reader an idea of the meaning of the term *person* as primarily used today. See *Santa Clara County v. Southern Pacific R. Co.*, 118 U.S. 394, 396 (1886).

²³Man's right of contract is considered so fundamental that even under Roman law, in its system of domestic slavery, all men, citizen or not, retained this fundamental right *ius gentium*. It is understood to derive from a man's Creator, and therefore is unalienable without his consent/waiver (i.e., a man's right of contract can only be contracted away). The trust's implied right of contract is alienable, i.e., transferable to another person, by the trustee or a court of equity in the event that the trustee should choose, or by such court should equitable jurisdiction arise.

²⁴The "thing" held in trust is referred to as the trust *res*, the subject-matter of the trust.

eventually expanded their utility to include the holding of personal property, which trusts eventually came to be known as the “Massachusetts Electric Companies,” and their perfection attributed to one time Attorney General and later United States Secretary of State Richard Olney,²⁵ but the fact that the Express Trusts were initially, primarily utilized for purposes of holding and handling real estate is very significant, especially to our present situation.

The significance derives, in pertinent part, from the integral relationship between the law and the land. It is a fundamental principle of law that the land and the law go hand in hand; and, in America, without the 14th Amendment, the Law of the Land is the Constitution with its common-law principles—and its substance of gold and silver.²⁶ Without getting too deep into the operation of common law, it is this principle regarding the relationship of land and law that, by its operation, threw up an obstacle to corporate real estate ownership, for in order to charter a statutory (civil law) entity to handle the substance of the common law (land), special, if not extraordinary, legal circumstances must exist, which, prior to the removal of the fixed gold standard in 1933,²⁷ i.e., the removal of the substance of the law, were nonexistent.²⁸ A statutory entity is inherently accountable to courts of civil (legislative) jurisdiction, deriving subject-matter jurisdiction from the corporate charter. Whereas, an Express Trust is obviously inherently accountable to courts of equity,²⁹ deriving subject-matter jurisdiction from the trust instrument.

This brings us to today. In the jurisdiction of the 14th Amendment United States public trust, what is the substance of the common law is merely a commodity. But, back in the Republic the substance still remains the staple for payment of debts³⁰ (though in considerably lesser quantity and without a fixed standard upon which to be traded). The Express Trust under the common law, holding real estate, silver or gold, is holding the very substance of the law under which it was created, thus ensuring that bond between law and land, and the powers and guarantees that come with it.³¹

²⁵See John H. Sears, *Declarations of Trust as Effective Substitutions for Incorporation*, § 1, p. 4 (1911).

²⁶Referred to in this sense, it is regarded in law as *portable land*. The basic principle of law is that the land includes everything extracted from it.

²⁷See House Joint Resolution 192 of June 5, 1933; Pub. L. 73-10. Prior to that, silver had already been de-monitized, in practice but not in fact, by the Coinage Act of 1873 (commonly referred to as the “crime of ‘73,” which, it is blatantly obvious, would have been unconstitutional if done in-fact. It is said to have been a tactic of congress to place in the public mind the perception of the currency as being solely backed by gold, presumably for the purpose of the eventual passing of H.J. Res. 192, which congress knew would effect a removal of the substance of law). Silver was later withdrawn from circulation in certain coins by the Coinage Act of 1964, and was removed entirely by amendment to the Coinage Act of 1964 by the Bank Holding Company Act of 1970. Then, all silver-backed certificates were discontinued in 1972.

²⁸See Lee Brobst et al., *The Law, The Money and Your Choice* (2003), available at <<http://www.usa-the-republic.com/Lee%20Brobst/The%20Law.html>> (last visited Sept. 29, 2005).

²⁹It should be noted that though the Express Trust is created under common law, it is not a creature of the common law as distinguished from equity, but rather, it is created under common law of contracts and not dependent upon any statutes; Equity supplements the common law. See *Schumann-Heink v. Folsom*, 328 Ill. 321.

³⁰See Constitution for the United States of America, art. I, § 10 (1789).

³¹See Constitution for the United States of America, amend. VII (1791).

THE CERTIFICATES

WHAT MAY come as a surprise is that any trust may divide its trust property into shares and issue certificates.³² The power to issue certificates and bonds, and employ the use of a seal³³ never has been restricted to corporations.³⁴ It is well-settled law that whatever else most corporations possess beyond their artificial entity and right of suit in the corporate name is a mere incident or consequence of incorporation, and not a “primary constituent”.³⁵ This may include the power of issuing transferable shares, limiting liability of its officers, using a seal, making by-laws, purchasing lands and chattels—all of which are merely the recognition and adoption of natural common-law rights any person *sui juris* may exercise without permission (much less a charter) from the state. The court in *Warner v. Beers*³⁶ clarified this principle most effectively:

There are several very useful and beneficial *accessary* [also spelled *accessory*] powers or attributes, very often accompanying corporate privileges, especially in moneyed corporations, which, in the existing state of our law, as modified by statutes, are more prominent in the public eye, and perhaps sometimes in the view of our courts and legislatures,^[37] than those which are *essential* to the being of a corporation. **Such added powers, however valuable, are *merely accessary*. They do not in themselves alone confirm a corporate character, and may be enjoyed by unincorporated individuals.** Such a power is the *transferability of shares*. . . . Such, too, is the *limited responsibility [liability]*. . . . So, too, the *convenience of holding real estate for the common purposes, exempt from the legal inconvenience of joint tenancy or tenancy in common*. Again: There is the *continuance of the joint property for the benefit and preservation of the common fund, indissoluble by death or legal disability* of any partner. *Every one of these attributes or powers, though commonly falling within our notions of a moneyed corporation, is quite unessential to the legality of a corporation, may be found where there is no pretense of a body corporate; nor will they make one if all were combined, without the presence of the essential quality of legal individuality*[.] [Italics and bold emphasis, and bracket information added.]

The trustee of an Express Trust is empowered by the terms and provisions of the trust instrument to issue certificates not only of beneficial interest,³⁸ but also of capital

³²See *Hart v. Seymoure*, 147 Ill. 598, 35 N.E. 246; and *Venner v. Chicago City Ry. Co.*, 258 Ill. 523, 101 N.E. 949.

³³As a side-note, the right of an individual using a seal has never been challenged, based upon the universal understanding that it is used as a matter of right. Once the trustee has adopted the seal and has used it, it is automatically presumed that the use is lawful, until proven otherwise. See *Johnson v. Crawley*, 25 Ga. 316, 71 Am.Dec. 173; and *Mullanphy v. Schott*, 135 Ill. 655, 26 N.E. 640.

³⁴See *Thompson-Business Trusts* § 23; *Sears Trust Estate* § 105 (2^d ed.); and *Phillips v. Blatchford*, 137 Mass. 510.

³⁵See *Wald's Pollock on Contracts*, pp. 126, 296.

³⁶23 Wend. 103, 145-146 *et seq.*

³⁷I will show you in the conclusion why this is the state of affairs today, as it was back then, and why the principles interpreted by the court in this case apply now more than ever.

³⁸Also referred to as *trust certificates* or *certificates of trust units*.

interest.³⁹ Generally speaking, beneficial interest is that which is held by the beneficiary(s) of the trust, who is entitled to a certain proportional share of the trust profits during the life or at the termination of the trust; while capital interest is that which is held by the exchanger(s) who has invested property into the trust, and thus becomes entitled to a certain proportional share of any profits and assets remaining at the termination of the trust.

As a rule, the terms and provisions of the trust instrument control the manner in which beneficial and capital interest are to be administered, and determine the rights of interest-holders, who, incidental to their acceptance of the interest, are bound under the trust instrument as such.⁴⁰ But there are certain principles which govern these interests in construing the fundamental classification of the trust. For instance, it is held that where the certificate-holders have control over the trust property and/or administration of the trust's affairs, the trust arrangement is deemed a partnership, in which the shareholders become liable for the acts of the trust.⁴¹ The basic principle is that if it is free from the control of its interest-holders, then it is an Express Trust.⁴² This is commonly referred to by courts of equity as the "Control Test,"⁴³ in which, control must ultimately rest with the trustee(s) of the trust in order for it to be properly classified as an Express Trust. The well-settled principle applied by courts of equity is that interest-holders, by full legal title and control over the trust property being vested absolutely in the trustee(s), cannot be considered partners nor agents,⁴⁴ and therefore cannot be held liable for the debts of the trust in the manner so done with partnerships and agencies.⁴⁵

Furthermore, the certificates have no determinable fair market value, and, therefore, no gain or loss is recognized until the cost or other basis of the property disposed of has been recovered.⁴⁶ In *Commissioner of Internal Revenue v. Marshman*,⁴⁷ the court held that fair market value is determined by property received by the taxpayer,

³⁹Also referred to as *capital certificates* or *certificates of capital units*.

⁴⁰See *Hardee v. Adams Oil Assn.*, 254 S.W. 602 (1923); *Todd v. Ford*, 92 Colo. 392; and *Weimer & Co. v. Downs, Inc.*, 77 Colo. 377.

⁴¹ See *Rand v. Morse*, 289 Fed. 339 (C.C.A.8 (Mo.) 1923); *Goldwater v. Oltman*, 210 Cal. 408; *Schumann-Heink v. Folsom*, *supra*; *First National bank v. Charter*, 305 Mass. 316; and *Neville v. Clifford*, 242 Mass. 124. For examples of what will constitute a co-partnership see *Taft v. Ward*, 106 Mass. 518; and *Phillips v. Blatchford*, *supra*.

⁴²*Id.*

⁴³ See *Bank of America Nat. Trust & Savings Ass'n v. Scully*, 92 F.2d 97 (C.C.A.10 (Colo.) 1937); *Rand v. Morse, Id.*; *Goldwater v. Oltman*, 210 Cal. 408; *Schumann-Heink v. Folsom, Id.*; *First National Bank v. Charter, Id.*; *Commercial Casualty Ins. Co. v. Pearce*, 320 Ill.App. 221; *Rosemaond v. March*, 287 Mich. 580 (Rehearing denied, 287 Mich. 270); *Nelville v. Clifford, Id.*; *Carling v. Buddy*, 318 Mo. 784 (*In re Winter*, 133 N.J.Eq., 245); and *Rhode Island Trust Co. v. Copeland*, 39 R.I. 193.

⁴⁴See *Mavo v. Moritz*, 151 Mass. 481, 484, 24 N.E. 1083 (1890); *Mason v. Pomeroy*, 151 Mass. 164, 7 L.R.A. 771; *Johnson v. Lewis*, 6 Fed. 27, 28 (C.C.Ark. 1881); *Taylor v. Mayo*, 110 U.S. 330, 334-335, 28 L.Ed. 163, 165 (1884); *Lackett v. Rumbaugh*, 45 Fed. 23, 29 (C.C.N.C. 1891); and *Smith v. Anderson*, L.R. 15, Ch. D, 247, 275-276, 284-285.

⁴⁵See *In re Conover*, 295 Ill.App. 443; and *Greco v. Hubbard*, 242 Mass. 37.

⁴⁶See Master Tax Guide, para. 910. In regard to Capital Certificates, the courts have long upheld the doctrine of exchange, in that certificates in exchange are not taxable until a realized gain has occurred. See *Burnet v. Logan*, 283 U.S. 404 (1931); and *Trenton Cotton Oil Co. v. Commissioner*, 147 F.2d 33 (C.C.A.6 1945).

⁴⁷279 F.2d 27 (C.A.6 1960).

not the fair market value of the property transferred by the taxpayer unto the trust. What's more is that certificates are considered not necessarily as chattels, but as documentary evidence of ownership and intangible rights;⁴⁸ and, in and of themselves, they are the personal property of the holder,⁴⁹ not the actual interest or share itself.⁵⁰ This is contrasted with the certificate of stock, which courts have held may be dealt with in the market as a "commercial document of value"; but the courts also hold, almost unanimously, that the presence of a certificate of stock within the jurisdiction gives no power to take the rights evidenced by the certificate.⁵¹ Unlike stock, however, the interest in an Express Trust, cannot be traded without the prior approval of the trustee(s) of the trust.

TRUSTEE BASICS

FIRST AND FOREMOST, any person (man, sovereign, trust, corporation, etc.) capable of taking legal title to property can be a trustee.⁵² And there is no limit to the number of trustees who may serve on any one trust. Generally, where there are more than one trustee, the trustees, with respect to each other, are referred to as co-trustees,⁵³ and when acting jointly as a collective body are referred to as the Board of Trustees.

Furthermore, there is no law prescribing the character of a trustee, and while it has been held that a trust cannot be invalidated simply due to the incompetence of the trustee, the trustee should be a person capable and fit for executing the powers and duties honorably.⁵⁴ (This is the basis for the general rule that beneficiaries are not desirable as trustees, though there is no law to forbid such appointment. Equity will generally avoid all temptation to a breach of trust.) The trustee should have his residence within the jurisdiction of the court of equity in which the estate is located, if indeed the trust corpus is an estate. But where the trust corpus is *portable land*, the trustee need not be resident within any single jurisdiction, which non-residency will not disqualify or preclude the trustee from carrying out his position.⁵⁵

As far as accepting the appointment is concerned, acceptance should be made formally, expressly in writing, though it will always be implied "if the individual intermeddles with the trust property, or performs any act to carry out the trust."⁵⁶ Once

⁴⁸See *Goodhue v. State St. Trust Co.*, 267 Mass. 28.

⁴⁹See *Parker v. Mona-Marie Trust*, 278 S.E. 321; and *In re Pittsburg Wagon Works' Estate*, 204 Pa. 432, 54 A. 316.

⁵⁰See *Malley v. Bowditch*, 259 Fed. 809 (C.C.A.1 (Mass.) 1919).

⁵¹See Joseph H. Beale, *The Exercise of Jurisdiction In Rem to Compel Payment of a Debt*, 27 Harv. L. Rev. 107, 111 (1913), citing *Stern v. Queen*, (1896) 1 Q.B. 211; *Pinney v. Nevills*, 86 Fed. 97 (C.C.Mass. 1898); *et cetera*.

⁵²See Beach's Commentaries on the Law of Trusts and Trustees, vol. I, ch. III, § 23, p. 30 (1897).

⁵³This term is sometimes used to denote that the *co-trustee* has less authority than the *trustee*. In that sense, the co-trustee is called a *passive trustee*, and the trustee an *active trustee*. But Express Trusts usually employ the term *co-trustee* simply to denote that there are several trustees of that trust.

⁵⁴*supra*. Beach describes this concept as "in such a manner as to subserve the interests of the beneficiary[.]"

⁵⁵*Id.* at § 19, p. 28.

⁵⁶August P. Loring, *A Trustee's Handbook*, pt. I, § 3, p. 5 (1898).

the acceptance has been tendered, no court of equity can prevent the trustee from holding that office, except for breach of trust⁵⁷ or good cause dependent upon the merits of that particular case.⁵⁸ Removal must be procured pursuant to the provisions of the declaration, or, where no such provisions are made, by decree of a court of equity.

But the office of trustee is not always a desirable one when the trust instrument conveys an unreasonable obligation. (Again, this is where careful attention to detail is most crucial in preparing the trust instrument.) The trustee has a duty of care toward the beneficiary(s), and must harbor no biases in administration. The best rule is that the trustee should be given enough discretion to carry out his position to the best of his ability and responsible creativity. To put it plainly, the settlor must *trust* the trustee to carry out his duties, and use his powers justly.

POWERS & DUTIES OF THE TRUSTEE

THE POWERS of a trustee are divided into general, special and discretionary ones. The general are all those inherent in trustees *virtute officii*, i.e., conferred by law; the special are all those conferred by the trust instrument; and the discretionary are all those arising out of necessity of personal judgment by way of circumstance (though ample discretion may also be conferred by law and under the trust instrument).⁵⁹

Moreover, it is well-settled law that under a declaration of trust, the trustees have all the powers necessary to carry out the obligation of that private contract which they have assumed.⁶⁰ Furthermore, it is settled that the trustees of an Express Trust are afforded greater latitude of power and activities than ordinary trustees.⁶¹ The trustees are empowered to control every aspect of the trust according to the trust instrument and equity, and retain the power to eject even the beneficiary(s) from the premises.⁶² These powers include, but are in no way limited to—

- The power to bind the trust in a contract, especially where such obligation is implied-by-law,⁶³ and the power to contract with the beneficiary(s).

⁵⁷See *In re Tempest*, (L.R. 1 Ch. 487), 31, 1431: Lord Justice Turner settled the rule of law that “[f]irst the court will have regard to the wishes of the persons by whom the trust has been created, if expressed in the instrument creating the trust, or clearly to be collected from it. . . . If the author of the trust has in terms declared . . . a particular person . . . [t]he court in those cases conforms to the wishes of the [creator].” A Breach of Trust does not include a technical breach of trust, e.g., one made through mistake.

⁵⁸See Loring, *supra* at § 8, p. 19. The reasons are generally for guilt of willful breach of trust, waste or mismanagement of trust property, refusal to account to beneficiary, lunacy, drunkenness, bad habits or carelessness which endangers the trust property, or improvidence.

⁵⁹See Beach, *supra* at vol. II, ch. XXI, §§ 427-435, pp. 986-1006.

⁶⁰See *Boyd v. U.S.*, 116 U.S. 616 (1886); and *Silverthorne Lumber Co. v. U.S.*, 251 U.S. 385 (1920).

⁶¹See *Ashworth v. Hagan Estates*, 181 S.E. 383 (1935).

⁶²See *Deven v. Hendershott*, 32 Iowa 192.

⁶³See *Durkin v. Langley*, 167 Mass. 577; Perry on Trusts, *supra* at § 437, p. 120; *Hapgood v. Houghton*, 10 Pick. 154; Comp. Law Dak. (1887), § 3946; Rev. Code N. Dak. (1895), § 4289; and Civ. Code Cal. (1885), § 2267.

- The power to partition, exchange, sell, pledge or mortgage the trust property, either in whole or in part;⁶⁴
- The power to lease trust property;⁶⁵
- The power to issue, change, or otherwise dispose of securities of the trust;
- The power to support the beneficiary(s) in all reasonable manner;
- The power to prosecute and defend in the trust's name or trustee's name;
- The power to make gifts out of trust property;
- The power to delegate all unessential powers and duties; and
- The power to exercise personal judgment and every discretionary power not prohibited by the trust instrument,⁶⁶ and, as already shown, to do whatever is allowed to persons as a natural right.

The fundamental principle of law is that for every power there is a correlative duty. The trustee, as a fiduciary to the beneficiary(s), assumes certain basic duties outside of the management of trust property, and certain duties aside from whatever specific duties may be conferred upon the trustee in the trust instrument. These duties include, but are not limited to—

- The duty to support the beneficiary(s) in any essential needs which it may have, out the funds which would otherwise be paid to it in distribution. And if such funds are not available, the duty to accumulate any balance needed;⁶⁷
- The duty to refrain from taking advantage of peculiar knowledge or position when dealing directly with the beneficiary(s);
- The duty to exercise the utmost good faith in all concerns of the trust, whether dealing with the trust property itself, or directly with the beneficiary(s) in matters concerning the trust,⁶⁸ including to care for, protect and secure the trust property;
- The duty to preserve, protect and further the trust's interests, including pressing all reasonable demands and prosecuting and fending off all claims, and claiming all available exceptions and taking all available advantages in such matters;
- When delegating unessential powers and duties, the duty to exercise at least a general supervision of the trust affairs, and to perform any ministerial acts which require the exercise of discretion or judgment;⁶⁹

⁶⁴See Loring, *supra* at pt. II, § 3, pp. 54-69. It should be noted that even though the trustee may have sold the entire trust estate, the trust is not necessarily terminated until all obligations of the trust arrangement have been fulfilled, especially the transferring of the proceeds to the interest-holder(s).

⁶⁵It is a general rule that the if the trustees lease property outside of the powers granted to them by the trust instrument, such an act will constitute breach of trust. Again, it all comes back to the design of the trust instrument.

⁶⁶See James Hill, *A Practical Treatise on the Law Relating to Trustees, their Powers, Duties, Privileges and Liabilities*, pt. III, div. I, ch. II, § 3, pp. 471-495.

⁶⁷See Loring, *supra* at pt. II, § 4, p. 69. “[The trustee’s] fealty is to the trust, and all his acts must be governed by strict loyalty to it and the interests of the beneficiaries; and any act which is not in the [best] interest of the beneficiaries is a breach of trust.”

⁶⁸*Id.* at p. 72.

⁶⁹See Perry on Trusts, *supra* at § 409, p. 49. It is completely lawful and equitable for a trustee to appoint an Authorized Representative to act as agent in collecting rents and dividends, keep books and minutes, and, in general, act for the trustee wherever there is a moral or legal necessity to employ such an agent. (Necessity may be determined to exist where the ordinarily prudent business man would employ an agent in his own affairs.) See *Ex Parte Belchier*, Amb. 219.

- The duty to keep minutes, and separate accounts of the trust, even if kept in a book with other accounts, with minutes showing decisions and resolutions reached, and accounts showing the state of the trust and pertinent details of transactions (generally in the form of schedules of income received, income paid, additions to principal, deductions from principal, principal on hand, and changes in investment consisting of debtor and creditor sides);⁷⁰
- Upon acceptance of the trusteeship, the duty to accept the trust property and trust documents;⁷¹
- When investing trust funds, the duty to invest them securely, “so that they shall be preserved intact for the remainderman,” and to invest productively, “so that they shall yield [at least] the current rate of interest to the life tenant”;⁷² and
- The duty to concur with all co-trustees, except where authorized to act individually.⁷³

PRIVILEGES & LIABILITIES OF THE TRUSTEE

IN ADDITION to the powers and duties of trustees, there are certain privileges (including allowances), rights and liabilities of the trustee. These are all those which are enumerated in the trust instrument and naturally extended to the trustee of an Express Trust. As was noted before, certain restrictions placed upon trustees of ordinary trusts do not apply to the trustee of an Express Trust pursuant to the doctrine of greater latitude.⁷⁴ These, aside from those allowed by the trust instrument, include, but are not limited to—

- The inherent, unquestionable right to full compensation, including reimbursement of all out-of-pocket and other expenses incurred in the discharge of duties. (And unduly withheld reimbursement results in a lien on the trust for the amount plus interest);⁷⁵
- The privilege of residing in the trust estate and allowance of rates and taxes “although he has the benefit of residing in the house”;⁷⁶

⁷⁰This is not required, but the rule of thumb is that the more detail kept, the better the accounting. The trustee is accountable to the beneficiary(s), and the accounts must ultimately balance out in the end. And an account settled in a court of equity is final; it cannot be reopened except to correct a mistake or fraud, and its correctness cannot be questioned in a collateral proceeding in equity or in a court of law. See *Stetson v. Bass*, 9 Pick. 26, 29; *Dodd v. Winship*, 144 Mass. 461; *Sever v. Russell*, 4 Cush. 513; and *Parcher v. Bussell*, 11 Cush. 107.

⁷¹See *Hallows v. Lloyd*, 39 Ch. Div. 686, 691; Underhill, *supra* at p. 219.

⁷²Loring, *supra* at pt. II, § 4, p. 95. Generally, where it is impossible to comply with the investments required by the trust instrument, a trustee has recourse to apply to a court of equity for directions. See *McIntire's Adm'rs v. Zanesville*, 17 Ohio St. 352.

⁷³See James Hill, *supra* at pt. III, div. I, ch. I, § 1, pp. 305-309; *Brown v. Donald*, 216 S.W.2d 679 (1949); *Meldon v. Devlin*, 31 App.Div. 146, 53 N.Y.Sup. 172; *Barroll v. Foreman*, 88 Md. 188, 40 A. 883; and *Appeal of Fesmire*, 134 Pa. 67, 19 A. 592.

⁷⁴See *Ashworth v. Hagan Estates*, *supra*.

⁷⁵James Hill *supra* at pt. IV, div. II, ch. IV, pp. 570-571. “Such is the rule of courts of equity, and such also is the rule at common law.” Quoting Lord Cottenham in the case of *Att.-Gen. v. Mayor of Norwich*, 2 M. & Cr. 406, 424. Also see *Rex v. Inhabitants of Essex*, 4 T.R. 591; and *Rex v. Commissioners of Sewers*, 1 B. & Adolph 232.

⁷⁶*Id.* “However a trustee who employs a park-keeper, or other servant, for his own purposes, must pay him himself,

- The right to employ a solicitor⁷⁷ for assistance and guidance in the administration of the trust, and, in the case of any doubt or difficulty, to seek the opinion of competent counsel, and, in the case where the trust's accounts are intricate and complicated, to seek the assistance of an accountant—all to the charge of the trust;
- The right to apply to a court of equity for directions in the execution of the trust, or to obtain a declaratory judgment in order to establish the meaning and intent of the trust instrument;⁷⁸
- The right to carry on in separate business for the benefit of the trust given certain conditions;
- The allowance of remuneration for loss of time under certain circumstances;
- The right not to be compelled by subpoena or review to produce and show records or books to outside parties;⁷⁹
- The right to further limit his liability in particular contracts, even beyond the limitation made in the trust instrument, i.e., by operation of law;
- The right to relocate, move trust property, or change the trust's domicile;⁸⁰ and
- The inalienable right to disclaim the office at the execution, or resign at a later date.

With regard to the personal liabilities of a trustee, they encompass what the trustee is and is not liable for. Basically, the inherent liabilities (and non-liabilities) are all those incident to ownership at law⁸¹ and imposed or exempted under contract law, for it is a maxim of law that "*le contrat fait la loi*."⁸² (I will show in a later section the several methods for limiting one's liability completely, regardless of how un-limitable the following may seem, but for now we will entertain the basic liabilities saving those methods for later.) These include, but are not limited to—

- Liability on all contracts made, whether signing as "trustee" or signing individually;⁸³

and will not be allowed his wages out of the estate. And so a trustee, with the most ample powers of management, cannot of his own authority keep up a mere pleasurable establishment, such as gamekeepers, &c."

⁷⁷This is defined as "[a] person who conducts matters on another's behalf; an agent or representative." Black's Law Dictionary, p. 1399 (7th ed. 1999).

⁷⁸See *Dunbar v. Redfield*, 7 Cal.2d 515.

⁷⁹See *Boyd v. U.S.*, *supra*; and *Silverthorne Lumber Co. v. U.S.*, *supra*.

⁸⁰See Beach, vol. I, *supra* at § 19, p. 28; *Rice v. Houston*, 80 U.S. 66 (1871); Fost. Fed. Pr. Sec. 19; and Story, Fed. Pr. Sec. 19. Also, in *New Orleans v. Whitney*, 138 U.S. 595, 34 L.Ed. 1102 (1891) the court said "[w]e have repeatedly held that representatives may stand upon their own citizenship in the federal courts irrespective of the citizenship of the persons whom they represent—such as executors, administrators, guardians, trustees, receivers, [etc.]"

⁸¹See Loring, *supra* at pt. II, § 1, p. 23.

⁸²"The contract makes the law." See Bouvier's Law Dictionary, pp. 770-790 (1928). The basic principle is that all man's law is contractual in nature, regardless of the particular classification of the law, and can acquire force only by consent: "Consensus facit legem."

⁸³See Loring, *supra* at pt. II, § 3, p. 65. Simply using the title "trustee" will not sufficiently limit liability. That without express stipulation (such as that which I have provided in the later section) he is personally bound is well-settled law. See *Feldman v. Preston*, 194 Mich. 352, 160 N.W. 655; *Bried v. Mintrup*, 203 Mo.App. 567, 219 S.W. 703; *Hussey v. Arnold*, *supra*; *Carr v. Leahy*, 217 Mass. 438, 105 N.E. 445; and also *Knipp v. Bagby*, 126 Md. 461, 95 A. 60.

- Liability of removal for breach of trust, waste, mismanagement, or good cause shown in an action for removal in a court of equity,⁸⁴ or according to trust instrument;
- Liability for losses sustained by the trust as a result of negligence;⁸⁵
- Liability for torts and common-law criminal and civil wrongs;⁸⁶
- Liability in all cases of co-mingling of trust funds;⁸⁷ and
- Liability for all mischief of his agents contracted to exercise discretionary powers.⁸⁸

But, the trustee is not at all liable for any losses sustained in the proper discharge of their duties,⁸⁹ and, with the case of other losses due to negligence or tort, the trustee may be able to be bonded in the manner ordinarily used by trustees, executors and administrators. Nor, are they liable for—

- Contracts in which liability was properly limited (by the methods to be shown later). Such contracts may also encompass the codes and statutes of various jurisdictions, given that all manmade law is, by its nature, fundamentally contractual;
- The debts of the trust incurred requiring the creditor to look solely to the trust for payment⁹⁰ (and the trust is not liable for the personal debts of the trustee,⁹¹ except to the extent of attachability of the trustee's interest in the trust⁹²);
- The independent, non-preventable acts of co-trustees, of which he had no prior knowledge;⁹³
- The acts of his agents when properly contracted;
- Taxes on income of the trust;⁹⁴ and

⁸⁴Any such action would have to be instituted by an interest-holder, as a last resort. And the burden of proof rests with the party bringing the action.

⁸⁵See *Holmes v. McDonald*, 226 Ill. 169, 80 N.E. 714; and *Norling v. Allee*, 10 N.Y.Sup. 97. But it must also be noted that this, as with all of the others can be limited. In *Fisherries Co. v. McCoy*, 202 S.W. 343 it was held that it is lawful for liability to be limited in certain cases of tort and negligence, except where the relation of master-servant or passenger-carrier exists.

⁸⁶See Loring, *supra* at § 1, p. 26. However, in torts and civil wrongs, limitation of liability is amply available as per *Fisherries Co.*, *supra*. But, as it is with corporations, common-law crimes are strictly of an *in personam* nature, going against the officer personally.

⁸⁷Generally, in cases of co-mingling of the trustee's personal funds with trust funds, courts will follow the trust property, unless co-mingled beyond separation, in which case the courts will treat the trust as the alter-ego of the individual acting under the assumed title of "trustee," and will ignore the trust arrangement completely. See *Gregory v. Helvering*, 293 U.S. 465 (1935), XIV-1 C.B. 193; and *Helvering v. Clifford*, 309 U.S. 331 (1940). Mixing trust property with personal property is co-mingling. See Perry on Trusts, vol. I, ch. XV, § 447 (6th ed.).

⁸⁸See Beach, vol. II *supra* at ch. XXV, § 548, p. 1243; and *Winthrop v. Att.-Gen.*, 128 Mass. 258.

⁸⁹Equity will always follow the law. And the trustees can never be penalized for properly discharging their duties.

⁹⁰See *Taylor v. Mayo*, 110 U.S. 330, 4 S.Ct. 147, 28 L.Ed. 163 (1884); and *Frost v. Thompson*, 219 Mass. 360, 106 N.E. 1009.

⁹¹See *Wright v. Franklin Bank*, 59 Ohio 80, 51 N.E. 876.

⁹²See Loring, *supra* at pt. II, § 1, p. 41; *Mavo vs. Moritz*, *supra*; and *Hussey v. Arnold*, 70 N.E. 87 (1904).

⁹³See James Hill, *supra* at pt. III, div. I, ch. I, p. 309. If the acts were indeed preventable, and he had prior knowledge, then the trustee is co-liable and accountable for the loss. Also see *In re Adams' Estate*, 221 Pa. 77, 70 A. 436; and *In re Cozzens' Estate*, 15 N.Y.Sup. 771.

⁹⁴Again, the trustee must be indemnified by the trust instrument from taxation for trust gains. If the trustee holds interest in the trust, he is taxable only at the realization of an actual gain, not at the point of investment (see *Burnet v. Logan*, *supra*; and *Trenton Cotton Oil Co. v. Commissioner*, *supra*).

- Lawsuits against the trust.

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES

AS SHOWN ABOVE, it is well within the power, discretion, and often times duty (trust instrument notwithstanding), to contract an Authorized Representative or Managing Agent to deal with certain affairs of the trust. And the basic rule which courts of equity have laid down is that a trustee may contract an agent to handle all affairs which require no discretion, be they ministerial or not, and he may not delegate the essential part of a power given to the agent (unless, of course, permitted by trust instrument).⁹⁵

In clarifying the discretionary power rule, it must be noted that there is no law against delegating discretionary powers to agents. The rule is simply that a trustee who does so, “does so at his own peril,”⁹⁶ for he is liable for all resulting losses, if any. To clarify what constitutes the essential and unessential parts of a power, the essential part is defined as “the exercise of . . . discretion . . . , the [determining of] need[s] of [the trust], or the appropriateness of [an action].” The unessential part is that “not requiring the exercise of discretion.” However, there is a simple solution, allowing for greater flexibility in this rule, which is to “authorize the agent to contract subject to the assent of the trustee.”⁹⁷ And if the trust instrument makes provisions for the contracting of an Authorized Representative or Managing Agent, then the trustee cannot be liable for his acts.

Now, the method for contracting an Authorized Representative may be either by formal appointment, execution of a limited power of attorney, letter of authorization, or even verbal authorization (preferably documented by minutes). The most effective, secure method of contracting such an agent would obviously be an actual appointment with written contract setting forth the specific powers authorized, terms of the arrangement, extent to which the liability of the agent shall be limited by the trustee, etc. But, a letter of introduction is, for most purposes, sufficient.⁹⁸ This is the case with all individuals and organizations, however constituted.

⁹⁵See Loring, *supra* at pt. II, § 2, p. 49.

⁹⁶*Id.* at § 4, p. 74.

⁹⁷*Id.* at § 2, pp. 48-49.

⁹⁸I have supplied the reader with a sample multipurpose letter of introduction and letter of authorization for opening a bank account in the sample forms section. All the reader need do is modify the letter to encompass the particular purpose for which the authorization may be necessary. A sample limited power of attorney is also provided in that section. I have also provided a sample Authorized Representative contract (which can be used for Managing Agents as well), specifying the particular authorization, power, and limitation of liability, etc., for said agent. (When used with Managing Agents, modification to the contract's language may be necessary.)

EXPRESS TRUST vs. CORPORATION

FIRST, I must clarify that though I am referring primarily to corporations, included in the reference are all organizations which owe their existence to legislative acts, not limited to Limited Liability Companies, Limited Partnerships, Agencies, Co-Partnerships, etc., which, though not classified as corporations, avail themselves of benefits, privileges, and franchises of the state for their very creation and existence.

Second, since we have already shown the distinct juridical personality of the trust as a legal entity,⁹⁹ we will not reexamine it until we consider its personality under the Roman civil law of the 14th Amendment in a later section. But it must be noted the well-settled law that the Express Trust is a lawful,¹⁰⁰ legal, valid business organization,¹⁰¹ possessed of the right to hold property and sue in its business name.¹⁰² And its uses in modern business have some of their strongest roots in England, Germany and many of the United States where it has been recognized for its superiority, and even praised by such notable authorities as the Ohio Supreme Court for its effectiveness in the business of life insurance.¹⁰³

The declaration of trust has been held to be an effective substitute for incorporation, for its many advantages, which will undoubtedly shine though to the reader by the following table. I have prepared this table based upon the work by John H. Sears who, after discussing the impact of the twin landmark cases¹⁰⁴ on the grave lack of profitability of using corporations for, *inter alia*, dealing in real estate, went to task in outlining the distinct benefits of Express Trusts, and the works by William C. Dunn,¹⁰⁵ Guy A. Thompson,¹⁰⁶ and Sidney R. Wrightington.¹⁰⁷ Mr. Sears says:¹⁰⁸

The decision of the United States Supreme Court . . . holding that **the [Express] Trusts are not subject to the Federal excise tax on corporations**, has emphasized this method of conducting business as compared with corporations. . . **[T]he best legal talent was soon impressed into the service of devising a means of affording the usual advantages belonging to a corporation without**

⁹⁹See *Brigham vs. U.S.*, *supra*; and *Burnett v. Smith*, *supra*.

¹⁰⁰The lawfulness of the Express Trust is obvious, however, the allegation to the contrary has often been made in the past, and is occasionally made by the ignorant nowadays. Among the long list of precedents confirming its lawfulness is *Palmer et al. v. Taylor et al.*, 269 S.W. 996 (1925), offered here simply to add to the collection.

¹⁰¹See *Baker v. Stern*, A.L.R. 462; *Reeves v. Powell*, 267 S.W. 328 (1924); *Weeks v. Sibley*, 269 Fed. 155 (D.C.Tex. 1920); *Phillips v. Blatchford*, 137 Mass. 510 (1884); and *Burnett v. Smith*, *supra*.

¹⁰²See *U.S. v. Carruthers*, 219 F.2d 21 (C.A.9 (Or.) 1955).

¹⁰³“There was no class of business, the transaction of which, as a matter of private right, was better recognized at common law than that of making contracts of insurance upon the lives of individuals.” *State v. Ackerman*, 51 Ohio St. 163, 37 N.E. 828, 24 L.R.A. 298.

¹⁰⁴*Eliot v. Freeman*, *supra*; and *Maine Baptist Missionary Convention v. Cotting et al.*, 220 U.S. 178 (1911).

¹⁰⁵*Trusts for Business Purposes* (1922).

¹⁰⁶*Business Trusts as Substitutes for Business Corporations* (1920).

¹⁰⁷*The Law of Unincorporated Associations and Business Trusts* (2^d ed. 1923).

¹⁰⁸*supra* at § 1, p. 3.

the authority of any legislative act. A method of placing the property into the hands of trustees, who held the legal title and issued certificates, similar to shares of stock, to the *cestui que trust*, showing the interest owned by each, possessed nearly all the advantages desired. [This excluded the use of limited liability companies, joint-stock associations, and co-partnerships, which are] **organized under enabling statutes** which [merely] enlarge the privileges possessed at common law, and they are, therefore, subject to State regulations, which may be equally burdensome to those imposed on corporations. [Italics emphasis supplied in original; bold emphasis and bracket information added.]

*Preliminary note: While the mortality rate of corporations and the like have historically remained high, Express Trusts remained, and indeed to this day, continue to remain vital.¹⁰⁹ But, again, the table will show you why.

Express Trust	Corporation
Life-span of 20-25 years at a time, in order to avoid rule against perpetuities. Death of grantor has no effect on life or affairs of trust.	Perpetual or certain number of years, in most cases legislative requirements govern.
Governed under equity. Trust law is most well-settled body of law in America.	Governed under statute. Forever subject to burdens of inquisitorial legislation.
Limited liability of trustee determined by trust instrument. In any given contract, only property in hands of trustee is answerable. Remember <i>Boyd</i> and <i>Silverthorne</i> —Not subject to subpoena.	Corporate officers personally liable for all ambiguous indorsements. Remember <i>Enron</i> and <i>Global Crossing</i> —Must answer in legislative court for all acts. ¹¹⁰
Business name protected by injunction. (May use trade-name or trademark for legitimate purposes.) ¹¹¹	Must apply for and secure fictitious firm name, and must register all trade-names and trademarks.

¹⁰⁹See Chandler, *supra* at p. 11. The reportedly oldest Express Trust in America is the North American Land Company, formed by Patrick Henry, with the aid of John Nicholson and James Greenleaf, for Robert Morris of Virginia (popularly known as the “Financier of the American Revolution,” distinguished from Virginia Colony Governor Robert Morris), circa 1764, roughly a decade prior to the signing of the Declaration of Independence (1776) and Mr. Henry’s compelling address to the Virginia Legislature, *Give Me Liberty* (1775). North American Land Company was later expanded in 1795, but was dissolved in 1798, at which time its land holdings consisted of roughly 4 million acres scattered over Georgia, the Carolinas, New York, and the states in between. See *Plan of Association of the North American Land Company: Established February 1795* by Peter Force (1795).

Another, and possibly more noteworthy, Express Trust was the Merchants Bank of New York, formed by Alexander Hamilton, circa 1810. As an aside, this Express Trust made full use of transferability of shares, i.e., certificates, and limited liability (see *Hamilton’s Works*, Congressional ed., VII, 838), whereas Mr. Morris ultimately served time in debtor’s prison after the trust revenues from installment sales and share sales did not come in quickly enough to meet the loan and tax deadlines. George Washington is reported to have had many a dinner in debtor’s prison with Mr. Morris, where he visited him frequently—the two were good friends.

¹¹⁰Although corporate officers reserve the “right” to “plead the fifth,” they have merely the relative-right to plead the congressionally interpreted “spirit” of the amendment, not the letter of the law, due to their 14th Amendment citizenship. Trustees of an Express Trust have the absolute-right to refuse self-incrimination. See Lee Brobst et al., *supra*; *Boyd v. U.S.*, *supra*; and *Silverthorne Lumber Co. v. U.S.*, *supra*.

¹¹¹See *People v. Rose*, 219 Ill. 46, 76 N.E. 42; *YWCA v. YWCA*, 194 Ill. 194, 62 N.E. 551; *McLean v. Fleming*, 96 U.S. 245 (1877); *Lane v. Brothers, etc.*, 120 Ga. 355; *Aiello v. Montecalfe*, 21 R.I. 496; and *Rudolph v. Southern Beneficial League*, 23 Abott’s N.C. 199.

WEISS'S CONCISE TRUSTEE HANDBOOK

Trust is Article IV § 2 citizen of the United States via its trustee, not a 14 th Amendment citizen, unless trust contracts under the amendment. ¹¹² This citizen is understood in constitutional law as the <i>private</i> citizen. ¹¹³	Corporation is 14 th Amendment citizen, ¹¹⁴ regardless of citizenship of corporate officer. Generally state corporations require officers to be citizens as well. This citizen is inherently public due to the nature of the amendment. ¹¹⁵
Not required to obtain business license. ¹¹⁶	The opposite is the case.
Trustees issue certificates in the manner prescribed by trust instrument. Certificate holders cannot transfer without approval of Board of Trustees.	Must go "public" in order to issue stock. Stockholders may dispose of shares of stock, but corporation and stockholder alike are taxed indirectly in more ways than one can count.
May bring and defend litigation in trust name and entity, or in trustee name. Same rules as to parties and procedure at law and in equity are applicable.	May bring and defend litigation in the corporate name and entity only.
Trustees afforded more leverage, and powers are generally more broad than corporation, as it may provide for whatever any individual may do. The sky (nature) is the limit.	Relatively broad powers, as in the example of holding companies. But corporation may not do whatever any individual may do. The statute (legislature) is the limit.
All Federal excise tax and state organization and franchise taxes are avoided.	The opposite is the case, except for state taxes in certain states. In either respect, all corporations are taxed indirectly via inflation. ¹¹⁷
Trustees are not required to file reports with any authority, and are accountable only to beneficiary, governed strictly under principles of equity.	Required to file reports, quarterly, etc.
Not subject to foreign corporation laws of any state. Not inherently subject to commercial regulation, but for income derived from corporate stock and physical franchises under Article I § 8 Clauses 1 and 3. Express Trust is valid in all States of the Union. ¹¹⁸	Inherently subject to all foreign corporation laws and commercial (public policy) regulation.

¹¹²See *Farmers Loan & Trust Co. v. C. & A. Ry. Co.*, 27 Fed. 146 (C.C.Ind. 1886); and *Shirk v. City of LaFayette*, 52 Fed. 857 (CC.Ind. 1892). For an understanding of the profound superiority of Article IV § 2 citizenship over 14th Amendment citizenship, see Lee Brobst et al., *supra*.

¹¹³See *Hale v. Henkel*, *supra*.

¹¹⁴See *Santa Clara County v. Southern Pacific R. Co.*, *supra*.

¹¹⁵14th Amendment citizens, under the Roman civil law (private international law/admiralty-maritime law), are inherently public, with only relative-privacy.

¹¹⁶See *People v. Rose*, *supra*. Once trust is executed, it is an existing "express business," and, unless the trust instrument requires the trustee to obtain a business license, one is not needed except for new (i.e., heretofore nonexistent) express business.

¹¹⁷"[I]nflation is a 'method of taxation' which the government uses to 'secure the command over real resources, resources just as real as those obtained by [ordinary] taxation'. 'What is raised by printing notes,' . . . is just as much taken from the public as is . . . an income tax.'"1980 Annual Report, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, p. 10, quoting John Maynard Keynes' *The Economic Consequences of the Peace*.

¹¹⁸See *Jones v. Habersham*, 107 U.S. 174, 27 L.Ed. 401 (1883); *Fellows v. Miner*, 119 Mass. 541; *Sohier v. Burr*, 127 Mass. 221; *Sewall v. Wilmer*, 132 Mass. 131; and *Cross v. U.S. Trust Co.*, 131 N.Y. 330, 349, 30 N.E. 125. A trust invalid where created, but valid where to be administered will be upheld where made. *Hope v. Brewer*, 136 N.Y. 126, 143, 32 N.E. 558.

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No legal obligation to maintain the capital and refrain from paying dividends out of capital. Trust instrument governs.	The opposite is the case.
Units of beneficial and capital interest in trust are not personal property of holder, and give holder no control over the administration or <i>res</i> of the trust.	Shares of stock are personal property in hands of owner, and taxes issue on same property against corporation and then against the stock-owner.
Trustees have absolute-rights and privileges to engage in interstate commerce under protection of the Federal Constitution. ¹¹⁹	Corporate officers have relative-right and privileges to do so, and incur more taxability by doing so.
Trustee(s) have exclusive management, except where Managing Agents are contracted, or a Board of Directors is elected.	Board of Directors are managers with limited, defined powers to conduct business, hold regular meetings, etc.
Interests of the beneficiary(s) well protected by courts of equity. Power to secure information as to the actions of the trustees and status of trust fund is, no doubt, superior to the rights and remedies of stockholders in corporation.	Protected by the basic impersonal nature of corporations, yet corporate veil is regularly pierced. ¹²⁰ The elite attorneys are well aware of this.
Dissolution or changes may be effected without formality.	The opposite is the case.

These advantages and more have been and are still seized by some of the shrewdest, wealthiest individuals and families in America and from abroad. But the widely perceived, yet absolutely untraceable, wealth of such individuals and families like the Rothchilds, Rockerfellers, Kennedys, Forbes, and many of the American founding fathers, plus countless modern day politicians, are strong circumstantial evidence of this. One may find many articles and information, as well as quotes,¹²¹ attesting this.

Given the private nature of the Express Trust, there is virtually no lawful method by which to pierce the trust without the express permission or implied consent of the parties, or some unlawful activity on the part of the trust giving rise to a *bona fide* cause of action. As a result, virtually no direct evidence of the trust's existence can be found unless it is made to be found—and even then it can only be heard by a court of competent jurisdiction, which, as you shall see in the sections ahead, is very hard to find nowadays. This is protection at its finest, hiding in plain sight, so to speak; and it is well understood by the powerful elite that “*bene vixit, qui bene latuit.*”¹²² In many ways, the

¹¹⁹Any statute enacted by a state which prohibits this right is in conflict with the Constitution. See *Bruant v. Richardson*, 126 Ind. 145, 25 N.E. 807; *Robey v. Smith*, Ind.Sup. 30 N.E. 1093; and *Farmers' Loan & Trust Co.*, *supra*.

¹²⁰Collections attorneys know this very well. All one need do is look no further than the Global Crossing or Enron scandals to see how every corporate veil is able to be pierced when the effort is backed with enough incentive. And when it's pierced, who bites the bigger bullet(s)? Stockholders—they have no real recourse but to cry in public.

¹²¹One such quote is that of John D. Rockerfeller who is reported to have said that the key to *true* wealth and power is to “own nothing and control everything.” Your author is confident that the reader will see the self-evidence of this truth; and the Express Trust throughout the relatively short history of America has served to facilitate this practice. A search for the assets of the Rockerfeller family will prove the truth of this philosophy.

¹²²“He lives well who conceals [his assets] well.” Ovid, c.43 B.C. - A.D. 18.

common law itself, with its precious substance, is hiding in plain sight (or is well hidden, depending on the perspective).

UNDERSTANDING COMMERCE

HERE IS WHERE we begin to address the Express Trust in action. As shown above, the trust may engage in all manner of trade and commerce,¹²³ but before taking the step of doing so, the reader would greatly benefit the trust by understanding the nature of commerce in twenty-first century America. And for my brief explanation of the subtle intricacies involved, I will rely upon the two works by Lee Brobst et al.¹²⁴ I will not go into a detailed explanation of the constitution or the history of commerce for want of space, but I would suggest that the reader read the works relied upon herein.

When the trustee is engaging in trade or commerce in behalf of the trust, acting under general common law, the trust is within the jurisdiction over which the literal and absolute protections of the Bill of Rights extend, and he has no direct contact with the federal government. And, under right of contract law protected under the Federal Constitution, the trustee may enter into the 14th Amendment jurisdiction via contract, i.e., by willfully availing the trust of benefits like the quasi-corporate privilege/franchise of limited liability for the *discharge* of debts with Federal Reserve Notes under H.J. Res. 192. (Contrast this with the *payment* of debts with standard gold-backed currency under the original Coinage Act of 1792.) Under this jurisdiction, the federal government (Congress) has full and direct contact with the trust, “as they see fit, for the benefit of public policy regulations (known as codes & statutes) of this jurisdiction.”¹²⁵ This makes the federal government a third-party intervenor in the affairs of the trust by operation of law,¹²⁶ because the trust (as with the 14th Amendment citizens) is being allowed to get away with not truly fulfilling its commercial contracts as is required under the common law of contracts. (I will show how this can all be avoided, in a later section.)

The resulting nexus or “confederacy developed under [H.J. Res. 192] . . . is an affiliation known better as an association^[127].” “And the ‘common enterprise’ of this unincorporated society, is to offer all Americans a so-called ‘privilege,’ in the form of what is better known as a ‘[quasi-contract],’ to participate in commerce without

¹²³“The words ‘commerce’ and ‘trade’ are often used interchangeably; but, strictly speaking, commerce relates to intercourse or dealings with foreign nations, states, or political communities, while trade denotes business intercourse or mutual traffic within the limits of a state or nation, or the buying, selling, and exchanging of articles between members of the same community.” Black’s Law Dictionary, p. 336 (4th ed. Rev. 1968).

¹²⁴*supra*, see footnotes 12 and 28.

¹²⁵*The Law, the Money and Your Choice*, p. 3.

¹²⁶The federal government’s power of regulation in this manner is fully constitutional, deriving its authority from art. I, § 8, cl. 1 and 8, being one of the general legislative powers. The relationship between congress and the 14th amendment citizen is controlled under art. IV, § 3, cl. 2 because there is no physical federal or state charter issued to regulate the relationship.

¹²⁷Brobst et al., *supra* at pp. 7-8. An association is defined as “[a]n unincorporated society; a body of persons united and acting together without a charter, but upon the methods and forms used by incorporated bodies for the prosecution of some common enterprise.” Black’s Law Dictionary, p. 156 (4th ed. Rev. 1968).

'Payment of [D]ebts' for 'social security' purposes. Moreover, this unincorporated society is outside the literal common-law principle that demands the 'Payment of [D]ebts' as stated in Article 1 Section 10, but is allowed, upheld and protected by Article 1 Section 10 that upholds [the] 'Obligation of Contracts.'"¹²⁸ This amounts to a "federated unincorporated society by operation of law [which] is contractually protected by the Constitution [in the same way the Express Trust and its trustee(s) are]." And the trust and/or trustee reserves the right to "domicile themselves in . . . the Union under Article IV Section 3 [C]lause 1, [and] thus to contract under Article I Section 10 despite the fact that [they] . . . cannot 'Pay' [their] . . . debts. In other words, Congress cannot compel [the trust or its trustee(s)] . . . to participate in a federal interstate unincorporated banking association under Article IV Section 3 [C]lause 2 and [H.J. Res. 192] . . . for the *NON* payment of debts. The choice of law is up to each person still."¹²⁹

With corporations, they are "artificial creations of the state or federal government under physical charter (franchise) issued via state or federal civil law for commercial regulation under Article I Section 8 [C]lauses 1 & 3. They are not under the literal common law because of the charter (franchise). Any legal action against the corporation is legally called an '*in rem*' action, because it is against the *thing* or property (also called *res*) of the corporation under charter. The courts have automatic subject[-]matter jurisdiction, because the physical charter is the *subject[-]matter*."¹³⁰

"Under the letter of the constitutional law there is no commercial regulation, but [H.J. Res. 192] . . . along with 15 USC brought in a third party for commercial regulation for the social security public policy. Remember, 'equity compels performance.' The law views unincorporated associations as a danger to the substance of the common law, because of their debt/credit system. This is because there is no counter[-]balance to the demands the association puts on the substance of the earth, thus the reason for all the federal and state regulatory agencies. In other words, there is a presumption by implication in the civil law that a charter (a metaphysical/abstract/unreal type) exists, because persons are availing themselves (volunteering) of the privileges pertaining to [H.J. Res. 192]. Therefore, these persons come under a 'quasi in rem' jurisdiction of the civil law in order to regulate, control (including compel) those that are outside the literal common[-]law principles."¹³¹

The many participants under this system, especially the 14th Amendment citizens from each state, together form an unincorporated federation of state associations operating under interstate commerce as addressed in Article IV § 3 cl. 2, and reinforced by the landmark *Erie R. Co. v. Tompkins*¹³² decision. This is the basis for the federal government's, including state governments', compulsion of persons to its public international law (i.e., the spirit, not the letter, of the common law mixed with public Roman civil law, under Law of Nations per Article I § 8 cl. 3 and 10, and Article VI cl. 2)

¹²⁸Brobst et al., *Id.*

¹²⁹*Id.*

¹³⁰*Id.* at p. 9.

¹³¹*Id.* at pp. 9-10.

¹³²304 U.S. 64 (1938).

nowadays commonly known as codes and statutes (state or federal), to regulate everything as a matter of commerce.¹³³

Without getting into the history of religion, and speaking purely from an analytical perspective, the Roman civil law, as a base-model for commerce regulation, was developed out of necessity of the church to avoid political scrutiny for its handling of ever increasing amounts of precious metals. It had become a “‘storehouse’ for the money and property the people were persuaded to give in exchange for limited liability [in the form of tithing] — [i.e.,] go directly to heaven instead of hell. As the people became more educated and saw what was really behind the power of religion [in generating wealth], the Roman Church fell under greater and greater criticism. This led to the development of a banking system to handle and control church wealth and take the critical focus [away from the church.]”¹³⁴

“The bank learned from the church about limited liability. If you could get people to borrow money beyond their ability to pay back, you could get them to keep performing [paying interest in one form or another] on a debt (liability) without ever demanding it [the principal] back, thereby, loaning out that same credit to more than one individual or company. This meant that the bank was limiting the liability of the borrower so he was not fully responsible for the debt as long as he continued to perform to paying the interest. This way[,] real money (gold) became credit (paper money) by loaning to more than one person. Being involved in this sort of commerce was called ‘private commerce.’ With the church’s control over wealth, this private commerce became standard practice in world trade upon the sea — private international or admiralty/maritime law became known as Roman civil law as it began to figure heavily in the politics of every city and country it touched through international commerce.”¹³⁵

By operation of this body of law, all persons subject to its jurisdiction are regarded as vessels, having a distinct quasi-corporate, juridical personality, capable of suing and being sued *in rem*.¹³⁶ 14th Amendment citizens of the United States, whether state or federal chartered corporations or metaphysical-chartered corporate-colored public persons, therefore, are public vessels of the United States within the broad meaning of the Public Vessels Act, and are regulated. The United States, as with the

¹³³This can be better understood from *Propeller Genesee Chief v. Fitzhugh*, 53 U.S. 443, 451-453 (1851), wherein the court said that, within the letter of the constitution, “[t]he law contains no regulations of commerce. . . . It merely confers a new jurisdiction on the district courts; and this is its only object and purpose. . . . It is evident . . . that Congress, in passing [the law], did not intend to exercise their power to regulate commerce. . . . The statutes do no more than grant jurisdiction over a particular class of cases. . . . Now the judicial power in cases of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction, has never been supposed to extend to contracts made on land and to be executed on land. But if the power of regulating commerce can be made the foundation of jurisdiction in its courts, and a new and extended admiralty jurisdiction beyond its heretofore known and admitted limits, may be created on water under that authority, the same reason would justify the same exercise of power on land.”; also see *Verlinden v. Bank of Nigeria*, 461 U.S. 496 (1983). Roman civil law is also why the I.R.S. continually refers to income taxes as voluntary although, to the ignorant, it appears to be the exact opposite.

¹³⁴*U.S.A. The Republic, Is The House That No One Lives In*, p. 9.

¹³⁵*Id.*

¹³⁶See *The China*, 74 U.S. 53 (1868); and *The Barnstable*, 181 U.S. 464 (1901). Also see *Why We Are in Admiralty* (April 18, 2004), available at <<http://www.wealth4freedom.com/law/Admiralty.htm>> (last visited Sept. 30, 2005).

Roman Church, is the “ship of state”. The Express Trust, then, is a private vessel of the united States of America, navigating through the often hostile waters called interstate commerce (which is international commerce via the United States treaties).

DOING BUSINESS

EVEN THOUGH the Express Trust is technically not a “business trust”¹³⁷ within the established meaning of the term, this in no way prevents or inhibits the trust from engaging in all manner of business the trustee is permitted to under declaration, and it need only obtain the franchise of a business license if it anticipates doing express business in the above-described jurisdiction.¹³⁸ The trust may operate a business, acquire a business, sell or otherwise dispose of its business, or even contract under the limited liability system and become a taxable entity—the choice is yours. The only thing which may bar the trust from conducting a particular kind of business in any certain jurisdiction is the public policy of that jurisdiction, regarding which, it has been admitted, most states have not passed upon the subject directly.¹³⁹

Regardless of the business, there is a due notice rule, which confers a duty upon the trustee under equity, whenever doing business. The rule consists of two parts:

The first is that he should sufficiently distinguish and represent the nature of the trust to the party with whom he is doing business. It is of the utmost importance, in the forming of business contracts, that full disclosure be made—on all letterheads, business cards, checks, bills and order blanks, papers, etc.—so as to prevent any claims of lack of disclosure from arising in the future. But prudence recommends that a trustee must

¹³⁷*Pennsylvania Co. v. U.S.*, *supra*.

¹³⁸See *People v. Rose*, *supra*.

¹³⁹No state has ever made any attempt to prohibit Express Trusts (i.e., impair the contract rights of persons *sui juris*). However, many states have attempted successfully to prohibit associations, the most notable being the Ohio Attorney General in *State v. Ackerman* (*supra*), against C.F. Ackerman and ninety-nine other persons who were transacting business of guarantee and accident insurance in the state under the name of the Guarantee and Accident Lloyds, New York. The Attorney General alleged that they were doing business without having complied with the laws of the state or receiving proper authority from the state to do business of that kind. The court found that because the defendants were acting under mere association (as opposed to under declaration of trust), they were an association unlawfully exercising a franchise within the state, acting as a corporation therein without being legally incorporated. The court indirectly affirmed the well-understood principle scarcely in need of restatement that Express Trusts may engage in any manner of business allowed to individuals a natural right. In fact, to restate this principle over and over again would be “ostentatious.” *Chisholm v. Georgia*, 2 U.S. 419, 453 (1793).

As public policy is a form of regulation, it should be noted the case of *Munn v. Illinois*, 94 U.S. 113, 126 (1876) in which the court expounded on the principle of regulation. Because the trust is of private property, and its business is private as well, the trust business is not “affected with a public interest.” It does not become affected with a public interest until the trustee participates in behalf of the trust in the unincorporated interstate banking association, obtains a business license or other franchise, contracts under it, or conducts the private business of the trust in a “manner to make it of public consequence, and affect the [14th Amendment] community at large. When, therefore, one devotes his property to a use in which the public has an interest, he, in effect, grants to the public an interest in that use and must submit to be controlled by the public [policy] . . . to the extent of the interest he has thus created. He may withdraw his grant by discontinuing the use; but, so long as he maintains the use, he must submit to the control.”

not disclose every immaterial fact regarding the trust, its declaration, and its affairs. The first part of the due notice requirement can be sufficiently accomplished simply by employing the designation “An Irrevocable Express Trust Organization,” or “An Express Trust Organization,” or “A Trust Organization,” or “Organized under Declaration of Trust,” beneath or next to the trust’s name. It must not be excessively revealing about the trust (the trustee has a duty to protect the privacy of the trust), but it also must not be misleading (the trustee has a duty to not compromise the integrity of the trust, though he is in no way prohibited from exercising the utmost shrewdness).¹⁴⁰

The second is that he should stipulate in plain and certain language, in all written contracts and obligations that the trust only is liable for its obligations and that neither the trustee nor interest-holders are to be held to any personal liability in the contract.¹⁴¹ He may also wish to cite the provision of the trust which so limits his and/or the interest-holders’ liability, but this is often unnecessary. And the trustee should always designate his title either under or immediately next to his name and signature.¹⁴²

The trustee should obtain a mailing address for the trust, and though he is the principal and holder of the trust property, I would recommend that he refrain from mixing the trust’s affairs with his own. He should also obtain all separate business necessities (telephone service, etc.) for the trust. (I would argue that he should do these things regardless of whether he is operating trust business or not. He should, for all intents and purposes, maintain a strict separation of the trust’s identity from his own.)

LIMITING THE LIABILITY OF THE TRUSTEE

IN ALL CONTRACTS, as we have already noted, though it is best to always apply it, the trustee’s mere designation of title is not sufficient to limit his liability. Instead, he must employ the proper language either within the terms of the contract or above or beneath his signature, or in any proper place where it will appear unambiguously, indicating something to the effect of—

- “The property and funds of the Trust Organization only are liable for contract obligations, individual Trustee(s) or interest-holders are not personally liable”;
- “John W. Doe, acting as Trustee under the Declaration of Trust dated October 1, 2005, establishing the Trust Organization therein called ABC123 Training Group and not individually”;
- “John W. Doe as Trustee and not personally”;
- “As Trustee but not individually”; or

¹⁴⁰See McCoy, *supra* at p. 1.

¹⁴¹*Id.*

¹⁴²It has been suggested that whether the trustee designates his title or not, he is in-fact acting as trustee, because the substance not the form is what controls. However, for security purposes, I would argue that the designation should be applied in all situations, regardless. Doing so will avoid any superficial confusion.

- “Without recourse to Trustee”.

Any form of words that will convey in certain, unmistakable language the fact to the other contracting party that he is dealing with an Express Trust is sufficient notice under the rule. Whether it is necessary to also cite the provision of the trust instrument which limits his liability is a decision left to the discretion of the trustee. To quote Mr. Justice Woods in the case of *Taylor v. Mayo*:¹⁴³ “If a trustee contracting for the benefit of a trust wants to protect himself from individual liability on the contract, he must stipulate that he is not to be personally responsible, but that the other party is to look solely to the trust estate.” And in the case of *Shoe and Leather National Bank v. Dix*¹⁴⁴ the court held, with regard to the promissory note made by the trustees under such limited liability, that it was not within the power of the court to change the trust liability on the note into a personal one of the trustees; that liability on a contract must be determined by the terms of the contract itself; and that a contract entered into under such limited liability (be it a note, agreement, etc.) cannot be converted into one under personal liability by law. To do so would be to alter the terms of the contract itself. (Furthermore, any such stipulation is ultimately subject to the acceptance of the other party in order to gain validity in the contract.)

OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT

THE TRUSTEE may open any business checking account, financial account, trust account, etc., which he is authorized by declaration to open, but he must keep in mind that by doing so, the trust will be participating directly in that unincorporated interstate banking association with all its limited-liability consequences described above. There is only one type of account that avoids those consequences: the **non-interest bearing checking account**. When utilized in conjunction with the following banking practices, the trust and the trustee will remain out of reach of the tentacles of public policy. Unless the trustee intends to play within the system, the trustee should—

- Never contract for any credit cards, and if the trust has already obtained them, rescind and cancel the contracts;
- Open a non-interest bearing checking account in order to avoid the “privileges and immunities” associated with interest;¹⁴⁵
- When transacting business, use that bank account solely for depositing the checks and keeping track of the trust funds;
- Never send or allow trust checks to be sent across state lines;
- Instead of writing checks, use postal money orders or the bank’s corporate certified checks or corporate money orders when sending interstate payments; and
- Use an Authorized Representative to establish the account on behalf of the trustee.

¹⁴³*supra*. Also see *Mitchell v. Whitlock*, 121 N.C. 166, 28 S.E. 292.

¹⁴⁴123 Mass. 148, 25 Am.Rep. 49.

¹⁴⁵It should be noted that proof of the operation of law in the manner described in the preceding sections is that banks are not required to obtain a social or tax identification number, and may accept any kind of identification information they wish—only when opening non-interest bearing accounts.

When opening the bank account (non-interest bearing as well as any other), the following must be provided—

1. The **original, notarized letter of authorization** (or letter of introduction or a limited power of attorney) if being opened by an Authorized Representative;¹⁴⁶
2. A **copy of the Affidavit of Trust**;
3. A **copy of the Trustee Appointment**;
4. A **copy of the settlor's acknowledgment of trust or Letter of Introduction** (introducing the trustee). There are usually two introduction or acknowledgment documents per trustee: one regarding his fiduciary powers specifically addressed to banking institutions and one regarding his general power to establish all other accounts;
5. A **copy of the recitals and signature pages of the declaration of trust**. The bank will almost always require evidence of a trust agreement, but the other documents may be sufficient depending on who you are dealing with. If you can open the account with only a few of the documents, great. Again, this is a non-interest bearing checking account, so scrutiny is not a priority. Accounts such as this have been downplayed by banks via advertised interest rates (on the indirect suggestion of the Federal Reserve via public policy and manipulation of the interest rates), so most people would rather open accounts that appear to have the prospect of interest earnings; and
6. Only if necessary to obtain an EIN, a **copy of the filed IRS Form SS-4**.

Take into the account the state of ignorance of the law which prevails in America today. Give only the information needed to open the account, but do not arouse suspicion or fear from lack of understanding on the part of bank employees. If you are able to befriend someone in the institution who can establish the account more flexibly, then do it. You must be shrewd in your methods for establishing the account, since, regardless of which bank you choose, you will be dealing with trained employees who, usually, are just a few screws and bolts away from being human robots. You should consult the business tactics of successful negotiators, who will all attest that the individual who needs the service is at the mercy of the provider, but the individual whose confidence and attitude subtly convey that his business is in high demand is given services, gifts, perks, not to mention any kind of account—anything just to get his business. It is not my intention to state the obvious, for in all business dealings, which a bank account is, one must be persuasive (and even seductive) to get the desired results. And don't be hesitant to shop around—negotiate—bend perception—create competition.

In the event it becomes unavoidably necessary to the opening of a non-interest bearing account or if the trustee does see fit to obtain an interest bearing or other financial account, then he (or an Authorized Representative) must apply to the IRS for an Employer Identification Number (EIN) for banking purposes. This may be done in one of the following ways:

¹⁴⁶The Authorized Representative should set up a date with the bank for the trustee to come in and sign the bank card and give identification. The trustee should sign as trustee under limitation of liability if possible.

- Instantly, via telephone from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (local time only) by calling the **Foreign Business Tax Line** at **(215) 516-3990**;
- Instantly, online by going to <http://www.irs.gov/EIN.org> (or <http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=102767,00.html>), clicking “Apply ONLINE NOW,” and filling out the online Form SS-4 Application for Employer Identification Number, and proceeding through the prompts. (Be sure to print all the pages for the trust’s records); or
- By performing the same steps above, but instead of clicking “Apply ONLINE NOW,” click “download the form SS-4,” fill it out, print it, then either:
 - Send it via mail or carrier to the proper regional office or else the one designated for “entities with no legal residence, principal place of business, or principal office or agency in any state”:
Attn: EIN Operation
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19255; or
 - Fax it to **Fax-TIN** at **(215) 516-3990**.

The form should be filled out according to the specifications of the trust. I have provided an example of how it has been filled out without a problem. In the event that there is a problem and the filing office needs additional information or clarification, they will indicate what is needed, either by fax, phone, or by mail, depending on the contact information given to them.

With both telephone and online applications, the trust will immediately be given a temporary EIN until the hard-copy application, which will be sent to the trust address for completion and indorsement, has been returned to that office within 15 days of the original online application. The EIN is valid 24 hours from the moment the voice or electronic application is submitted, but if the hard-copy application is not returned within the 15 days, the temporary EIN will expire, and cannot be used. In fact, it is not permanently registered into the Federal Tax ID database until the hard-copy has been processed.

With faxed applications, the trust will be given a temporary EIN by fax within 7 days, which will become permanent once the hard-copy application is sent in via the mail or carrier. And, with mailed in applications, the application is processed upon receipt, and an EIN is issued via the mail within 2 weeks. The other EIN application offices based on region can be found at the IRS internet address given above by clicking “Where to File” in the side menu.

TRANSFERRING TRUST ASSETS

THERE ARE two principal ways to transfer assets into the trust. It may be done via sale (in funds) or by exchange (based on the barter system). How it is done in any given situation makes all the difference, and there are certain guidelines to follow to insure that the transfer cannot be nullified and voided.

As a general rule, the trustee, as owner of legal title to the trust property, cannot purchase the trust property for himself, nor convert it to his own use contrary to the trust instrument. This is generally regardless of whether the property was purchased at a public, private or judicial sale, instituted by him,¹⁴⁷ for he has the unfair advantage, and any such sale, absent certain conditions, is deemed voidable *ab initio*, to be set aside at the option of the beneficiary(s). The only way the property may be obtained is where it can be shown that the beneficiary(s) acted intelligently, willfully, and without undue influence arising from the trust relationship.¹⁴⁸ In order to sustain a sale of trust property by the trustee to himself individually (on the ground that the interest-holder consented thereto) the evidence must show the good faith of the transaction, the adequacy of the consideration, a full knowledge of the facts, and an independent consent on the part of the interest-holder.¹⁴⁹ He may, of course, buy trust property in the discharge of his duty to protect the trust.¹⁵⁰ These same principles apply to the selling of the trustee's individual property to the trust, as well as to any barter between trustee and trust. (In the case of exchange there is an additional option which the trust provides, though it is not usually advisable to do so.) Simply put, if the contract is evidently "fair and reasonable, untainted by fraud and undue influence, [the] . . . conveyance of . . . property [by the trustee *sui juris* to the trust or interest-holder *sui juris*, or vice versa] will be upheld."¹⁵¹

The guidelines¹⁵² for insuring that any transaction or property transfer between the trustee (or an agent) and the trust (or interest-holder) is non-voidable are that—

- The seller intends that the buyer shall buy, and the buyer intends that the seller shall sell, or both parties intend that each shall exchange one item for the other;
- The seller, especially if trustee, discloses to the buyer before the contract is made every fact he has learned in his fiduciary relation which is material to the sale or exchange;
- The seller, especially if trustee, exercises the utmost good faith in the transaction;
- No advantage is taken by misrepresentation, concealment of or omission to disclose important information gained as trustee (or agent); and
- The entire transaction is fair and open on its face.

Furthermore, the contract of transfer need not be a complex document, so long as the guidelines are strictly followed, with all necessary warranties made in the documents themselves in order to legitimize the deal. (I have provided a sample bill of sale and asset purchase agreement in the sample forms section.)

¹⁴⁷Since the trustee's advantage comes by virtue of his office, it has been ruled that he may lawfully buy trust property at a sale caused by a third party, over which he has no part in procuring and over which he can exercise no control. See *Steinbeck v. Bon Homme Mining Co.*, 152 Fed. 333 (C.C.A.8 (Colo.) 1907).

¹⁴⁸See *Swift v. Craighead*, 75 N.J.Eq. 102, 75 A. 974.

¹⁴⁹See *Clay v. Thomas*, 178 Ky. 199, 198 S.W. 762; and *French v. French*, 58 Ind.App. 621, 108 N.E. 786.

¹⁵⁰See *Hardwicke v. Wurmser*, 180 S.W. 455; He may also apply to a court of equity, showing good cause, to obtain a decree for his purchasing of the property for protection purposes, if necessary.

¹⁵¹Dunn, *supra* at ch. IV, § 44, p. 78.

¹⁵²Per *Byrne v. Jones*, 159 Fed. 321 (C.C.A.8 (Ark.) 1908).

What's more, there is an additional method by which the deal may be completed. This is by way of assignment— either of trustee compensation, venture proceeds or profits, or even the trustee's separate employment wages/salary to the trust as value consideration in the contract of transfer. Whatever the object assigned, that the value consideration shall be in the form of an assignment should be set forth as an express term or provision in the documents evidencing the transfer.¹⁵³ A trustee may issue a promissory note or bond to the trust, dividing his personal labor into shares of interest in his trustee compensation, wages, salary, etc., and assigning it to the trust in order to complete the contract. To do this, in addition to the note or bond, he must execute a formal assignment, and then give his employer, payor, etc. notice and instructions to send the instrument (check, money order, bills) to the trust, which is entitled to indorse the instrument in the name of the individual trustee per the assignment (an authorized signature). It may also be agreed that the trustee shall accept the payment personally, then deliver and sign over the instrument to the trust himself (a special indorsement). The former is akin to a private (quasi) garnishment, in which the employer, payor, etc. is noticed and instructed to send the payment(s) directly to the trust, or deposit the funds directly in the trust's account per the assignment. (I have also provided a sample assignment and notice of assignment and instructions in the sample forms section.)

ISSUING CERTIFICATES & BONDS

AS DISCUSSED in the earlier section, the trustees may issue certificates of beneficial or capital interest, or other obligations to any person whom they please.¹⁵⁴ There are a total of 100 units of beneficial interest, and a separate total of 100 units of capital interest in the trust. The trustees determine the number of units (percentage of total interest) to be held by any one beneficiary, and may issue the full 100 units (100%) to a single beneficiary. To issue a certificate of either interest, the trustees must act jointly as the Board of Trustees, unless there is only one trustee for the trust. They must execute (draw up and indorse under seal¹⁵⁵), then deliver to the interest-holder(s) the actual certificate(s) evidencing the interest held. The Board should also record minutes of the meeting(s) in which it was resolved to issue the interest, and then record the act along with the interest-holder(s)' identification information in the appropriate schedule.

¹⁵³It should be noted that such an assignment can be done without any contract of transfer, rendering the object of assignment a gift. But, given the trustee's position, this is generally looked upon with great suspicion simply because of the absence of apparent value consideration for the trustee (the trustee would have to show that he gifted the thing in the spirit of charity and a warm heart, for instance). It gives the superficial appearance that the actual, ulterior motive was to avoid the liability of registered ownership, yet retain full and total ownership-in-fact, using the trust as a device to accomplish this. The property transfer must be a *bona fide* transfer on its face.

¹⁵⁴It should be noted that a beneficial interest-holder, having such an interest in the trust property, has an inherent right to insist, in proper proceedings, that the trust be maintained and executed according to the terms of the trust instrument. At law, the trustees are considered the owners of the trust property, yet, in equity, the beneficial interest-holders are the absolute owners, hence their power to apply for the voiding of a voidable transaction or transfer of property as mentioned in the preceding section. See *Hill v. Hill*, 152 P. 1122; *Ex Parte Jones*, 186 Ala. 567, 64 So. 960; and *Cox v. Cox*, 95 Va. 173, 27 S.E. 834. And a beneficiary may apply to the court of equity to enforce their rights. See *Bingham v. Graham*, 220 S.W. 105.

¹⁵⁵All certificates and official documents should be executed under seal. The sealing of an instrument is *prima facie* evidence that it has been duly executed. See *Johnson v. Crawley*, *supra*; and *Mullanphy v. Schott*, *supra*.

With certificates of capital interest the method is much different, though the procedure is the same as that for the trust certificates. Capital certificates work based upon exchange with investors called Exchangers, who may be any person the Board of Trustees wishes to exchange with. The Board of Trustees determines the number of units to issue in exchange for the property proposed for investment into the trust. This is a pure barter between the parties, and whatever number of units is agreed stands as the value in exchange for the proposed property.¹⁵⁶ The exchanger must issue a written Proposal (an example of which is provided in the sample forms section), which must be accepted by the Board of Trustees. Any negotiations which take place should be recorded in the minutes in which it is resolved to either issue the interest or refuse the proposal. If the Board of Trustees has resolved to issue the interest and make the exchange, the certificate(s) must be executed and delivered to the interest-holder(s), and the property(ies) in exchange must be delivered by the interest-holder(s) to the Board of Trustees. The final act should be recorded along with the interest-holder(s)' information, and the property inventoried, in their respective schedules.

With bonds, because a bond is merely an obligation or promise to pay money or to do some act upon the occurrence of certain circumstances, the trust need only issue the bond according to the particular transaction, e.g., to back the performance of a particular contract, to raise capital from outside investors in the form of "IOU's," etc. The distinguishing feature of a bond is that the document shows an obligation to pay some fixed amount of money or services, at a definite time, with stated interest. (I have provided some samples for various uses in the sample forms section.)

Now, there is no rule against a trustee (or agent) of the trust, exchanging his individual property for capital interest in the trust. And there is no rule against the trustee (or agent) holding beneficial interest either, though the holding of beneficial interest is generally regarded with greater suspicion than that regarding capital interest. The actual rule is that either transaction will be sustained as non-voidable if it clearly appears free of fraud, concealment, or undue advantage.¹⁵⁷ Any omission by the trustee (or agent) to disclose any material fact of the deal which is learned by the trustee by virtue of his office, and any misrepresentation, concealment, or other disregard of condition renders the issuance, exchange, and contract for it voidable at the option of the beneficial interest-holder(s). And one can wager that any accusation of invalidity of the trust by an outside party will be made on those grounds as well—a manifestation of the general suspicion.

This suspicion, however unreasonable without regard to the particular merits of the individual situation, stems from the many Express Trusts successfully dismantled based upon the unscrupulous and often foolish failing of the Control Test by trustees. In fact, the Express Trust graveyard is mostly populated with the dead corpses of trusts who died from this mistake. When a trustee holds all or a majority of interest (beneficial or capital) in the trust, he is, in effect, an interest-holder exercising control over the affairs and *res* of the trust. He derives the sole benefit of his actions, and determines the

¹⁵⁶We have already covered the nature of the certificates in that previous section, so we won't reexamine it here.

¹⁵⁷See *Murry v. King*, 153 Mo.App. 710, 135 S.W. 107; and *Mills v. Mills*, 63 Fed. 511 (C.C.Or. 1894).

actions which would cause him to derive that sole benefit. He is owner of the legal title to the trust property as trustee, as well as owner of the equitable title to the property as interest-holder. At best, the trust is his alter-ego, hence he may be proceeded against as though the trust does not even exist. This is why it is recommended that any transfers between trustee (or agent) and the trust (or interest-holder) be by sale as prescribed according to the guidelines, through a third party, or by outright exchange, with all documents in support of the transaction ready to repel the outside party who might attempt to come in under the guise of the Express Trust's Grim Reaper.

KEEPING MINUTES

AS MENTIONED EARLIER, it is the duty of the trustee(s) to keep minutes for all resolutions, decisions, and acts done in the administration of the trust. This is a form of accounting, and may suffice as the accounting, however, it is recommended that some separate, more detailed accounting always be kept.

It is generally best to keep minutes upon every Board of Trustees meeting, based upon the notes or report taken during the meeting, or, if there is only one trustee for the trust, on a decision-to-decision basis. How often and by what protocol minutes are kept is, of course, a matter of the trustee's discretion. The rule of thumb is that at least one Board of Trustees meeting should be held (and the minutes kept) annually. They should probably be held (and kept) at least quarterly, in conjunction with all other accounting. The more often the accounting, the more up-to-date, accurate, and reliable the records in administering trust business. Everything the trustee does should be clearly reflected in the minutes, which can be kept using any word-processing software (or even a typewriter). The minutes are stored in succession in the minutes book section of the trust binder. (I have provided 15 samples of minutes for various acts and resolutions by the Board of Trustees. The format and core language is always the same or similar.)

PREVAILING IN LEGAL AFFAIRS

HERE IS WHERE we shall get into legal action, the rare instance of public legal affairs, such as defending a court action instituted against the trust (or trustee), a private action against the trust (or trustee), etc., as well as the possible necessity of the trustee to take a public (however rare) or private (most preferable) action against an outside party. The reader must keep in mind that the chances of an action being taken against a trustee who has properly limited his liability without fail are slim to none. And if an action is taken against him anyway, generally, such cases don't make it past the crucial phase of determining jurisdiction. When one examines the definition of jurisdiction,¹⁵⁸ the fog begins to clear.

¹⁵⁸It is defined as "[a] government's general power to exercise authority over all persons and things within its territory. . . . A court's power to decide a case or issue a decree. . . . A geographic area within which political or judicial authority may be exercised. . . . A political or judicial subdivision within such an area." Black's Law Dictionary, p. 855 (7th ed. 1999).

There are two territorial jurisdictions created by the Constitution: the first is “the Territory,”¹⁵⁹ i.e., that designated portion of the earth’s surface (the imperially extensive real estate holdings of the nation) over which all power must be exercised within the strict letter of the Constitution; the second is the “other Property,”¹⁶⁰ i.e., a *territory* unincorporated (not included) into the Union of states, over which all power may be exercised strictly according to the mere “spirit” of the Bill of Rights as interpreted by Congress outside the strict letter of guarantees of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. In the former, the federal government can have no direct control over the people but by way of bilateral contracts. But in the latter, the federal government can have full and direct control over people subject to its jurisdiction, “as they see fit, for the benefit of public policy regulations (known as codes & statutes) of this jurisdiction.”¹⁶¹

Understanding that most courts currently in business in America are in fact, by the 1933 change in the operation of law, courts of limited jurisdiction,¹⁶² limited to cases involving subject-matter of the 14th Amendment public trust, it becomes clear that whether they are distinguished as federal courts or state courts, such is a distinction without a fundamental difference—they are inherently federal. In order to get at how such courts may obtain jurisdiction over an Express Trust or its trustee(s) in a legal action, the nature of jurisdiction should be briefly, but sufficiently examined.

First, a court must have three essentials: jurisdiction to determine jurisdiction, jurisdiction over the subject-matter of the case (i.e., it must have the power/competence to decide the kind of controversy involved), and jurisdiction over the parties to the case (i.e., *in personam* or personal jurisdiction to compel the parties’ performance). If either one is lacking in any way, the court is without power to decide the case;¹⁶³ and any order, decree or judgment, other than a dismissal, by such a court is void *ab initio*,¹⁶⁴ having only the semblance or appearance of validity,¹⁶⁵ and may be attacked directly or

¹⁵⁹Art. IV, § 3, cl. 2 in reference to the incorporated “Union” of states incorporated under clause 1 of the same section. The Articles of Confederation were also incorporated into the Constitution under clause 1, and the Union of states is also incorporated under the Articles of Confederation by reference.

¹⁶⁰*Id.* This “other Property” is known as “a territory”. Both “the Territory” and “other Property” signify property, since the language in that section is not “the Territory or Property”—the operative word is “other”. Therefore, “other Property” must be interpreted to mean “a territory,” as in a governmental subdivision which happened to be called “a territory,” but which could have been called a “province,” “colony,” etc. It refers to an incomplete state. See *Ex Parte Morgan*, 20 Fed. 298, 305 (D.C.Ark. 1883); and *O’Donoghue v. United States*, 289 U.S. 516, 537 (1933).

¹⁶¹Brobst et al., *supra*, see footnote 126.

¹⁶²Such courts are defined as having “[j]urisdiction that is confined to a particular type of case or that may be exercised only under statutory limits and prescriptions. Also termed *special jurisdiction*.” Black’s Law Dictionary, p. 856 (7th ed. 1999).

¹⁶³See *Abelleira v. District Court of Appeal*, 17 Cal.2d 280, 109 P.2d 942 (1941).

¹⁶⁴See *Holstein v. City of Chicago*, 803 F.Supp. 205; *Lubben v. Selective Service System Local Bd. No. 27*, 453 F.2d 645 (C.A.1 (Mass.) 1972); *Hobbs v. U.S. Office of Personnel Management*, 485 F.Supp. 456 (D.C.Fla. 1980); and *In re Adoption of E.L.*, 733 N.E.2d 846, (Ill.App. 1 Dist. 2000).

¹⁶⁵See *Mills v. Richardson*, 81 S.E.2d 409 (N.C. 1954).

collaterally and vacated at any time.¹⁶⁶ It is settled law that “a tribunal has jurisdiction to determine its own jurisdiction,”¹⁶⁷ which brings us to the remaining two elements.

Subject-matter jurisdiction is like the hub around which the wheel turns: without the hub, the wheel cannot turn with any real credibility. It is comprised of two parts: the statutory or common-law authority of the court to hear the case and the appearance and testimony of a competent fact-witness (i.e., sufficiency of pleadings). It can never be waived, and it cannot be obtained by lapse of time, consent of the parties, or any event other than the sufficiency of pleadings by the party bringing the suit (i.e., the plaintiff must sufficiently show beyond reasonable doubt that the court has jurisdiction to hear the cause). However, although it may have been established by the pleadings, it can still be lost due to, *inter alia*—

- Fraud upon the court;¹⁶⁸
- The judge’s failure to follow proper procedure;¹⁶⁹
- The unlawful activity or undisclosed conflict of interest of the judge (e.g., involvement in a scheme of bribery);¹⁷⁰
- The court exceeding its statutory authority;¹⁷¹
- Violation of due process;¹⁷²
- Improper representation of a party before the court, improper issuance of a summons, or defective service of process;¹⁷³
- Proper notice not being given to all parties by the movant;¹⁷⁴
- The court basing its order or judgment upon a void order or judgment;¹⁷⁵ and
- Violation of public policy.¹⁷⁶

And when subject-matter jurisdiction is lacking or lost, the court must discharge its ministerial duty to dismiss on that ground on its own motion, whether it has personal jurisdiction or not.¹⁷⁷

¹⁶⁶See *People v. Rolland*, 581 N.E.2d 907, (Ill.App. 4 Dist. 1991); *People v. Wade*, 506 N.W.2d 954 (Ill. 1987); and *In re Marriage of Welliver*, 869 P.2d 653 (Kan. 1994).

¹⁶⁷*Albelleira*, *supra* at p. 302.

¹⁶⁸See *In re Village of Willowbrook*, 37 Ill.App.3d 393 (1962); and *Rook v. Rook*, 353 S.E.2d 756, (Va. 1987).

¹⁶⁹See *Armstrong v. Obucino*, 300 Ill. 140, 143 (1921).

¹⁷⁰See Code of Judicial Conduct; and the *Alemann* cases, *Bracey v. Warden*, U.S. Supreme Court No. 96-6133 (June 9, 1997).

¹⁷¹See *Rosenstiel v. Rosenstiel*, 278 F.Supp. 794 (D.C.N.Y. 1967).

¹⁷²See *Johnson v. Zerbst*, 304 U.S. 458, 58 S.Ct. 1019 (1938); *Pure Oil Co. v. City of Northlake*, 10 Ill.2d 241, 245, 140 N.E.2d 289 (1956); and *Hallberg v. Goldblatt Bros.*, 363 Ill. 25 (1936).

¹⁷³See *Janove v. Bacon*, 6 Ill.2d 245, 249, 218 N.E.2d 706, 708 (1955).

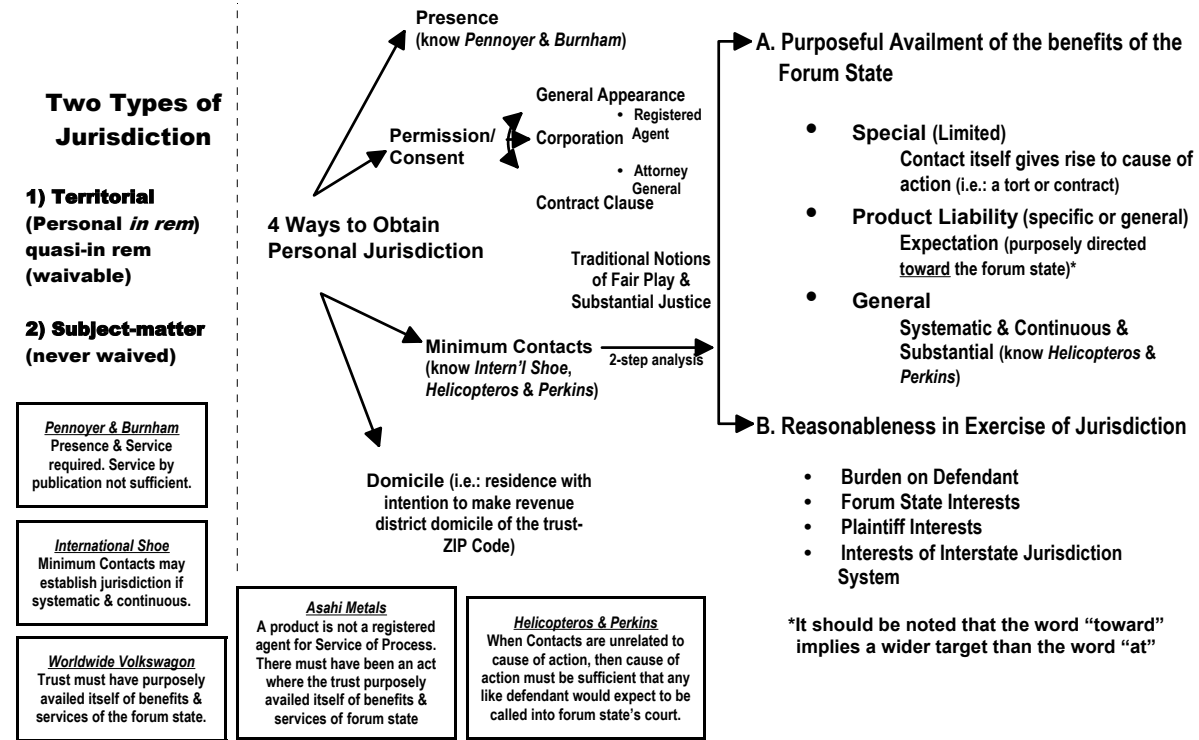
¹⁷⁴See *Wilson v. Moore*, 13 Ill.App.3d 632, 301 N.E.2d 39 (1st Dist. 1973).

¹⁷⁵See *Austin v. Smith*, 312 F.2d 337, 343 (C.A.D.C. 1962); and *English v. English*, 72 Ill.App.3d 736, 393 N.E.2d 18 (1st Dist. 1979).

¹⁷⁶See *Martin-Tregona v. Roderick*, 29 Ill.App.3d 553, 331 N.E.2d 100 (1st Dist. 1975).

¹⁷⁷See *Morris v. Gilmer*, 129 U.S. 315, 326-327 (1889). Once a judge has knowledge that subject-matter jurisdiction is lacking, he has no discretion but to dismiss the action, and failure to do so subjects the judge to personal liability.

Obtaining Jurisdiction Over the Trust (or Trustee)



Given the preceding sections on the unincorporated banking association under H.J. Res. 192, and all of the above regarding the “other Property” nature of the states today, it is easy to see why these courts are *ipso facto* courts of limited jurisdiction, having no jurisdiction over subject-matter in “the Territory”. But assuming for the sake of explanation that subject-matter jurisdiction did exist, then personal (or personal *in rem*)¹⁷⁸ jurisdiction over the trust and its trustee(s) can only be obtained in four ways, either by the trust’s or trustee’s—

- **Presence**¹⁷⁹ (i.e., its/his being served with a copy of the summons and complaint while physically present in the forum jurisdiction);
- **Domicile**¹⁸⁰ (i.e., residence alone is a basis for exercising jurisdiction. In the case of corporations, domicile is the state in which they are incorporated, and in the case of Express Trusts, the place of their situs);
- **Permission or Consent**¹⁸¹ (i.e., a trustee either personally or on behalf of the trust, having not been properly served, can nevertheless give the forum court permission

¹⁷⁸That is to say, “against the thing” as though it were a person vested with legal rights, as is the case with proceedings against vessels under admiralty-maritime law. In proceedings *in rem*, the standards of *Int’l. Shoe* regarding fairness and substantial justice that govern *in personam* actions are applicable. See *Shaffer v. Heitner*, 433 U.S. 186 (1977).

¹⁷⁹The physical presence of a defendant in the forum is a sufficient basis for acquiring jurisdiction over him, no matter how brief his stay might be, as long as it is served while present. See *Pennoyer v. Neff*, 95 U.S. 714 (1877).

¹⁸⁰See *Milliken v. Meyer*, 311 U.S. 457 (1941).

¹⁸¹See *Hess v. Pawloski*, 274 U.S. 352 (1927). Under this doctrine, a forum state can legislate that a nonresident

to exercise jurisdiction. Depending on the act of the trustee, permission can be given well in advance of any lawsuit filed and the consent can also be implied); and

- **Minimum Contacts**¹⁸² (i.e., having sufficient dealings or affiliations with the forum jurisdiction which make it reasonable to require the trust/trustee to defend a lawsuit brought in the forum state. If the state has no contacts, ties or relations with the trust or trustee(s), personal jurisdiction cannot be obtained in this manner).¹⁸³ The four principles regarding minimum contacts are, that:
 1. The trust's or trustee's activity must be continuous and systematic in the forum jurisdiction, and the cause of action must be related to that activity;
 2. Sporadic or casual activity of the trust or trustee(s) in the forum jurisdiction does not justify the exercise of jurisdiction in a cause of action unrelated to that activity;
 3. If the trust's or trustee's contacts are sufficiently substantial and of such a nature as to make the exercise of jurisdiction reasonable, then *general*¹⁸⁴ jurisdiction may be exercised by the forum over the trust or trustee(s); and
 4. If the trust's or trustee's activity is sporadic or consists only of a single act, then *specific*¹⁸⁵ jurisdiction may be exercised by the forum only when the cause of action arises out of that activity or act.

Unlike subject-matter jurisdiction, once personal jurisdiction is obtained, it can never be lost. And if the trust (or trustee) permits or makes a general appearance, it cannot be later denied. Contrary to the general appearance which constitutes consent, the trust or trustee(s) may avoid personal jurisdiction by making a *special* appearance for the purpose of attacking the forum court's personal jurisdiction,¹⁸⁶ and may even attack, so to speak, subject-matter jurisdiction. Generally, a challenge to subject-matter jurisdiction constitutes consent, a waiver of personal jurisdiction for the purpose of

motorist using its highways be deemed to have appointed a local official as his agent to receive service of process in any action growing out of the use of the vehicle within the state. But the state must have provided actual notice of this to the nonresident motorist beforehand. The obvious question is whether the trustee is a motorist, and whether the automobile is a vehicle— there is a significant difference. Nevertheless, consent comes in the form of a general appearance.

¹⁸²See *International Shoe Co. v. Washington*, 326 U.S. 310 (1945). Under this doctrine, the trust or trustee who has never set foot in the forum may nevertheless be subject to valid personal jurisdiction so as to be compelled to defend a lawsuit there provided that it/he has minimum contacts with the forum such that would not offend traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

¹⁸³The minimum contacts must have been had in the form of purposeful affiliation on the part of the trust or trustee(s). See *Hanson v. Denckla*, 357 U.S. 235 (1958).

¹⁸⁴This is defined as “[a] court’s authority to hear all claims against a defendant, at the place of the defendant’s domicile or the place of service, without any showing that a connection exists between the claims and the forum state.” Black’s Law Dictionary, *supra*. In order for a court to assert general jurisdiction there must be substantial forum related activity on the part of the trust or trustee(s). See *Helicopteros Nacionales de Colombia v. Hall*, 466 U.S. 408 (1984).

¹⁸⁵This is defined as “[j]urisdiction that stems from the defendant’s having certain minimum contacts with the forum state so that the court may hear a case whose issues arise from those [specific] minimum contacts.” Black’ Law Dictionary, p. 857 (7th ed. 1999).

¹⁸⁶See *Dickson v. Parker*, 212 P. 42, 59 Cal.App. 778 (1922); and *Brown v. Riner*, 496 P.2d 907.

arguing the merits, but this doctrine does not apply to cases involving Express Trusts over which subject-matter jurisdiction clearly does not exist.¹⁸⁷

With presence, the trust is created and functioning in “the Territory,” doing business under the general common law,¹⁸⁸ not the private international law of the unincorporated banking association. Presence can therefore only be construed to exist where the trust has become a member of the association via residence in a revenue district (indicated by ZIP code) or is engaged in a particular transaction. Even then, the trust or trustee(s) must be “present” by membership or transaction in that particular political subdivision (“State”) and given notice “reasonably certain”¹⁸⁹ to reach them (i.e., service of process via either personal service, substituted service, or constructive service) as service by mere publication in a newspaper of general circulation has been held insufficient in such cases.¹⁹⁰ (And, as a side-note, mere physical presence in a courtroom during some phase or proceeding does not constitute an appearance.)¹⁹¹

With domicile, the situs of the trust is in the united States of America, designating “the Territory,” the Union of states as the land of which the common law is supreme law. Unless the trustee(s), in behalf of the trust, adopts a principal place in the “other Property,” establishes a residence in a place subject to the federal jurisdiction with the “intention to make it [its] domicile,”¹⁹² personal jurisdiction is lacking in this respect. It must purposely establish an address directly in a revenue district (e.g., via post office box, or street address) to be liable in this way. But if the trustee(s) contracts with a private mail service provider or carrier, signing “without prejudice,” then personal jurisdiction does not attach— this effects an exclusion of any third-party intervenor/overseer, and reserves the obligation to the course of the common law of contracts (i.e., bilateral contracts not trilateral ones).

With permission, it may seem tricky but it is rather simple. Any answer to any presentment from a forum jurisdiction constitutes giving them permission to exercise authority, unless it is specifically a special appearance for the sole purpose of challenging their authority (personal jurisdiction). If the trustee(s) do not answer in general, or subordinate themselves, then consent has not been given. And if the

¹⁸⁷A challenge to the subject-matter jurisdiction of the court where it is clear on the face of the record that subject-matter jurisdiction is lacking is not inconsistent with a challenge to personal jurisdiction. Moreover, since the court must dismiss on its own motion, an appropriate challenge to subject-matter jurisdiction aids the court in performing its duty. The defendant should therefore be allowed to point out lack of subject-matter jurisdiction without making a general appearance. *Judson v. Superior Court*, 21 Cal.2d 11, 129 P.2d 361 is to the contrary, but it has often been criticized (see 31 Cal. L. Rev. 342; 1 Witkin, Cal. Procedure (1954), § 76, p. 346) and is overruled. *Goodwine v. Superior Court*, 63 Cal.2d 481, 485 (L.A. No. 28464. In Bank. Nov. 4, 1965).

¹⁸⁸The general law merchant is embraced under general common law, i.e., the original and unique system of commercial law in the American states, in which there is no commerce regulation of Express Trusts accept in connection with income derived from corporate stock and physical franchises under art. I, § 8, cl. 1 and 3 of the Constitution. See William A. Fletcher, *The General Common Law and Section 34 of the Judiciary Act of 1789: The Example of Marine Insurance*, 97 Harv. L. Rev. 1513, 1514 (1984).

¹⁸⁹*Mullane v. Central Hanover Tr. Co.*, 339 U.S. 306 (1950).

¹⁹⁰See *Pennoyer*, *supra*; and *Burnham v. Superior Court of California, County of Marin*, 495 U.S. 604 (1990).

¹⁹¹See *Austin v. State ex re. Herman*, 10 Ariz.App. 474, 459 P.2d 753.

¹⁹²Black's Law Dictionary, p. 1473 (4th ed. Rev. 1968).

trustee(s) (presumably under properly limited liability) enter into a contract under a forum-selection clause, then the forum selected will have personal jurisdiction. However, there are limitations to what constitute enforceable forum clauses, for if the clause is expressed in fine print, placed in the contract so as to avoid litigation,¹⁹³ unreasonable or ambiguous,¹⁹⁴ not “fundamentally fair,”¹⁹⁵ or if the clause could not have been disputed without impunity as a part of a freely negotiated contract, then it is invalid.

And with minimum contacts, the trust must purposely avail itself of benefits and services of the state¹⁹⁶ (e.g., operating a business via license, “owning” property there, contracting with the government there, availing itself of benefits or services of the legal system there—court actions, using state property, utilizing police or fire services, etc.—systematically and continuously, or sporadically but substantially enough so as to warrant the trust or trustee(s) being compelled to come into the forum).¹⁹⁷ I will not get into diversity of citizenship here, though it is wholly important to subject-matter jurisdiction in the federal courts, for it is highly improbable that it would even be necessary to bring it up in such an action, given all of the above “legal weapons” with which the Express Trust is naturally armed.¹⁹⁸

As a final note, when the Express Trust is taking an action against an outside party, the preferable method is via the Commercial Process, i.e., a private (out of court) legal action instituted under the fundamental rules of commerce/trade (Business). Lawsuits should be regarded as a last resort to secure judicial enforcement of a private administrative judgment, for public suits confer full personal jurisdiction upon the court (taking a claim to a legislative court avails the trust of several benefits and services of that forum, and thereby establishes a substantial minimum contact). Even still, any action for judicial enforcement of a private judgment can be done out of court pursuant to the Commercial Process. In private actions, the maxims of commerce, the foundation of all commercial law and western legal systems, govern—

- **A workman is worthy of his hire.** Exodus 20:15; Lev.19:13; Matt.10:10; Luke 10:7; and II Tim. 2:6. Legal maxim: “It is against equity for freemen not to have the free disposal of their own property.”
- **All are equal under the Law.** Law of God — Moral and Natural Law; Exodus 21:23-25; Lev. 24:17-21; Deut. 1:17, 19:21; Matt. 22:36-40; Luke 10:17; and Col. 3:25. Legal maxim: “No one is above the law.” “Commerce, by the Law of Nations,

¹⁹³See *Johnson and Johnson v. Holland America Line-Westours, Inc.*, 557 N.W.2d 475.

¹⁹⁴See *Deiro v. American Airlines, Inc.*, 816 F.2d 1360, 1364 (C.A.9 (Or.) 1987).

¹⁹⁵*Carnival Cruise Lines, Inc. v. Shute*, 499 U.S. 585, 595 (1991); *Hodes v. S.N.C. Achille Lauroed Altri-Gestione*, 858 F.2d 905, 908 (C.A.3 (N.J.) 1988); and *Shankles v. Costa Armatori, S.P.A.*, 722 F.2d 861, 866 (C.A.1 (Puerto Rico) 1983).

¹⁹⁶See *World-Wide Volkswagen Corp. v. Woodson*, 444 U.S. 286 (1980); *Asahi Metal Industry Co., Ltd. v. Superior Court of California, Solano County*, 480 U.S. 102 (1987); also see Dick Lancial, *Benefits Accepted = Jurisdiction*.

¹⁹⁷See *Helicopteros, supra*; and *Perkins v. Benguet Consol. Min. Co.*, 342 U.S. 437 (1952).

¹⁹⁸A good case to review regarding the rule of “complete diversity” is *Strawbridge v. Curtiss*, 7 U.S. 267 (1806).

ought to be common, and not to be converted into a monopoly and the private gain of a few.”

- **In Commerce Truth is Sovereign.** Exodus 20:16; Ps. 117:2; John 8:32; and II Cor. 13:8. Legal Maxim: “To lie is to go against the mind.” Oriental Proverb: “Of all that is good, sublimity is supreme.”
- **Truth is expressed by means of an affidavit.** Lev. 5:4-5; Lev. 6:3-5; Lev. 19:11-13; Num. 30:2; Matt. 5:33; and James 5:12.
- **An unrebutted affidavit stands as the Truth in Commerce.** 1 Pet. 1:25; Heb. 6:13-15. Legal Maxim: “He who does not deny, admits.”
- **An unrebutted affidavit becomes the Judgment in Commerce.** Heb. 6:16-17. Any proceeding in a court, tribunal, or arbitration forum consists of a contest, or “duel,” of commercial affidavits wherein the points remaining unrebutted in the end stand as the truth and the matters to which the judgment of the law is applied.
- **A matter must be expressed to be resolved.** Heb. 4:16; Phil. 4:6; and Eph. 6:19-21. Legal maxim: “He who fails to assert his rights has none.”
- **He who leaves the field of battle first loses by default.** Book of Job; and Matt. 10:22. Legal maxim: “He who does not repel a wrong when he can, occasions it.”
- **Sacrifice is the measure of credibility.** One who is not damaged, put at risk, or willing to swear an oath on his commercial liability for the truth of his statements and legitimacy of his actions has no basis to assert claims or charges and forfeits all credibility and right to claim authority. Acts 7, Life and Death of Stephen. Legal maxim: “He who bears the burden ought also to derive the benefit.”
- **A lien or claim can be satisfied only through rebuttal by counter-affidavit point-for-point, resolution by jury, or payment.** Gen. 2-3; Matt. 4; and Revelations. Legal maxim: “If the plaintiff does not prove his case, the defendant is absolved.”

MAINTAINING PROPER I.R.S. RELATIONS

LAST BUT NOT LEAST, due attention must be paid to the Internal Revenue Service, for they are the lawful, legal entity, duly authorized to collect association dues (income taxes) from 14th Amendment citizens and other persons volunteering and availing themselves of the nonpayment of debt “privileges and immunities” under H.J. Res. 192, 12 USC § 95a, and 15 USC, ch. 41, § 1602(c)(d)(e). “They are considered as a debtor/creditor in a social security association (unchartered, unincorporated commune) whereby each person insures everybody else in the association by agreeing never to demand payment for debts. [It is] [u]nder this volunteer arrangement [that] these persons become primarily a U.S. citizen, secondarily a state citizen, ‘subject to’ [C]ause 1 of the 14th Amendment, while the literal 10th Amendment rights are forfeited.”¹⁹⁹

Persons under this system have only relative rights to life, liberty, and property, as they are converted into “privileges and immunities” and “civil rights”. As debtors, they

¹⁹⁹Brobst et al., *supra*.

have no absolute literal property ownership, for it has thus been converted to mere privilege of possession.²⁰⁰ Plainly put, IRS taxes serve the function of dues for the privileges and immunities associated with participating in the “federated unincorporated interstate banking association for the *non* ‘Payment of Debts.’”²⁰¹ What’s more, the collection of income taxes is crucial to maintaining order within the association, more so than for any proposed funding of the association.²⁰²

But that has no bearing on a properly created and administered Express Trust. It is well-settled that a trust, created by parties not availing themselves of such privileges and immunities, is not illegal even if formed for the purposes of limiting or avoiding taxes altogether.²⁰³ Nor is the Express Trust subject to federal excise taxes imposed on corporations.²⁰⁴ Nor is an Express Trust taxable merely because it possesses all the accessory powers possessed by corporations.²⁰⁵ Nor can the dignity of its trust instrument be set aside simply because a “tax benefit” results, whether by design or by accident.²⁰⁶ Frankly, unless it incurs a tax liability in the United States via a valid forum clause in a contract, membership in the unincorporated banking association, becoming an employer, employee, or worker, or corporate entity, deriving income from corporate stocks or physical franchises, accepting other “privileges and immunities” under the 14th Amendment, or availing itself of any other services or benefits of public policy invoking the doctrine of reciprocity, it has nothing to do with the IRS.

However, as it might stand as a beacon of organizational liberty, the IRS has a reasonable interest in making sure the Express Trust example does not upset compliance on the part of the participants in the system, and the IRS, thus, takes every precaution to shoot down trusts of any kind which even hint at having origins lying outside of its jurisdiction, i.e., the “other Property”. The IRS also takes every opportunity to construe every instance (however rare) in which such a trust is dismantled in court as being attributable to some purported inherent unlawful nature of non-statutory trusts, going so far as to classify all as “abusive trusts,” though any trust (statutory or common-law, express, implied, resulting or constructive) which abuses the fundamental

²⁰⁰“Debts . . . are not the property of the debtors; they are obligations of the debtors, and only possess value in the hands of creditors. With the creditor they are property [absolute][.]” *Jones v. New Pittsburgh Courier Pub.*, 364 A.2d 1315, 469 Pa. 157, quoting *In re State Tax on Foreign-Held Bonds*, 82 U.S. 300, 320, 21 L.Ed. 179 (1872). Also see Beale, *supra* at p. 114.

²⁰¹Brobst et al., *supra* at p. 14.

²⁰²“If . . . government refrains from regulation [i.e., taxes] . . . the worthlessness of the money [i.e., credit] becomes apparent, and the fraud upon the public can be concealed no longer.” John Maynard Keynes, *The Economic Consequences of the Peace*, p. 225 (1920 ed.). It has been argued that in 1930s America, with the outcry for quick-fixes as opposed to independent recovery, the public requested (democratically) any “fraud” which might be construed to have occurred, and is therefore a party to it, collaterally.

²⁰³See *Weeks v. Sibley, supra*; and *Phillips v. Blatchford, supra*.

²⁰⁴See *Eliot v. Freeman, supra*; and *Maine Baptist Missionary Convention, supra*.

²⁰⁵See *Phillips v. Blatchford, supra*; *Gleason v. McKay*, 134 Mass. 419 (1883); *O’ v. Somerville*, 190 Mass. 110 (1906); and Opinion of the Justices, 196 Mass. 603, 627 (1908). Also see *The Personality of the Corporation and the State*, 21 L. Q.tly. Rev. 365, 370 (Oct. 1905).

²⁰⁶See *Edwards v. Commissioner*, 415 F.2d 578, 582, (C.A.10 (Okla.) 1969).

principles upon which equity rests is, technically, abusive. Yet, they never speak of them. The reader should be keen to know how to discern good information from dis- and misinformation.

In the event that the IRS takes an action against a purported “common law trust” or “pure trust,” (a.k.a. “poor trust”) it is generally a lawful action, actually in response to some unlawful activity on the part of the parties or defect in their relation. And your author has never seen an action taken against a properly drawn Express Trust, i.e., one drafted from the perfected language and form of that “best legal talent” to which the power and superiority of the Express Trust is attributed. Even in those cases, a thorough analysis of jurisdiction, such as the one treated in the previous section, sheds light on the blatant limitations of the IRS’s jurisdiction. The fact that they manage to establish subject-matter jurisdiction *and* personal *in rem* jurisdiction attests to the ignorance of the defendants, and indeed, personal jurisdiction usually would never have been obtained without the defendants’ unwitting consent.²⁰⁷ It is no secret that all actions of the IRS are commenced as proceedings in admiralty.²⁰⁸

CONCLUSION

THE ONLY WAY to thrive in twenty-first century America is to “own nothing and control everything.” And though any trustee is the legal owner of the property in trust, the trustee(s) of Express Trusts do not experience the incidents of *personal* ownership due to properly limited liability via trust instrument and the utter shrewdness of the trustee(s). It is this limited liability that makes the Express Trust equal to a corporation; but it is the flexibility of choice of whether to function in the common law venue with absolute rights in commerce under the general law-merchant or in the Roman civil law venue with only relative rights in commerce under private international law that makes the Express Trust, *inter alia*, far superior and unique. Under the aegis of the Express Trust, the trustee is clothed in a veil impenetrable but from within. This suit of armor is the trust instrument, which molds to the trustee in all his good-faith dealings in behalf of the trust, fully compensating him for his services, privileging his use of trust property, and enabling his exercise of creativity in business endeavors, all without the excessive weight of inquisitorial legislation. When one is trustee, he is in a fiduciary position looked upon with respect for the integrity inherent in the position. This has always been the case, except where the power has been abused. But even so, history is clear that there are far more abuses of power via corporations than Express Trusts.²⁰⁹

Given the statistics, and the fact that all governments in twenty-first century America are corporations themselves, it becomes clear that the extensive recognition

²⁰⁷In fact, Judge Robert H. Bork, from whose name the phrase “bork’d in the senate” was derived, is reported to have openly acknowledged, during one of his Senate confirmation hearings, that every prisoner in America today is there because he gave his permission to be imprisoned, in one way or another. (Supposedly, this is the reason why the Senators “bork’d” him so badly.)

²⁰⁸It is highly recommended that the reader read *Are You Lost At Sea* (1995), available at http://www.friends-n-family-research.info/FFR/Merrill_AreYouLostAtSea.pdf (last visited Aug. 10, 2005).

²⁰⁹See Chandler, *supra* at p. 10, *et seq.*

given to corporations by the state is simply because of the special-interest relationship between the two. In a way, it is the same relationship between the “John” and the prostitute,²¹⁰ and it is therefore in the best interest of the prostitute to take measures to keep the “John” in business in order to indirectly protect her own “job security”. This is the cause for the general sentiment towards Express Trusts operating in the statutory world. It is this relationship that has bred the irrational view that “*some trusts have been created independent of statute; some non-statutory trusts are said to have done harm; therefore public policy demands that hereafter all trusts shall be regulated.*” The irrationality of this line of reasoning will be more apparent if the syllogism is paraphrased thus: “*some lawyers have been Presidents of the United States; some Presidents are said to have done harm; therefore public policy demands that hereafter all lawyers shall be prohibited.*”

The bottom line is that the Express Trust relation is the most flexible means to owning nothing and controlling everything, and when utilized shrewdly, affords its participants with all the ingredients to live well, *naturally*. It is also true that no matter how many arguments are made against the Express Trust, the learned reader will always see through the propaganda and spin, knowing from his own knowledge and independent study that an Express Trust, in reality, can only fail due to some misgiving or impropriety on the part of the trustee— the trustee must also *trust* himself.

²¹⁰Governor Fernald of Maine, in his address to the Maine Legislature in 1909, referring to reformation of the corporation laws said, “[w]hile it is true that the State is receiving large revenue from this source, it is also true that, in a considerable measure, *it is the price of prostitution*. I hope you will take steps to remodel them, along evident lines of reform, thus restoring to Maine her self-respect.” [Italics emphasis added.]

SAMPLE FORMS

Asset Purchase Agreement
Assignment
Authorized Representative Contract
Authorized Representative Introduction Letter
Authorized Representative Letter of Authorization
Authorized Representative Limited Power of Attorney
Basic Management Agreement
Bill of Sale
Bonds
Exchange Proposal
IRS Form SS-4 Sample
IRS Form SS-4 (with instructions)
Lease Proposal
Minutes of Meetings
Motor Vehicle Lease Agreement
Notice of Assignment and Instructions for Payment
Private Property Bill of Exchange Contract
Property Management Agreement
Standard Independent Contractor Agreement
Universal Independent Contractor Agreement

If the trustee wishes to have minutes, forms, special documents, contracts or agreements pertaining to specific trust affairs prepared for them, NACRS can do so for a service fee.

For private actions, NACRS offers a ComPro CD-ROM containing the Commercial Process complete with a 60-minute Macromedia Flash presentation, step-by-step guidelines, charts, case law, crucial supplemental materials, and over 100 editable sample forms in rich text format.

**For more information, visit us online at:
<http://www.nacrs.org>**

**Or contact us by telephone or e-mail:
(702) 357-8830 • contactus@nacrs.org**

ASSET PURCHASE AGREEMENT

THIS ASSET PURCHASE AGREEMENT (this "Agreement") is made and entered into as of this 30th day of April, 200X (the "Effective Date") by and between John W. Doe, individually and in his personal capacity ("Seller") and ABC123 Training Group, an Express Trust Organization ("Buyer") with the express written consent of Susan Q. Public and Jane A. Doe, Beneficiaries.

RECITALS:

- A. Seller wishes to sell the personal property, in "as-is" condition identified in Exhibit A ("Assets"), attached hereto and incorporated by reference.
- B. Buyer wishes to purchase the Assets in as-is condition.
- C. Seller desires to sell to Buyer, and Buyer desires to purchase from Seller the Assets on the terms, conditions, and warranties as set forth herein.

IN CONSIDERATION OF ten and no/100 dollars, the foregoing and the mutual promises and warranties contained herein, and good and other valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, Buyer, Seller and Physicians agree as follows:

1. **CLOSING AND POSSESSION.** The sale of Assets shall be effected as of the Closing Date by Seller's execution and delivery of a bill of Sale (the "Bill of Sale") and other instruments of conveyance and transfer reasonably necessary to effectively transfer to Buyer all of Seller's right, title and interest in the Assets. At the Closing, Seller shall sell, transfer, convey, assign and deliver good title to the Assets pursuant to the instruments of conveyance (i.e., the Bill of Sale), free of all liens, encumbrances, claims, and any other restrictions whatsoever.

2. **ASSETS TO BE PURCHASED.** On the Closing Date, Seller shall sell to Buyer, and Buyer shall purchase from Seller, the Assets listed on Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made a part hereof in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

3. **PURCHASE PRICE.** The total purchase price for the Assets is \$750,000.00 payable to Seller (the "Purchase Price") as follows:

[here enter method of payment, e.g., by promissory note, bond, installments, etc.]

4. **REPRESENTATIONS, WARRANTIES, COVENANTS AND DISCLOSURES OF SELLER.** Seller represents, warrants, covenants, and discloses to Buyer, and understands that Buyer will rely on such representations, warranties, covenants and

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disclosure of Seller, as follows:

- a) Seller has all requisite power and authority to own the Assets, to enter into this Agreement, and to consummate the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, and does so willingly and freely. Entering into this Agreement and carrying out the actions provided for in this Agreement will not cause Seller to be in breach or violation of any other agreement or legal obligation;
- b) Seller, by his position as Trustee of [ABC123 Training Group](#), (hereafter “the Trust”) has learned of Buyer’s total available funds, which exceed the value of the Assets. Furthermore, Seller is aware that Buyer is not privy to Seller’s total costs and profit potential in the transaction contemplated by this Agreement;
- c) Seller, in the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, has exercised no unfair advantage gained by his position as Trustee of the Trust, either by way of misrepresentation, concealment of, or omission to disclose important information obtained by his position.
- d) Seller is not aware of any liens and incumbrances on the Assets as of the date of this Agreement, or that any liens or incumbrances are likely to occur against the Assets at some future point;
- e) The fair market value of the Assets being sold “as-is” is no less than the Purchase Price.
- f) Seller has not assigned, transferred or given as collateral to any party other than Buyer any right or interest of Seller in the Assets;
- g) Seller is not aware of any actual or potential claims against the Assets that would delay the closing of the distribution(s) of the Trust and/or materially reduce Seller’s Interest;
- h) Seller is not and shall not be a party to any agreement or transaction that could have the effect of impairing Buyer's right to receive distribution(s) from the Trust up to the full value of the Assets;
- i) To the best of Seller's knowledge and belief, the fair market value of the Assets are as represented in Exhibit "A" and any additional documents provided by Seller;
- j) There are no facts or circumstances known to the Seller that may adversely affect the value of the Assets or prevent or delay the distribution of Trust cash or assets to Seller;
- k) If Seller’s interest in the Assets arises out of a Will, Seller is the individual referred to in the Will and Seller is not aware of any person(s) who has (have) or may contest Seller’s entitlement under the Will, the validity of the Will, or the distribution of assets of that Estate as provided for in the Will;
- l) Seller has not entered into this Agreement with any intent or purpose to avoid or defraud any creditor of Seller;
- m) Seller does not now or in the immediate future contemplate filing for bankruptcy and has not consulted any lawyer or other professional regarding the possibility of a bankruptcy filing, assignment for the benefit of creditors, or any other insolvency proceeding. In the event that Seller should file for relief under Title 11, United States Code, Seller acknowledges that Buyer shall be entitled to enforce all its rights as a creditor secured by a lien on all of Seller’s distributions from that Estate pursuant to 11

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U.S.C. § 506, including rights to seek adequate protection of such interest as defined by 11 U.S.C. § 361; and

n) Buyer is entitled to rely on each and every of the representations and warranties set forth in subparagraphs (a) through (m), above.

5. **ADDITIONAL PROTECTION FOR BUYER.** Seller grants Buyer a security interest in all of Seller's Estate, including Seller's interest in other estates, as collateral to secure payment of the value of the Assets and any damages, expenses, costs and fees to Buyer for any default of this Agreement by Seller. Buyer may at any time file a UCC-1 or other documents perfecting Buyer's security interest(s) pursuant to this Agreement. Buyer will release the UCC-1 when the value of the Assets and, if applicable, damages, expenses, costs and fees have been paid in full to the Trust.

6. **CLOSING DOCUMENTS AND PROCEDURES.** At the Closing, the parties shall deliver to each other the following:

a. **Bill of Sale.** Seller shall sign and deliver to Buyer the Bill of Sale.

b. **Payment.** Buyer shall pay the certain amount of \$750,000.00, and such other documents, instruments, and confirmations as the parties may reasonably request to effectuate and consummate fully the transactions contemplated by this Agreement. [or whatever documents or payment instruments agreed to in item # 3]

7. **BROKERAGE.** No agent, broker, person, finder or firm acting on behalf of Seller or under its authority is or shall be entitled to any commission or broker's fee or finder's fee from Buyer or Seller in connection with any of the transactions described in this Agreement. Seller and Buyer each represent and warrant to the other that they have not dealt with any broker, finder or other person entitled to any broker's or finder's commission, fee or other similar compensation in connection with the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.

8. **MISCELLANEOUS.**

a. **Complete Agreement.** This Agreement and the exhibits hereto contain the final, complete expression of the understanding among the parties with respect to the transactions completed by them and supersedes any prior or contemporaneous agreement, representation or understanding, oral or written, by any of them. The terms and provisions of all exhibits (as set forth in the table of contents) are incorporated into this Agreement.

b. **Attorneys' Fees and Costs.** In any action or dispute, at law or in equity, that may arise under or otherwise relate to this Agreement, including, but not limited to any action regarding non-competition, the prevailing party shall be entitled to reimbursement of its attorneys' fees, costs and expenses from the non-prevailing party.

c. **Assignability; Successors and Assigns.** This Agreement is not

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assignable by any party without the prior written consent of all of the parties, and any attempted assignment without the prior written consent of the other parties shall be invalid and unenforceable against the other parties.

d. **Governing Law and Forum.** This Agreement is governed by the general common law of contracts. Any disputes under this Agreement, or any action taken to enforce or determine the rights and obligations of the parties under this Agreement must be brought in the appropriate federal or state court located in [state wherein obligation was made]. The parties hereby submit to the jurisdiction, and waive any objection to the venue, of such courts.

e. **Binding Effect.** This Agreement shall be binding on and inure to the benefit of the parties and their respective successors-in-interest, heirs, successors and assigns. All parties bound by this Agreement shall take any and all actions necessary or appropriate to effectuate the Agreement's purposes and provisions.

THE PARTIES HERETO have executed this Agreement on the day and date first written above.

SELLER:

BUYER:

John W. Doe, As an Individual

ABC123 Training Group

By:

Authorized Representative

I/We, **Jane A. Doe and Susan Q. Public**, as Beneficiaries of BUYER, do hereby consent, freely, willfully, intelligently, independently, and without undue influence of Seller or Authorized Representative, to the transaction contemplated by this agreement on this ____ day of _____, 200X.

Jane A. Doe

Susan Q. Public

State of _____)
)ss.
County of _____)

On this ____ day of _____, 200X A.D., before me, a Notary Public, came **Jane A. Doe** and **Susan Q. Public** as the Beneficiaries, John W. Doe as an Individually, and _____ as Authorized Representative, and acknowledged the signing thereof to be their voluntary act and deed. IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereunto subscribe my name and affix my notarial seal on the day and date aforesaid.

_____ Notary Public

My Commission Expires: _____

(stamp)

(seal)

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE CONTRACT

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR AGREEMENT

THIS CONTRACT (“Agreement”) is made on this 30th day of April, 20__, by and between the Board of Trustees of **ABC123 Training Group**, an Irrevocable Express Trust Organization, hereinafter referred to as the “BOARD,” “TRUST,” or “**ABC123 Training Group**” and **Jim Aaron Dean in care of 1234 Number St., Cleveland, Ohio, near [98765]**, hereinafter “Authorized Representative,”¹ and collectively referred to as the “Parties.”

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the TRUST has certain duties, responsibilities, and obligations which the TRUST desires to delegate to another, specifically to the Authorized Representative for a twenty-five (25) year limited period of time, and on the terms and conditions, and for the consideration hereinafter set forth; AND WHEREAS, the Authorized Representative is qualified to provide such management services and desires to provide such services to the TRUST on such terms and conditions and for such consideration.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and the covenants and agreements contained herein, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, and the Parties hereto, intending to be lawfully and legally bound, agree as follows:

STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT

ARTICLE I AFFILIATION AND DUTIES

1.1 Affiliation; Effective Date. The BOARD agrees to engage the services of the Authorized Representative, and Authorized Representative agrees to provide services to the TRUST, commencing as of the date of this Agreement subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

1.2 Position. The TRUST shall engage the services of **Jim Aaron Dean** in the position of Authorized Representative. As such, the Authorized Representative shall have the responsibilities, duties, and authority enumerated under the Articles of Indenture (Trust Indenture No. **123456789**) of the TRUST as well as those customarily pertaining to such position consistent with such a Trust Organization and such other services as may be requested of the Authorized Representative by the TRUST.

1.3 Primary Duties and Services.

(i) The BOARD hereby appoints the Authorized Representative to be the day-by-day manager with respect to any and all dealings, business or

¹ This form can be modified for Managing Agents.

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otherwise, the TRUST may have. The BOARD does so for the purpose of providing for a day-by-day manager to be solely responsible for any and all activities of the TRUST.

(ii) The Authorized Representative agrees to serve in said position and to perform diligently and to the best of Authorized Representative's abilities said duties and services referred to in Section 1.2, and in such a manner as the Authorized Representative deems advisable within the parameters as established and acceptable to the TRUST, as well as, such additional duties and services appropriate to such position which the Parties mutually agree upon from time to time.

(iii) The Authorized Representative shall have the ability and authority to perform such duties in accordance with the Authorized Representative's sole judgment and discretion.

(iv) The Authorized Representative shall be solely responsible for obtaining and maintaining all appropriate information concerning the day-by-day, as well as business plans and future activities of the TRUST.

(v) The BOARD does hereby transfer all absolute authority to the Authorized Representative to manage the business and day to day operating affairs of the TRUST.

1.4 Other Interests. During the period of time as set forth in this Agreement, the Authorized Representative shall have full discretion to devote as much time and effort in performing his/her duties as the Authorized Representative deems necessary in order to carry out and maximize Authorized Representative's performance hereunder. The Authorized Representative may engage, directly or indirectly, in other related business' that do not conflict with the Authorized Representative's duties hereunder and/or the business of the TRUST. The foregoing limitations shall not prohibit the Authorized Representative from serving in other capacities for other organizations, or on the boards of other organizations, provided that the Authorized Representative's service in such other capacities for such other organizations and/or on such boards is not adverse to the interests of the TRUST.

1.5 Independent Status. The Authorized Representative shall be maintained as an independent contractor for purposes of taxation and liability. The Authorized Representative shall be solely responsible for any and all withholding of applicable tax, as well as, any and all other contractor-related expenses.

1.6 Primary Office Location. The Authorized Representative shall perform his or her duties at any location which he/she deems appropriate, but shall represent the address of the TRUST as the Primary Office Location for any and all accounts, transactions, and business of the TRUST, as well as for all expenses incurred by the TRUST. The Authorized Representative shall represent the address of the TRUST as his/her official Primary Office Location for all such purposes.

1.7 Bank and Other Financial Accounts. The Authorized Representative shall have the ability and authority to open bank and other financial accounts in the name of the TRUST, and to obtain any and all services with any institutions the Authorized Representative may deem

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necessary and beneficial to the TRUST. All monies for accounts of the TRUST shall be maintained by the Authorized Representative.

1.8 Contracting. Authorized Representative has the ability to bind the TRUST in any manner, and in his/her sole discretion, without prior notification to the TRUST.

1.9 Business and Other Materials. The Authorized Representative shall have sole discretion in the production and/or distribution of all such materials representational of the TRUST's business and other interests, including but not limited to, any stationary or business cards representing the TRUST.

ARTICLE II TERM, DURATION, AND TERMINATION

2.1 Term. The Authorized Representative's affiliation by the TRUST shall commence on the effective date as set forth in Article 1, Section 1.1. The Authorized Representative shall perform his duties for a period of twenty-five (25) years or until termination by either of the Parties as herein provided. The Authorized Representative Contract is automatically terminated upon the Authorized Representative's death, sale of TRUST business, or all of the TRUST's assets, leaving the TRUST with nothing of value. This Contract can only be terminated by a determination of malfeasance by a Judge of a court of competent jurisdiction, or by a determination of mental incompetence of the Authorized Representative by a recognized medical authority appointed by such a Judge.

2.2 The Parties' Right to Terminate. The provisions of this article are in no way intended to take away or otherwise waive any rights that the TRUST may have under the law. The Parties shall have the right to terminate this Agreement at any time with sixty (60) days prior written notice for "Cause," which for the purposes of this Agreement shall mean (A) the Authorized Representative's dishonesty or fraud with respect to the reputation and/or affairs of the TRUST which materially and adversely affects the business and other relations of the TRUST, provided the Authorized Representative fails to cure such ill repute within a reasonable period of time; or (B) a material breach by the Authorized Representative or the TRUST of this Agreement or any other agreement by and between the Authorized Representative and the TRUST, provided either party fails to cure such breach, if curable, within thirty (30) days of receipt of written notice thereof. Upon Termination of this contract for any reason the current or resigning Authorized Representative can only be replaced by the first in line Successor Authorized Representative. This shall in no way affect or preclude the consummation of any transaction, which was effected prior to such termination.

ARTICLE III COMPENSATION AND MANAGING FEES

3.1 Managing Fee. The TRUST shall pay the Authorized Representative a monthly management fee of **One Thousand (1,000.00) dollars**. This fee is payable upon the acceptance of this contract and is payable each month thereafter. All checks must be made payable to the current Authorized Representative. The amount of this fee shall increase in proportion to the assets in the TRUST, or by written consent and approval of the BOARD.

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3.2 Expense Reimbursements. During the term of this Agreement, the Authorized Representative shall be solely responsible for any and all contractor-related expenses. All expenses, out-of-pocket and otherwise, which are incurred as a result of, as well as in the course of, carrying out the duties and responsibilities of Authorized Representative shall be reimbursed to the Authorized Representative; all reimbursements shall be made to the Authorized Representative separately and aside from the Managing Fee and in a manner agreed upon by the Parties.

3.3 Termination by the Authorized Representative. If the Authorized Representative's affiliation hereunder shall be terminated by Authorized Representative, then, upon such termination, regardless of the reason thereof, all compensation derived from managing fees and expense reimbursements shall be paid within thirty (30) days of written notice of termination.

ARTICLE IV MISCELLANEOUS

4.1 Assignment and Governing Law. This contract shall constitute a binding contract under the general common law of contracts upon acceptance by the Parties. This contract may not be assigned by either party without the other party's written consent nor by operation of law; this agreement shall be binding on the successor(s) and assignee(s) of the Parties.

4.2 Reservation of Rights.

(i) The Parties do hereby enter into this agreement without prejudice to any rights otherwise waived due to any nondisclosure or adhesion.

(ii) Use of a Notary Public in this contract does not constitute any adhesion in and of itself, nor does it alter the status or domicile of either party. The express purposes for said Notary Public is acknowledgment and witness only; not for entrance into any statutory or otherwise foreign jurisdiction.

(iii) The TRUST in no way relinquishes ownership of any of the TRUST's properties.

(iv) The failure by either Party hereto at any time to give notice of any breach by the other party, or to require compliance with any condition or provision of this Agreement shall not be deemed a waiver of said breach or noncompliance, or of any similar or dissimilar provisions or conditions at the same, or at any prior or subsequent time.

4.3 Severability. If a court of competent jurisdiction determines that any provision of this Agreement is invalid or unenforceable, then the invalidity or unenforceability of that provision shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision of this Agreement and all other provisions shall remain in force and effect.

WEISS'S CONCISE TRUSTEE HANDBOOK

4.4 Withholding Taxes. The TRUST shall not withhold from any compensation made to the Authorized Representative, pursuant to this Agreement, any applicable taxes as may be required pursuant to any law; Authorized Representative is not to be deemed an employee of the TRUST.

4.5 Headings. Paragraph headings have been inserted for purpose of convenience and shall not be used for interpretive purposes.

4.6 Modification. Any modification of this Agreement shall be effective only if in writing and agreed to by the Parties in writing.

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WEISS'S CONCISE TRUSTEE HANDBOOK

ABC123 Training Group

A Trust Organization

(Address)

(Date)

Dear Sir/Madame:

Please accept this Letter of Introduction from the Board of Trustees of this Organization that as of (day, month), 200X, Mr./Ms. (name of Authorized Representative)¹ has been hired as Authorized Representative of this Organization to conduct its day-to-day affairs. He has been given all the powers and authority necessary to conduct the business of this Organization with your company. Mr./Ms. (name of Authorized Representative) has held this fiduciary position since (date of hire by contract).

If you have any questions, you can contact the Board of Trustees at the address shown on the letterhead.

Sincerely,

John W. Doe, Trustee

John Q. Public, Trustee

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my Notarial seal on the day and year last above written.

Notary Public

My commission expires:

¹ Use this introduction letter for the authorized representative hired under the provisions of the trust instrument. It can also be modified for any trust officer or agent.

WEISS'S CONCISE TRUSTEE HANDBOOK

ABC123 Training Group

A Trust Organization

(Address)

(Date)

Dear Sir/Madame:

Please accept this Letter of Authorization from the Board of Trustees of this Organization, that as of (day, month), 200X, Mr./Ms. (name of Authorized Representative)¹ individually has the authorization to open a non-interest bearing checking account at your institution on behalf and in the name of this Organization.

Mr./Ms. (name of Authorized Representative) has no other authority or responsibility for this organization other than the above stated, and is not responsible for any of its debts or liabilities. This authorization shall continue until notified otherwise, in writing, by the Board of Trustees.

If you have any questions, you can contact the Board of Trustees at the address shown on the letterhead.

Sincerely,

John W. Doe, Trustee

John Q. Public, Trustee

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my Notarial seal on the day and year last above written.

Notary Public

My commission expires:

¹ Use this letter of authorization for purposes of open a bank account. But it can be modified to serve any purpose.

LIMITED POWER OF ATTORNEY

ABC123 Training Group, a Trust Organization, (hereinafter the "principal") of (City, State), herewith appoints (name of Authorized Representative) of (City, State), as its attorney in fact, to act in the place and stead and with the same authority as Principal would have to do only the following acts:

To open a non-interest bearing checking account and conduct any and all business regarding deposit accounts, loans, safe deposit box, or other banking business in regard to said account at the First Confederated Bank, of Thomasville, Georgia. This power shall specifically include, but is not limited to the right to deposit, withdraw, sign checks or drafts, make stop payment orders, and to conduct any banking transactions necessary or possible in regard to the Organization's banking relationship with the First Confederated Bank.

This power of attorney shall be in effect from (day, month), 200X to (day, month), 200X.

ABC123 Training Group, As Principal

John W. Doe, Trustee

John Q. Public, Trustee

State of _____)
)ss.
County of _____)

John W. Doe and John Q. Public, Board of Trustees for ABC123 Training Group personally appeared before me and acknowledged the execution of this limited power of attorney for the purposes set forth therein.

Dated: _____

Notary Public

MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

This Agreement made and entered into this the (#) day of (month), 200X, by and between (name of Trust), an Express Trust Organization, located at (address) hereafter referred to as the “Manager”, and (name of Trust), an Express Trust Organization located at (address) subscribing this Agreement, at the end hereof, hereafter referred to as the “Client”.

WITNESSETH:

Whereas, the Client is in the business of providing particularly described in Paragraph 1 below, which business the Client wishes to have managed for limited periods of time, and whereas, the Manager is in the business of providing management services and is willing to provide such services for the Client upon the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth.

Now therefore, in consideration of the foregoing and in consideration of the covenants hereinafter set forth, it is agreed by and between the Manager and the Client as follows:

1. Services: The Client hereby appoints the Manager to be the day by day manager with respect to any or all of the aforementioned business, property, or articles listed and more particularly described below: (refer to Sample 3 for format of listing particularities).

2. Procedure: The Client may transfer all titles, interest, deeds, mortgages, leases or agreements to the Manager for a period no longer than ten (10) years. Ninety (90) days prior to the expiration date regarding this Agreement, the parties may agree to extend this Agreement for another ten (10) years. This agreement may not be extended more than three (3) times.

3. Duration and Termination: For good cause such as death, sale, or disposition of any or all of the articles listed in paragraph one, and/or any emergency or crises which may affect the financial status of the Client, this Agreement may be terminated by either party at any time with sixty (60) days prior written notice to the other. In the event written notice of termination is provided, the Manager shall make changes only with the consent of the Client. Termination of this Agreement shall in no way affect or preclude the consummation of any transaction which was initiated prior to such termination. All properties and articles described in Paragraph 1 shall be promptly delivered to the Client, Guardian, Heir(s), Executor, or Personal Representative after termination, with reasonable delay allowed for recordation of titles, deed mortgages, or leases.

4. Powers, Acts, and Omissions of the Manger: In connection with the rendering of services to the Client as provided herein, the Manager acknowledges with this Agreement to undertake and effect transactions on behalf of and at the risk of the Client in such a manner as the Manager deems advisable with prior notice and approval by the Client.

5. Managing Fees: The Client shall pay the Manager a monthly management fee of (written amount) (numeric amount in parenthesis) dollars per month. This fee is payable upon

WEISS'S CONCISE TRUSTEE HANDBOOK

the acceptance of this Agreement and payable each month thereafter. All checks must be made payable to: (state name).

Should this Agreement be terminated any time prior to the "fee is due" date, there shall be no credit allowed for the remaining days nor shall the Client receive a refund.

6. Further Privacy Provisions: This Agreement and all of the trust business shall be kept protected by the common law privacy rights available in every applicable jurisdiction. The penalty for the release of any information pursuant to the material contained with the context of this Agreement or any related material, such person or persons shall be fined or made party of a tort action in the amount of not less than Three Hundred Thousand (\$300,000.00) dollars.

7. Liability: The Client in no way relinquishes ownership of his businesses or property(ies). The Manager may not convert any of the property(ies) held in the trust without the Client's written consent. The Manager may not be held liable for any actions which he may perform in his capacity as Manager unless the Manager has been found by a court of competent jurisdiction to have acted outside his scope of employment, or that he has acted in bad faith in discharging the duties of this Agreement.

8. Effective Date, Assignment, Governing Law: This Agreement shall constitute a binding agreement upon its acceptance by the Manager provided, however, that the Client may rescind this Agreement without penalty within five (5) business days after the execution date set forth below. This Agreement may not be assigned by either party without the other party's written consent. This Agreement shall constitute a contract entered into and governed by the laws of (name of state) and shall be binding upon the successors and assignees of the parties thereto.

This Agreement made and executed by the Manger and Client this (#) day of (month), 200X.

Witness

Client

Witness

Witness

Manager

BILL OF SALE

Dated: _____

John W. Doe, an individual, referred to as "SELLER", sells, bargains and conveys all of SELLER'S right, title and interest in:¹

Make: _____

Model: _____

Style of the vehicle: _____

Year of vehicle: _____

VIN: _____

to **ABC123 Training Group**, an Express Trust Organization, referred to as "BUYER".

SELLER acknowledges receipt of a total of \$ _____ & _____/100 Dollars) from BUYER in full payment of the purchase price of the goods conveyed hereby. SELLER warrants that there are no liens or encumbrances on the goods sold, and that SELLER's title to the goods is clear and merchantable. SELLER shall defend BUYER from any adverse claims to SELLER's title to the goods sold.

The goods herein are not sold by a merchant in the field. THESE GOODS ARE SOLD WITHOUT UCC WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, including MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. BUYER acknowledges examining the goods sold herein. This provision may not be applicable, and legal rights may vary between states.

The parties agree to the terms and conditions stated herein:

SELLER:

BUYER:

By _____

Authorized Representative

I/We, **Jane A. Doe** and **Susan Q. Public**, as Beneficiaries of BUYER, do hereby consent, freely, willfully, intelligently, independently, and without undue influence of Seller or Authorized Representative, to the transaction contemplated in this bill of sale on this _____ day of _____, 200X.

Jane A. Doe

Susan Q. Public

¹ This form can be modified for any transfers of property from trustee to trust or vice versa simply by altering the description of the property sold. This document should always be completed in conjunction with purchase agreement in support.

WEISS'S CONCISE TRUSTEE HANDBOOK

Sample 1¹

BOND

I/We, **John W. Doe** and **John Q. Public**, Board of Trustees in behalf of **ABC123 Training Group**, an Express Trust Organization of **in care of 1234 Number St., Cleveland, Ohio, near [98765]**, acknowledge the Organization's indebtedness to _____, of _____[address], _____[city], _____ County, _____[state], of **\$750,000.00**, lawful money of the United States, to be paid to _____, _____[his or her] legal representatives, successors, or assigns on or before _____[date], with interest at the rate of % _____ per annum from this date, payable at maturity, for which payment I bind myself and my legal representatives and successors.

I/We, the Board of Trustees, have caused this agreement to be executed at _____[place of execution] on this _____ day of _____, 200X.

John W. Doe, Trustee

John Q. Public, Trustee

State of _____)
)ss.
County of _____)

On this _____ day of _____, 200X A.D., before me, a Notary Public, came **John W. Doe** and **John Q. Public** (Board of Trustees), and acknowledged the signing thereof to be his voluntary act and deed. IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereunto subscribe my name and affix my notarial seal on the day and date aforesaid.

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: _____

(stamp)

(seal)

¹ Use this form for general bond, as for property purchased on the private credit of the trust, a general acknowledgment of indebtedness to a single entity.

Sample 3³

BOND

ABC123 Training Group, an Express Trust Organization in care of 1234 Number St., Cleveland, Ohio, near [98765], ("principal"), and _____, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of _____[state], with its principal office located at _____[address], _____[city], _____ County, _____[state], and qualified and authorized to transact a surety business in _____[state] ("surety"), are indebted to _____[obligee], of _____[address], _____[city], _____ County, _____[state], in the sum of \$_____, for the payment of which principal and surety bind ourselves and our legal representatives and successors, jointly and severally.

The condition of the obligation of this bond is that:

1. Principal and _____[obligee] are the parties to a contract, a copy of which is attached, under the provisions of which principal has agreed to _____[set forth contractual obligations of principal].
2. If principal complies in all respects with all terms and conditions of the attached contract, and performs all acts by _____[him or her] to be performed under the contract, and within the time limits set forth, then this obligation shall be void; otherwise it shall remain in full force and effect.

Premium: \$_____.

Each party to this bond has caused it to be executed at _____[place of execution] on this _____ day of _____, 200X.

PRINCIPAL:

SURETY:

By _____
 John W. Doe, Trustee

By _____

By _____
 John Q. Public, Trustee

State of _____)
)ss.
 County of _____)

John W. Doe and John Q. Public, Board of Trustees for ABC123 Training Group (Principal) and _____ (Surety) personally appeared before me and acknowledged the execution thereof to be his voluntary act and deed.

Dated: _____

_____. Notary Public

³ Use this form for bond against non-performance of contract.

Sample 4⁴

BOND

ABC123 Training Group, an Express Trust Organization in care of 1234 Number St., Cleveland, Ohio, near [98765], ("principal"), and _____, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of _____[state], with its principal office located at _____[address], _____[city], _____ County, _____[state], and qualified and authorized to transact a surety business in _____[state] ("surety"), are indebted to _____, of _____[address], _____[city], _____ County, _____[state] ("obligee"), for \$ _____, to be paid to obligee or obligee's legal representatives, successors, or assigns, for which payment principal and surety do bind ourselves and our legal representatives and successors, jointly and severally.

The condition of the obligation of this bond is that:

1. Principal has agreed in writing to convey to _____, the above-named obligee, good title in fee simple by warranty deed in and to real property situated in _____ County, _____[state], and more particularly described as follows: _____[legal description], subject, however, to the following: _____[set forth all liens, encumbrances, and title defects excepted from warranty of title].

2. If principal, on or before _____[date], or such later date as obligee may specify, shall execute and deliver to obligee or to obligee's nominee a good and sufficient deed conveying the described real property, accompanied by assurance of title in fee simple, subject only to the liens, encumbrances, and defects set forth above, _____[by title policy issued by _____ Title Company of _____(address) in the face amount of \$ _____ or as the case may be], then this obligation shall be null and void; otherwise it shall remain in full force and effect.

The premium for which this bond is executed is \$ _____.

Each party to this bond has caused it to be executed at _____[place of execution] on this _____ day of _____, 200X.

PRINCIPAL:

SURETY:

By _____
John W. Doe, Trustee

By _____

By _____
John Q. Public, Trustee

State of _____)
)ss.
County of _____)

John W. Doe and **John Q. Public**, Board of Trustees for **ABC123 Training Group** (Principal) and _____ (Surety) personally appeared before me and acknowledged the execution thereof to be his voluntary act and deed.

Dated: _____

Notary Public

⁴ Use this form for a conveyance of real property.

Sample 5⁵

BOND

ABC123 Training Group, an Express Trust Organization in care of 1234 Number St., Cleveland, Ohio, near [98765], ("principal"), and _____, of _____[address], _____[city], _____ County, _____[state] ("surety"), acknowledge our indebtedness to _____[obligee], of _____[address], _____[city], _____ County, _____[state], in the sum of \$_____, for which payment, well and truly to be made, principal and surety do bind ourselves and our legal representatives and successors, jointly and severally.

The condition of the obligation of this bond is that if principal shall indemnify obligee, obligee's legal representatives, successors, and assigns, against any and all loss or damage that may be caused or occasioned by, or that may arise from _____[set forth risk or risks for which indemnity given], and against all liability whatsoever accruing or resulting from such loss or damage, then this obligation shall be void; otherwise it shall remain in full force and effect.

Each party to this bond has caused it to be executed at _____[place of execution] on this ____ day of _____, 200X.

PRINCIPAL:

By _____
John W. Doe, Trustee

By _____
John Q. Public, Trustee

State of _____)
)ss.
County of _____)

SURETY:

By _____

John W. Doe and **John Q. Public**, Board of Trustees for **ABC123 Training Group** (Principal) and _____ (Surety) personally appeared before me and acknowledged the execution thereof to be his voluntary act and deed.

Dated: _____

_____ Notary Public

⁵ Use this form for indemnification of an obligee for a risk involved in a business venture, transaction, etc.

PROPOSAL TO EXCHANGE PROPERTY

To: (name of trustee(s))
Board of Trustees of (name of Trust),
an Express Trust Organization.
(Address)

From: [John Q. Public](#), Exchanger
(Address)

Re: Exchange of (brief identification of property) for Capital Interest in the Organization¹

(Date)

Dear Sir/Madame:

After considering the benefit of transferring property into your organization, I have decided that an exchange of my property for Capital Interest holds a promise of attractive future benefits. This offer is, therefore, submitted for your consideration. I hereby propose to exchange the property described below for Capital Interest.

Further, it is understood that such an exchange would be neither a gift, nor a sale, but an exchange. If this meets with your approval, please reply.

Description of Property:

[set forth detailed description]

Existing Liens against the property, if any:

None.

Please respond at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

[John Q. Public](#), Exchanger

¹ Or set forth what the property is to be exchange for.

Application for Employer Identification Number

(For use by employers, corporations, partnerships, trusts, estates, churches, government agencies, Indian tribal entities, certain individuals, and others.)

EIN

OMB No. 1545-0003

▶ See separate instructions for each line. ▶ Keep a copy for your records.

Type or print clearly.	1 Legal name of entity (or individual) for whom the EIN is being requested ABC123 Training Group	
	2 Trade name of business (if different from name on line 1)	3 Executor, trustee, "care of" name John W. Doe, Trustee
	4a Mailing address (room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. box) c/o 1234 N. Number Street, #567	5a Street address (if different) (Do not enter a P.O. box.)
	4b City, state, and ZIP code Cleveland, Ohio 98765	5b City, state, and ZIP code
	6 County and state where principal business is located	
	7a Name of principal officer, general partner, grantor, owner, or trustor n/a	7b SSN, ITIN, or EIN n/a

8a Type of entity (check only one box)

<input type="checkbox"/> Sole proprietor (SSN) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Estate (SSN of decedent) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan administrator (SSN) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporation (enter form number to be filed) ▶ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Trust (SSN of grantor) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Personal service corp.	<input type="checkbox"/> National Guard <input type="checkbox"/> State/local government
<input type="checkbox"/> Church or church-controlled organization	<input type="checkbox"/> Farmers' cooperative <input type="checkbox"/> Federal government/military
<input type="checkbox"/> Other nonprofit organization (specify) ▶ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> REMIC <input type="checkbox"/> Indian tribal governments/enterprises
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) ▶ Trust Organization	Group Exemption Number (GEN) ▶ _____

8b If a corporation, name the state or foreign country (if applicable) where incorporated

State	Foreign country
-------	-----------------

9 Reason for applying (check only one box)

<input type="checkbox"/> Started new business (specify type) ▶ _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Banking purpose (specify purpose) ▶ to open a bank account
<input type="checkbox"/> Hired employees (Check the box and see line 12.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Changed type of organization (specify new type) ▶ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Compliance with IRS withholding regulations	<input type="checkbox"/> Purchased going business
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) ▶ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Created a trust (specify type) ▶ _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Created a pension plan (specify type) ▶ _____

10 Date business started or acquired (month, day, year)

11 Closing month of accounting year

12 First date wages or annuities were paid or will be paid (month, day, year). **Note:** If applicant is a withholding agent, enter date income will first be paid to nonresident alien. (month, day, year) ▶

13 Highest number of employees expected in the next 12 months. **Note:** If the applicant does not expect to have any employees during the period, enter "-0-." ▶

	Agricultural	Household	Other
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14 Check one box that best describes the principal activity of your business.

<input type="checkbox"/> Construction	<input type="checkbox"/> Rental & leasing	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation & warehousing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accommodation & food service	<input type="checkbox"/> Wholesale-other	<input type="checkbox"/> Retail
<input type="checkbox"/> Real estate	<input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing	<input type="checkbox"/> Finance & insurance	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)		

15 Indicate principal line of merchandise sold; specific construction work done; products produced; or services provided.

16a Has the applicant ever applied for an employer identification number for this or any other business? Yes No
Note: If "Yes," please complete lines 16b and 16c.

16b If you checked "Yes" on line 16a, give applicant's legal name and trade name shown on prior application if different from line 1 or 2 above.

Legal name ▶ _____ Trade name ▶ _____

16c Approximate date when, and city and state where, the application was filed. Enter previous employer identification number if known.

Approximate date when filed (mo., day, year)	City and state where filed	Previous EIN
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Third Party Designee	Complete this section only if you want to authorize the named individual to receive the entity's EIN and answer questions about the completion of this form.	
	Designee's name Jim A. Dean, Authorized Representative	Designee's telephone number (include area code) (123) 456-7890
	Address and ZIP code 4567 S. Letter Street, #890, Cleveland, Ohio 98765	Designee's fax number (include area code) (098) 765-4321

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this application, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

Name and title (type or print clearly) ▶	Applicant's telephone number (include area code) (123) 456-7890
Signature ▶	Applicant's fax number (include area code) (098) 765-4321
Date ▶	

Application for Employer Identification Number

(For use by employers, corporations, partnerships, trusts, estates, churches, government agencies, Indian tribal entities, certain individuals, and others.)

EIN

OMB No. 1545-0003

▶ See separate instructions for each line. ▶ Keep a copy for your records.

Type or print clearly.	1 Legal name of entity (or individual) for whom the EIN is being requested	
	2 Trade name of business (if different from name on line 1)	3 Executor, trustee, "care of" name
	4a Mailing address (room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. box)	5a Street address (if different) (Do not enter a P.O. box.)
	4b City, state, and ZIP code	5b City, state, and ZIP code
	6 County and state where principal business is located	
	7a Name of principal officer, general partner, grantor, owner, or trustor	7b SSN, ITIN, or EIN

8a Type of entity (check only one box)

<input type="checkbox"/> Sole proprietor (SSN) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Estate (SSN of decedent) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan administrator (SSN) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporation (enter form number to be filed) ▶ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Trust (SSN of grantor) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Personal service corp.	<input type="checkbox"/> National Guard <input type="checkbox"/> State/local government
<input type="checkbox"/> Church or church-controlled organization	<input type="checkbox"/> Farmers' cooperative <input type="checkbox"/> Federal government/military
<input type="checkbox"/> Other nonprofit organization (specify) ▶ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> REMIC <input type="checkbox"/> Indian tribal governments/enterprises
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) ▶ _____	Group Exemption Number (GEN) ▶ _____

8b If a corporation, name the state or foreign country (if applicable) where incorporated

State	Foreign country
-------	-----------------

9 Reason for applying (check only one box)

<input type="checkbox"/> Started new business (specify type) ▶ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Banking purpose (specify purpose) ▶ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Hired employees (Check the box and see line 12.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Changed type of organization (specify new type) ▶ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Compliance with IRS withholding regulations	<input type="checkbox"/> Purchased going business
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) ▶ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Created a trust (specify type) ▶ _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Created a pension plan (specify type) ▶ _____

10 Date business started or acquired (month, day, year) **11** Closing month of accounting year

12 First date wages or annuities were paid or will be paid (month, day, year). **Note:** If applicant is a withholding agent, enter date income will first be paid to nonresident alien. (month, day, year) ▶

13 Highest number of employees expected in the next 12 months. **Note:** If the applicant does not expect to have any employees during the period, enter "-0-." ▶

	Agricultural	Household	Other
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14 Check **one** box that best describes the principal activity of your business.

<input type="checkbox"/> Construction	<input type="checkbox"/> Rental & leasing	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation & warehousing	<input type="checkbox"/> Health care & social assistance	<input type="checkbox"/> Accommodation & food service	<input type="checkbox"/> Wholesale-agent/broker
<input type="checkbox"/> Real estate	<input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing	<input type="checkbox"/> Finance & insurance	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Wholesale-other	<input type="checkbox"/> Retail

15 Indicate principal line of merchandise sold; specific construction work done; products produced; or services provided.

16a Has the applicant ever applied for an employer identification number for this or any other business? Yes No
Note: If "Yes," please complete lines 16b and 16c.

16b If you checked "Yes" on line 16a, give applicant's legal name and trade name shown on prior application if different from line 1 or 2 above.
 Legal name ▶ _____ Trade name ▶ _____

16c Approximate date when, and city and state where, the application was filed. Enter previous employer identification number if known.

Approximate date when filed (mo., day, year)	City and state where filed	Previous EIN
--	----------------------------	--------------

Third Party Designee	Complete this section only if you want to authorize the named individual to receive the entity's EIN and answer questions about the completion of this form.	
	Designee's name	Designee's telephone number (include area code) ()
	Address and ZIP code	Designee's fax number (include area code) ()

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this application, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

Name and title (type or print clearly) ▶	Applicant's telephone number (include area code) ()
Signature ▶	Applicant's fax number (include area code) ()
Date ▶	

Do I Need an EIN?

File Form SS-4 if the applicant entity does not already have an EIN but is required to show an EIN on any return, statement, or other document.¹ **See also the separate instructions for each line on Form SS-4.**

IF the applicant...	AND...	THEN...
Started a new business	Does not currently have (nor expect to have) employees	Complete lines 1, 2, 4a-6, 8a, and 9-16c.
Hired (or will hire) employees, including household employees	Does not already have an EIN	Complete lines 1, 2, 4a-6, 7a-b (if applicable), 8a, 8b (if applicable), and 9-16c.
Opened a bank account	Needs an EIN for banking purposes only	Complete lines 1-5b, 7a-b (if applicable), 8a, 9, and 16a-c.
Changed type of organization	Either the legal character of the organization or its ownership changed (e.g., you incorporate a sole proprietorship or form a partnership) ²	Complete lines 1-16c (as applicable).
Purchased a going business ³	Does not already have an EIN	Complete lines 1-16c (as applicable).
Created a trust	The trust is other than a grantor trust or an IRA trust ⁴	Complete lines 1-16c (as applicable).
Created a pension plan as a plan administrator ⁵	Needs an EIN for reporting purposes	Complete lines 1, 2, 4a-6, 8a, 9, and 16a-c.
Is a foreign person needing an EIN to comply with IRS withholding regulations	Needs an EIN to complete a Form W-8 (other than Form W-8ECI), avoid withholding on portfolio assets, or claim tax treaty benefits ⁶	Complete lines 1-5b, 7a-b (SSN or ITIN optional), 8a-9, and 16a-c.
Is administering an estate	Needs an EIN to report estate income on Form 1041	Complete lines 1, 3, 4a-b, 8a, 9, and 16a-c.
Is a withholding agent for taxes on non-wage income paid to an alien (i.e., individual, corporation, or partnership, etc.)	Is an agent, broker, fiduciary, manager, tenant, or spouse who is required to file Form 1042 , Annual Withholding Tax Return for U.S. Source Income of Foreign Persons	Complete lines 1, 2, 3 (if applicable), 4a-5b, 7a-b (if applicable), 8a, 9, and 16a-c.
Is a state or local agency	Serves as a tax reporting agent for public assistance recipients under Rev. Proc. 80-4, 1980-1 C.B. 581 ⁷	Complete lines 1, 2, 4a-5b, 8a, 9, and 16a-c.
Is a single-member LLC	Needs an EIN to file Form 8832 , Classification Election, for filing employment tax returns, or for state reporting purposes ⁸	Complete lines 1-16c (as applicable).
Is an S corporation	Needs an EIN to file Form 2553 , Election by a Small Business Corporation ⁹	Complete lines 1-16c (as applicable).

¹ For example, a sole proprietorship or self-employed farmer who establishes a qualified retirement plan, or is required to file excise, employment, alcohol, tobacco, or firearms returns, must have an EIN. **A partnership, corporation, REMIC (real estate mortgage investment conduit), nonprofit organization (church, club, etc.), or farmers' cooperative must use an EIN for any tax-related purpose even if the entity does not have employees.**

² However, **do not** apply for a new EIN if the existing entity only (a) changed its business name, (b) elected on Form 8832 to change the way it is taxed (or is covered by the default rules), or (c) terminated its partnership status because at least 50% of the total interests in partnership capital and profits were sold or exchanged within a 12-month period. (The EIN of the terminated partnership should continue to be used. See Regulations section 301.6109-1(d)(2)(iii).)

³ Do not use the EIN of the prior business unless you became the "owner" of a corporation by acquiring its stock.

⁴ However, IRA trusts that are required to file **Form 990-T**, Exempt Organization Business Income Tax Return, must have an EIN.

⁵ A plan administrator is the person or group of persons specified as the administrator by the instrument under which the plan is operated.

⁶ Entities applying to be a Qualified Intermediary (QI) need a QI-EIN even if they already have an EIN. **See Rev. Proc. 2000-12.**

⁷ See also *Household employer* on page 4. (**Note:** State or local agencies may need an EIN for other reasons, e.g., hired employees.)

⁸ Most LLCs **do not** need to file Form 8832. See **Limited liability company (LLC)** on page 4 for details on completing Form SS-4 for an LLC.

⁹ An existing corporation that is electing or revoking S corporation status should use its previously-assigned EIN.



PROPOSAL TO LEASE EQUIPMENT

To: (name of Trustee)
Trustee of (name of Trust),
an Express Trust Organization.
(Address)

From: (name of Trust)
(Address)

(Date)

Dear Trustee:

Having a need for office equipment, furniture, medical equipment, and the like, I herein propose to lease office space and (list of items) property from your Trust to (name of Trust) business.

In consideration, I would consider paying an annual lease payment to your Trust for an amount agreed upon by written lease agreement.

Please respond at your earliest convenience.

Trustee

Lessor

Trustee or Witness

Witness

Sample 1

Trustee Minutes Successor Trustee(s)¹

At this meeting, the Board of Trustees of (Name of Trust), held in (city/state²) on the (day) of (month, 200X).

1. The first item of business is the Appointment of Successor Trustees for (name of Trust) Trust Organization. The names of (person's name) and (2nd person if desired) were entered as nominees for the successorship.

2. The Board of Trustees, upon unanimous approval have agreed that (person's name) and (2nd person if desired) are duly appointed as Successor Trustee(s) and will remain as same until their demise, resignation or removal.

3. It is agreed that the Successor Trustee(s) will sign the independent contracting agreement and contract with the same terms as entered into by the original Trustee(s) contained in the Minute Book of this Trust Organization.

4. All duties in the agreement and contract must be agreed to by the Successor Trustee(s).

There being no further business to come before this meeting, on motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the meeting is adjourned.

John Wayne Doe, Trustee

John Q. Public, Trustee

¹This format should be used to add Successor Trustees and can be modified for Co-Trustees.

²This should be the city where the meeting was held. It can be the city where the Trustee lives or you can use the city where the Trustees receive mail.

Sample 2

Trustee Meeting Corrective Action³

At this meeting, the Board of Trustees of (name of Trust) held in (city/state) on the (day) of (month, 200X). These minutes while executed this day are effective as of the (#) day of (month, 200X).

1. The first item of business is the proposed (enter the proposal) for (name of Trust) Trust Organization.
2. The Board of Trustees upon consideration and approval instruct the Trustee to (enter the order of the Trustees)
3. The Trustee is instructed to place this item onto the inventory of the corpus on Schedule "A".

(List items to be entered on schedule A)

There being no further business to come before this meeting, on motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the meeting adjourned.

John Wayne Doe, Trustee

John Q. Public, Trustee

³This format can be used to add or remove assets from the Trust corpus, schedule A.

Sample 3

Trustee Meeting

Establishing Outside Investment Funding

At this meeting, the Board of Trustees of (name of Trust) held in (city/state) on the (day) of (month, 200X).

1. The first item of business is the proposed investment of \$XXXXXXX with (name of investment company) for the benefit of this Trust Organization.
2. The Trustees will accept into the trust corpus \$XXXXXXX from (name of person contributing the asset) in their personal capacity.
3. The Authorized Representative is instructed to deposit said funds directly into (name of investment company) on behalf of this trust and enter the investment into the corpus records on schedule A.
4. The Board of Trustees, upon consideration and approval instruct the Authorized Representative to (describe the action: such as purchase a new air conditioner with a proposed cost \$XXXXXX).
5. The Authorized Representative is directed to place this investment item onto the inventory of corpus on Schedule "A".

The items were considered and passed unanimously, in accordance with the original Minutes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7.⁴ There being no further business to come before this meeting, on motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the meeting adjourned.

John Wayne Doe, Trustee

John Q. Public, Trustee

⁴This allows you to compile Trust Meeting Minutes for bulk consideration by the Trustees. However, if there was only one item being purchased, you'd only include the Minute Meeting number of that item.

Sample 4

Trustee Minutes Non Real Estate Asset

At this meeting, the Board of Trustees of (name of Trust) held in (city/state) on the (day) of (month, 200X).

1. The first item of business is the proposed acceptance of (list or describe the item⁵) into this Trust Organization.

2. The Trustees will accept the property into the trust corpus from (name of person contributing the asset) in their personal capacity.

3. The Authorized Representative is instructed to enter the description into the corpus records on Schedule "A", and prepare a Private Property Bill of Exchange Contract & Agreement and submit to the trustees for signature.

There being no further business to come before this meeting, on motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the meeting adjourned.

John Wayne Doe, Trustee

John Q. Public, Trustee

⁵ If you intend to list a series of items, modify this example so that the end of the sentence comes after the list. A sample of the Private Property Bill of Exchange Contract & Agreement has also been included in this section.

Sample 5

Trustee Minutes Real Estate Assets

At this meeting, the Board of Trustees of (Name of Trust), held in (city/state) on the (day) of (month, 200X).

1. The first order of business is the authorization for the acceptance of real property into this Trust Organization.

2. It is RESOLVED and declared by the Trustees that the Trust Organization shall accept a deed for real property made out to the name of the Trust for property located an (street address of property), in the Country of (name of county), in the State of (name of state). The legal description is as follows: (enter the legal description of the property).

The deed reflects that the transfer was for \$10 and other valuable consideration.

It is RESOLVED and declared by the Trustees that the Organization shall accept a Quit Claim deed, Grantor deed, or Warranty deed for the title transfer of said real property and list said property on Schedule "A" of this Organizations Contract of Indenture. The Authorized Representative is instructed to file said deed with the local county recorder on behalf of this Organization.

It was resolved and declared by the Trustees that this day's minutes are to be made available for disclosure upon request of any party challenging the authority of the Organization to act in this matter. All items were considered and passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before this meeting, on motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the meeting adjourned.

John Wayne Doe, Trustee

John Q. Public, Trustee

Sample 6

Trustee Minutes

Authorization for Authorized Representative to use a Trust Asset

At this meeting, the Board of Trustees of (Name of Trust), held in (city/state) on the (day) of (month, 200X).

1. The first item of business is the proposed authorization to (describe the desired action⁶).
2. The Trustees accept the proposal identified above.
3. The Authorized Representative is instructed to (describe the action based on #1 above⁷)

There being no further business to come before this meeting, on motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the meeting adjourned.

John Wayne Doe, Trustee

John Q. Public, Trustee

⁶If authorization to use a Trust automobile, then describe it here. Remember to be thorough and include enough information to identify the item being authorized.

⁷This is where the Trustees instruct the Authorized Representative to use the Trust automobile in a certain manner or follow a certain protocol. A single statement is usually sufficient for this portion.

Sample 7

Trustee Minutes

Authorization for Authorized Representative to use specific Trust Assets (Real Estate)

At this meeting, the Board of Trustees of (Name of Trust), held in (city/state) on the (day) of (month, 200X).

1. The first item of business is the proposed authorization of a Lease of Real Property for use by the Authorized Representative.

2. The Trustees accept a Lease contract in the name of the Authorized Representative on a month-to-month basis. Said contract is to be funded with consideration from the Authorized Representative's existing compensation contract.

3. The Authorized Representative is instructed to prepare a Lease Agreement⁸ and obtain fire/liability insurance naming the Trust as an additional insured/loss payee and submit the Lease Agreement for execution effective (insert date the property was titled into the Trust).

4. The items were considered and passed unanimously, in accordance with the original Minutes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. There being no further business to come before this meeting, on motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the meeting adjourned.

John Wayne Doe, Trustee

John Q. Public, Trustee

⁸ A sample of the Lease Agreement has also been included in this section.

Sample 8

Trustee Minutes

Authorization for Authorized Representative to Provide Specific Services

At this meeting, the Board of Trustees of (Name of Trust), held in (city/state) on the (day) of (month, 200X).

1. The first item of business is the proposed authorization of (Authorized Representative's name and describe services⁹).

2. The Trustees further authorize the Authorized Representative listed in item (1) above to select the appropriate institutions with which to contract or obtain (describe the services (or reiterate what was described above)).

There being no further business to come before this meeting, on motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the meeting adjourned.

John Wayne Doe, Trustee

John Q. Public, Trustee

⁹This format could be used to establish utilities in the name of the Trust. An example would be phone service, mailbox service, etc. Item (1) would be the Trustees name and the service would be "phone service," or "mail service," etc. You might want to include the location of the service for clarity. Item (2) would be "phone answering/voice message service," "PMB 123," etc. It really can be that simple.

Sample 9

Trustee Minutes

Revocation of the Beneficial Interest in Trust

At this meeting, the Board of Trustees of (Name of Trust), held in (city/state) on the (day) of (month, 200X), with all the Trustees being present, by unanimous accord, the following was affirmed and ratified, vis:

1. That, the Trustees revoke the beneficial interest of (name of individual).
2. That, the Trust retains ownership of said property.
3. That, the revocable status is no longer valid.

There being no further business to come before this meeting, on motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the meeting adjourned.

John Wayne Doe, Trustee

John Q. Public, Trustee

Sample 10

Trustee Minutes

Other Property Exchange – Non-Real Estate Assets

At this meeting, the Board of Trustees of (Name of Trust), held in (city/state) on the (day) of (month, 200X), with all the Trustees being present, by unanimous accord, the following was affirmed and ratified, vis:

1. The Trustees have authorized the Authorized Representative to warehouse the Trust's non-Real Estate property wherever the Authorized Representative deems to be the safest and most convenient location to manage said property.

2. The Authorized Representative is directed or charged to provide the Trustees with an updated, itemized inventory on Schedule "A" and any revisions to said schedule within the Trust Minutes Book.

3. Minutes accepting non-Real Estate property into the Trust requires Board of Trustees' acceptance.

4. On Schedule "A", enter – BEGINNING INVENTORY.¹⁰

5. Provide a Private Property Bill-of-Exchange Contract and Agreement to Trustees for all schedule "A" assets exchanged into the Trust by Exchangers.

There being no further business to come before this meeting, on motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the meeting adjourned.

John Wayne Doe, Trustee

John Q. Public, Trustee

¹⁰It is recommended that you use computer tracking whenever possible if you have a large inventory list. Also, you should consider using video/digital records whenever possible for insurance purposes.

Sample 11

Appointment of a Trustee Minutes of Meeting of

11

(An Irrevocable Express Trust Organization)

Time:

Date:

Persons Present:

Business Discussed:

1. The Trustee(s) met with (name of person) regarding his appointment as Trustee the Trust.

2. After discussion, it was mutually agreed that; (name of person) would accept the appointment as Trustee by contract.

3. The following action was taken as a result of that agreement. A Contractor Agreement was signed, Letter of Acceptance was signed, and these minutes were entered into the Trust records.

There being no further business to come before the Officers of the Trust, the meeting was adjourned.

John Wayne Doe, Trustee

John Q. Public, Trustee

¹¹Name of Trust.

Sample 12

General
Minutes of Meeting of

(An Irrevocable Express Trust Organization)

Time:

Date:

Persons Present:

Business Discussed:

After Discussion it was mutually agreed that: (detail what was agreed to).

There being no further business to come before the Officers of the Trust, the meeting was adjourned.

[John Wayne Doe](#), Trustee

[John Q. Public](#), Trustee

Sample 13

Office Lease¹²

Minutes of Meeting of

(An Irrevocable Express Trust Organization)

Time:

Date:

Persons Present:

Business Discussed:

1. The Trustees met with (name of Authorized Representative) regarding his proposal to lease office space and equipment from (name of Trust¹³) for use in his business.
2. After discussion, it was mutually agreed that (name of Authorized Representative) and (name of Trust) agreed that the lease agreement would be satisfactory as outlined in the attached lease agreement.
3. The following action was taken as a result of that agreement. A Leasing Agreement was signed¹⁴, the Proposal Letter was filed, and these minutes were filed in the Trust records reflecting the action taken.

There being no further business to come before the Officers of the Trust, the meeting was adjourned.

[John Wayne Doe](#), Trustee

Other Trust Officer¹⁵

Title

¹²This format is used when one Trust is leasing to a second Trust, but it can be modified for other entities.

¹³The name of the Trust that is being leased from, goes here.

¹⁴A sample of this document has also been included in this section.

¹⁵This might appear confusing because, as Trustee, you may be the Trustee of both Trusts involved in the leasing arrangement. The trustee may delegate the power to an authorized representative to sign for the Lessee. This method is used to create a throwaway Trust and further minimize liability of the Lessee Trust.

Sample 14

Trustee Resignation Minutes of Meeting of

(An Irrevocable Express Trust Organization)

To Whom It May Concern:

Regarding the Resignation of (name of person), from the Board of Trustees, of (name of Trust), an Irrevocable Express Trust Organization created on (day) of (month, 200X).

The undersigned herein confirms that he/she has resigned from the Board of Trustees of said Trust Organization effective on the date shown below.

The Co-Trustee, (name of person), is herein notified of this resignation, and shall appoint the next Successor Trustee, as may be named in the Trust Organization Schedules Book. The Successor Trustee shall immediately, upon acceptance of his/her appointment, become a full member of the Board of Trustees of said Trust Organization and be fully empowered to exercise all the powers and authorities granted to the Trustees under the Contract and Declaration of Trust.

Witness our hand this (#) day of (month), 200X.

John Wayne Doe, Resigning Trustee

John Q. Public, Trustee

Sample 15

Hiring of Treasurer¹⁶ Minutes of Meeting of

(An Irrevocable Express Trust Organization)

To Whom It May Concern:

Regarding the hiring of a Company Treasure.

The undersigned Trustee, acting within the powers and authorities granted by the Board of Trustees, took the following action.

1. The Trustee, having determined there was need for additional staff to help with company bookkeeping, accounting, and day-to-day business, appointed (name of person¹⁷) to serve as Company Treasurer.

2. Further, it was determined that the above named individual shall be paid from Company funds according to the terms of a contract to be negotiated and executed between the Trustee and said individual/firm

There being no more business to come before the Trustee at this time, the Executive Secretary¹⁸ was instructed to enter a record of this action in the company Minute Book.

John Wayne Doe, Trustee

John Q. Public, Trustee

Treasurer's Acceptance

I, _____ do understand the duties, powers and limitations of the Treasurer and do hereby accept this appointment as Treasurer of the above named Trust on this (#) day of (month, 200X)

Treasurer

¹⁶This form can be modified to appoint/hire any other officer as well.

¹⁷The name inserted here could be an individual, another trust, or a firm.

¹⁸As you can see, this format presumes that an Executive Secretary has been hired to handle the Trust's Records. This paragraph can be modified if there is no Executive Secretary.

Public Record Notice
When recorded, return to:
(Address)

File #:

MOTOR VEHICLE PROPERTY LEASE
CONTRACT & AGREEMENT

This contract is dated this (#) day of (month), 200X, by and between (name of Trust) of (Trust address), hereafter known as "Lessor" and (name of Trust) of (Trust address), hereafter known as "Lessee".

The Lessor and Lessee reserve all rights to the Course of the Common Law, without prejudice, and come together this date in this two party contractual relationship to lease the following described property. The Lessor does hereby lease to the Lessee the following described Motor Vehicle with the appurtenances, situated in the State of (name of State).

Property Description

Vehicle Identification Number (VIN): _____
Vehicle Make: _____
Model: _____
Color: _____

It is agreed that the lease shall be month-to-month beginning the (#) day of (month), 200X. It is agreed that the lease shall be (\$XXXXX) dollars, payable in advance on the (#) day, of each month, during the term of this lease. It is further agreed that [state additional terms for payment of lease].

Acknowledgments: The Lessor and Lessee agree and accept the terms and conditions.

Signed this (#) day of (month), 200X Signed this (#) day of (month), 200X

_____(Lessor) _____(Lessee)
All rights Reserved to the course of All rights Reserved to the course of
Common Law, Without Prejudice Common Law, Without Prejudice

by: Title by: Title

WEISS'S CONCISE TRUSTEE HANDBOOK

State of _____)
)ss.
Country of _____)

State of _____)
)ss.
Country of _____)

Then personally appeared before me
on this (#) day of (month), 200X,
(name of person) (for) the Lessor, known
to be the person who acknowledged the
foregoing document as a free act
and deed.

Then personally appeared before me
on this (#) day of (month), 200X,
(name of person) (for) the Lessor, known
to be the person who acknowledged the
foregoing document as a free act
and deed.

Notary Public Commission Expires

Notary Public Commission Expires

NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT
AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR PAYMENT

To: **XYZ Corp.**
(Address)

From: **ABC123 Training Group**
A Trust Organization
(Address)

(Date)

Dear Sir/Madame:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that for value received the undersigned **John W. Doe** (individually or collectively, as the case may be, referred to hereafter as "Assignor") has assigned and transferred to **ABC123 Training Group**, a Trust Organization, its successors and assigns ("Assignee"), Assignor's [set forth object assigned, e.g., **salary from his employment as Chief Financial Officer of your corporation**], together with presently unspecified additional amounts as may be added through additional transfers or as the result of Assignor's default (collectively, the "Assignment Amount"). Any increase in the Assignment Amount above the specific amount set forth in the attached assignment shall be deemed effective as of the date of this notice.

Please contact **ABC123 Training Group** at (123) 456-7890 to obtain the most current Assignment Amount.

Payment of the Assignment Amount shall be made directly to **ABC123 Training Group** at **1234 N. Number Street, Suite 567, Cleveland, Ohio 98765**, or as otherwise instructed in writing by **ABC123 Training Group**. No payment shall be made to Assignor unless and until the Assignment Amount is paid in full.

A receipt signed by **ABC123 Training Group** shall have the same force and effect as a receipt signed by Assignor personally.

Sincerely,

John W. Doe, Assignor

Attachment:
Assignment

PRIVATE PROPERTY BILL OF EXCHANGE
CONTRACT & AGREEMENT

This contract is dated this (#) day of (month), 200X, and is between, (name of Trust), hereafter known as "Party of the First Part", and (name of Trust), hereafter known as "Party of the Second Part".

The Parties named herein reserve all rights to the Course of the Common Law, without prejudice, and come together, this date, in this two party contractual relationship to transfer complete, absolute ownership and control, in allodium, over the following described property.

Property Description

See Attached Itemized Inventory List

The Party of the First Part warrants that he/she has full and absolute ownership rights, and rights of control of said described property and that the property is free of liens and encumbrances by this unconditional Property Bill of Exchange – Contract and Agreement.

The Party of the Second Part offers Twenty-one (21) Silver Dollars, plus trust Units of Beneficial Interest, of undetermined value, in exchange for the acquisition of all absolute ownership and control at-law, of the above, described property, on the condition that it is free from liens and encumbrances.

The Party of the First Part accepts the tendered offer at-law of the above trade on Party of the Second Parts condition, warranting that the liens and/or encumbrances have been extinguished on/or about the (#) of (month), 200X.

The Party of the First Part now delivers, by this instrument, the above described property to the Party of the Second Part, and the Party of the First Part acknowledges receipt twenty-one (21) Silver Dollars, plus Units of Beneficial Interest of undetermined value in exchange from the Party of the Second Part for the absolute ownership and control at-law, of the above described property.

This Bill of Exchange/Contract and Agreement serves as a public notice to all, that the Parties named herein are functioning by the Course of Common Law by exercising full and complete rights of absolute ownership and control over property exchanged. All rights are reserved to the Course of Common Law, non are waived without prejudice.

Acknowledgments: Both parties agree and accept the terms and conditions.

Signed this (#) day of (month), 200X Signed this (#) day of (month), 200X

_____(First)
All rights Reserved to the course of
Common Law, Without Prejudice.

_____(Second)
All rights Reserved to the course of
Common Law, Without Prejudice

by: Title

by: Title

WEISS'S CONCISE TRUSTEE HANDBOOK

State of _____)
)ss.
Country of _____)

State of _____)
)ss.
Country of _____)

Then personally appeared before me
on this (#) day of (month), 200X,
(name of person) (for) the Lessor, known
to be the person who acknowledged the
foregoing document as a free act
and deed.

Then personally appeared before me
on this (#) day of (month), 200X,
(name of person) (for) the Lessor, known
to be the person who acknowledged the
foregoing document as a free act
and deed.

Notary Public Commission Expires

Notary Public Commission Expires

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

This Agreement made and entered into this (#) day of (month), 200X by and between (name of Trust), an Express Trust Organization, of (address), hereafter referred to as the "Manager", and (name of Trust), an Irrevocable Holding Trust of (address), hereafter referred to as "Owner".

WITNESSETH:

Whereas, the Owner is in the business of real estate and apartment rental, more particularly described in Paragraph "A" below, which business the Owner wishes to have managed for limited periods of time, and whereas the Manager is in the business of providing management services and is willing to provide such services for the Owner upon the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth.

Now therefore in consideration of the foregoing and in consideration of the covenants hereinafter set forth, it is agreed by and between the Manager and the Owner as follows:

A. Services: The Owner hereby appoints the manager to be the day by day manager with respect to any or all of the aforementioned business, and hereby grants to the Manager the exclusive right to rent, lease, operate, and manage real property, more particularly described below, and to perform management services more particularly described below:

1. To use due diligence in the performance of this Agreement;
2. To manage the property known as: (list name of property);
3. To buy and sell property for the Client;
4. To rent apartments or single family dwelling units;
5. To sign as buyer or seller on any contracts for sale;
6. To make any necessary contracts with a qualified General Manager or apartment manager;
7. To lease property as lessor or lessee with or without option to purchase or renew for a term of (state the terms);
8. To keep appropriate business records of Client's real estate business;
9. To manage both the Client's property and the Client's Trust;
10. To option as optionee;
11. To option as optioner;
12. To accumulate profits and deposit, in the name of the Manager, on behalf of the Owner, those profits in a CD escrow account;
13. To advertise the availability, for rent or for sale, the above described properties, or other properties subsequently acquired;
14. To renew or cancel leases;
15. To display "For Rent" or "For Sale" signs;
16. To carry, at Owner's expense, such liability, property damage, and other insurance adequate to protect the premises, tenants, and Manager, as necessary;
17. To place Realty Board lock box on premises;

WEISS'S CONCISE TRUSTEE HANDBOOK

18. To make, or cause to be made, repairs and alterations, decorations, purchase supplies;
19. To hire, supervise, and discharge all labor or contractors required for the operation and maintenance of the premises;
20. To contract for gas, electricity, fuel, water, telephone, trash hauling, and other services;
21. To pay debts, property taxes, and special assessments as required by Owner;
22. And to do all else appropriate for the management of a diversified real estate business.

B. The Owner shall:

Indemnify and hold harmless, the Manager, from any and all costs, expenses, attorney's fees, suits, liabilities, damages, or claims for damages, including but not limited to those arising out of any injury or death to any person or persons, or damages to any property of any kind whatsoever and to whomsoever belonging, including Owner, in any way relating to the management of the premises by the Manager or the performance or exercise of any of the duties, obligations, powers or authorities herein or hereafter granted to the Manager to carry at Owner's sole cost and expense, such public liability, property damage, and workers compensation insurance as shall be adequate to protect the interests of the Manager and Owner, the policies for which shall name the Manager as well as the Owner as the party insured.

C. Procedure: The Owner may transfer all titles, interest, deeds, mortgages, leases or agreements to the Manager for a period no longer than ten (10) years.

Ninety (90) days prior to the expiration date regarding the Agreement, the parties may agree to extend this Agreement for another ten (10) years. This Agreement may not be extended more than three (3) times.

D. Duration and Termination: For good cause such as death, sale, or disposition of any or all of the articles listed in paragraph one, and/or any emergency or crisis which may affect the financial status of the Owner, the Agreement may be terminated by either party at any time with sixty (60) days prior written notice to the other.

In the event written notice of termination is provided, the Manager shall make changes only with the consent of the Owner. Termination of this Agreement shall in no way affect or preclude the consummation of any transaction which was initiated prior to such termination.

All properties and articles described in Paragraph 1 shall be promptly delivered to the Owner, Guardian, Heir(s), Executor, or Personal Representative after termination, with reasonable delay allowed for recordation of titles, deeds mortgages, or leases.

E. Powers, Acts and Omissions of the Manager: In connection with the rendering of services to the Owner as provided for herein, the Manager acknowledges with the Agreement to undertake and effect transactions on behalf of and at the risk of the Owner in such a manner as the Manager deems advisable with prior notice and approval by the Owner.

F. Managing Fees: The Owner shall pay the Manager a monthly management fee of (written amount) (numeric amount in parenthesis) dollars per month. This fee is payable upon the acceptance of this Agreement and payable each month thereafter. This fee may be paid out in profits realized by Manager, and Manager may "pay himself" instead of billing Owner, with Owner's prior approval. All checks to Manager must be made payable to: (state name).

WEISS'S CONCISE TRUSTEE HANDBOOK

Should this Agreement be terminated any time prior to the "fee is due" date, there shall be no credit allowed for the remaining days nor shall the Owner receive a refund.

G. Further Privacy Provisions: This agreement and all of the trust business shall be kept protected by the common law privacy rights available in every applicable jurisdiction. The penalty for the release of any information pursuant to the material contained with the context of this Agreement or any related material, such person or persons shall be fined or made party of a tort action in the amount of not less than Three Hundred Thousand (\$300,000.00) dollars.

H. Liability: The Owner in no way relinquishes ownership of any of his businesses or property(ies). The Manager may not convert any of the property(ies) held in the trust without the Owner's written consent. The Manager may not be held liable for any actions which he may perform in his capacity as Manager unless the Manager has been found by a court of competent jurisdiction to have acted outside his scope of employment, or that he has acted in bad faith in discharging the duties of this Agreement.

I. Effective Date, Assignment, Governing Law: This Agreement shall constitute a binding agreement upon its acceptance by the Manager provided, however, that the Owner may rescind this Agreement without penalty within five (5) business days after the execution date set forth below. This Agreement may not be assigned by either party without the other party's written consent. This Agreement shall constitute a contract entered into and governed by the laws of (name of state) and shall be binding upon the successors and assignees of the parties thereto.

This Agreement made and executed by the Manager and the Owner, this (#) day of (month), 200X.

Manager

Owner

Trustee of (name of Trust)

Trustee of (name of Trust)

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR AGREEMENT

This Agreement is a contract entered into and executed this (#) day of (month), 200X by and between (name of Trust), an Express Trust Organization, hereinafter called "User," located at (address) and (name of independent contractor), whose address is (address) hereinafter called "Contractor".

Whereas, the User is desirous of purchasing the services of Contractor, and whereas, the contractor is desirous of providing services to user for a fee, therefore, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. Purpose of this Agreement:

This Agreement is a contract by and between the above parties which:

a) Establishes an Independent Contractor Relationship
b) Absolutely excludes an employer-employee relationship, and the consequent "requirements" associated with an employer-employee relationship, including but not limited to the following:

1. The contract specifically excludes the User from withholding from the agreed price of said Contractor's services or from providing for "Workers Compensation" for the Contractor, and in so doing, recognizes that Contractor is already covered by Worker's Compensation or by his own health insurance.

2. The Contractor shall provide proof of Hospitalization coverage for any and all work related injuries and will hold User harmless for all said work related injuries.

3. The Contract specifically excludes the User from withholding FICA and Income Taxes from the agreed upon price of said Contractor's services.

4. The Contract specifically excludes the User from any requirement usually applied to employee or employee's pay, since Contractor is not an employee.

c) Is expressly based upon, recognizes and relies upon, the common law-rights and freedoms preserved in the United States Constitution (Article 1, Section 10, Paragraph 1) protecting the right of persons to contract.

d) Is subject to, and in consideration of, the following terms, conditions, mutual promises, and understanding of the User and Contractor.

2. Services to be rendered: During the term of this Agreement, Contractor shall provide the following services to the User: (list the services to be provided)

3. Compensation to Contractor: The User agrees to compensate the Contractor at the rate of (List amount) per (list conditions) based upon the actual services rendered by the Contractor, which Contractor will document to the User by weekly time card. Compensation is due and payable at the end of the contract period/accounting period.

4. Quality Control: The User retains the right to establish standards of Contractor's performance, to evaluate effects of said performance, and to approve the results of said performance.

5. Expenses and Equipment: The Contractor shall pay for all his personal and related expenses, and the User shall pay a tool allowance as the need arises, pertaining to all personal tools, equipment and materials necessary for the performance of Contractor's services, at a fee mutually agreed upon between Contractor and User.

6. Length of Contract: This contract shall run from (date) to (date) otherwise, it shall run from day-to-day or until the work of the Contractor is completed and approved by the user.

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7. Hours during which services may be performed: Contractor agrees to perform the above-described services on User's premises during User's regular business hours.

8. Termination: Either party may terminate this contract at any time.

9. Assignment: Contractor shall furnish workers in any status of training, i.e. student-trainee, apprentice, journeymen-apprentice, journeyman, or master, to perform the agreed upon services; but only by consent of the User. Neither this Agreement nor any duties or obligations under this Agreement may be assigned by Contractor without prior written consent of User.

10. Place of Work: User agrees to furnish space for use by Contractor while performing the above-described services.

11. Entire Agreement of the Parties: This Agreement supersedes any and all agreements, either oral or written, between the parties hereto with respect to the rendering of services by Contractor for User and contains all of the covenants and Agreement between the parties with respect to the rendering of services in any manner whatsoever.

Each party to this Agreement acknowledges that no representations, inducements, promises, or agreements, orally or otherwise, have been made by any party, or anyone acting on behalf of any party, that are not embodied herein, and that no other agreement, statement, or promise not contained in the Agreement shall be valid or binding. Any modification of the Agreement will be effective only if it is in writing, signed by the party to be charged.

12. If any provisions in this Agreement are held, by a court of competent jurisdiction, to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, the remaining provisions will nevertheless continue in full force without being impaired or invalidated in any way.

13. Arbitration: Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement or the breach thereof will be settled by arbitration in accordance with the rules of the American Arbitration Association, and the judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof.

14. Governing Law: This Agreement will be governed by the construed in accordance with the general common law of contracts [or [laws of the State of \(list the state\)](#)].

Witness

(Contractor)

Witness

Trustee

Witness

(User)

UNIVERSAL INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR AGREEMENT

This agreement is a contract between (name of Trust), an Express Trust Organization, of (Trust address), hereinafter referred to as "Contractor," and (name of Trust), an Express Trust Organization, of (Trust address) hereinafter referred to as "Contractee".

1. Purpose of this agreement: this agreement is a contract by and between the above parties which 1) establishes an Independent Contractor Relationship; which 2) absolutely excludes and employer-employee relationship; which 3) is expressly based upon, recognizes, and relies upon the common-law rights and freedoms preserved in the United States Constitution, Article 1, Section 10, Paragraph 1) protecting the right of persons to contract; and which 4) is subject to, and in consideration of, the following terms, conditions, mutual promises and understandings of the Contractee and Contractor.

2. Services to be rendered: During the term of this agreement, the contractor shall provide the following service(s) to the Contractee:

- a) (List the service)
- b) (List the service)
- c) (List the service)

3. Contractee will provide: During the term of this agreement, the Contractee will provide the following for the Contractor:

- a) (List of service)

4. Compensation to Contractor: The Contractee agrees to compensate the Contractor under the following Schedule:

- a) (List the compensation schedule)
- b) (List the compensation schedule)
- c) (List the compensation schedule)

5. Quality Control: The Contractee retains the right to establish standards of Contractor's performance, to evaluate effects of said performance, and to approve the results of said performance.

6. Method of Performance: The Contractor retains the right to determine which methods of performance shall be used to achieve end results.

7. Facilities: All services by the Contractor shall be performed/provided at the following location: (address where work is to be performed), Contractor's offices.

8. Expenses and Equipment: The Contractor shall pay for all of his/her personal and related expenses, and shall supply all tools, equipment and materials necessary for the performance of his/her services. Contractee may supply certain materials and equipment upon the request of Contractor outside this agreement. Such supply by Contractee shall not be construed to be a waiver of Contractor's responsibility for his/her personal and related expenses, tools, equipment, and materials.

9. Length of Contract: This contract shall run from (date) to (date); otherwise, it shall run from day-to-day, or until the work of the Contractor is completed and approved by the Contractee.

10. Termination: Either party may terminate this contract upon the delivering thirty (30) days prior, written notice of termination to the other party at the address specified herein.

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11. Competition: The Contractor is not restricted in any way from supplying his/her services to other parties while under this contract, even if such activities are related to or in competition with the business of the Contractee. The Contractor, however, is herein expressly restricted from employing the Contractee's trade secrets, formulas, and the like for his/her own gain, and from revealing the same to competitors.

12. Independent Free Agent: The Contractor is a free agent, and herein acknowledges that He/She offers services to other businesses or to the general public in the ordinary course of business, and maintains his/her office and principal place of business at the address given below. Nothing in this agreement shall be deemed or construed to create a partnership, joint venture, employer/employee relationship, or principal-agent relationship between the Contractor and Contractee.

13. Liability: Neither party shall be liable for the acts, or omissions, debts, or obligations of the other party except as expressly set forth herein.

14. Taxes and Insurance: The Contractor and his/her agents or employees (if any) affected by this Agreement, shall be liable and responsible for any and all local, state, and Common Law taxes deemed owed as a result of the performance of services hereunder, including, but not by way of limitation, Social Security, Unemployment Compensation, Workman's Compensation, or any other compulsory taxes, dues, or fees which affect employers and employees. The Contractor herein agrees to carry his/her own insurance for injury, sickness, public liability, retirement, etc. as deemed necessary as a consideration for entering into this Agreement. The Contractor further acknowledges that he/she is not entitled to benefits under Workman's Compensation and/or Unemployment Benefits during or after his/her term of service.

15. Hold Harmless: The Contractor assumes all risks and liabilities relating to the performance of services under this Agreement, and herein agrees to indemnify and hold the Contractee harmless from, and shall defend Contractee from all demands, claims, causes of action, loss, damages, or liabilities of any and every kind whatsoever, that result from the rendering Contractor's services hereunder.

16 Disputes: in the event of any unresolved disagreement between the parties herein, equity shall supersede prior adjudicated cases. Any question of interpretation or claim shall first be submitted to binding arbitration under the rules of the American Arbitration Association. The prevailing party shall be entitled to satisfaction, plus legal fees and costs.

17. Good Faith: Each party affirms that it has entered into this Agreement in good faith, and shall endeavor to execute the promises, terms, and conditions herein with diligence and in the best interest of the other party.

18. Unenforceable Provisions: If any portion or provision in the Agreement becomes void, invalid, or unenforceable, the remaining portions shall remain in force and effect.

19. Additional Terms/Conditions: (List all other terms and conditions)

20. Entire Agreement: This is the entire Agreement between the parties hereto. No part of this Agreement is oral. Any amendments, additions, or deletions to the Agreement, or any modifications of the provisions herein, shall be documented in writing and signed by both Parties.

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WEISS'S CONCISE TRUSTEE HANDBOOK

Witness our hands this (#) day of (month), 200X.

Contractor: (Trust)

Contractee:

as Trustee

as Trustee

Title