*Presentation:*Using Trusts as IRA Beneficiaries

*Presenter:*   
*Jeffrey Levine, CPA/PFS, CFP*®, CWS®, BFA®, MSA is the Lead Financial Planning Nerd for [Kitces.com](https://www.kitces.com/) and the Chief Planning Officer at [Focus Wealth Partners](https://wealth.focuspartners.com/). In 2020, Mr. Levine was named by Investment Advisor Magazine as one of the top 25 voices to turn to during uncertain times, and was named to the IA25 again in 2021. Jeff is a past recipient of the [Standing Ovation award](https://www.aicpa.org/press/pressreleases/2017/aicpa-announces-standing-ovation-honors-in-personal-financial-planning.html), presented by the AICPA Financial Planning Division, was named to the [2017 class of 40 Under 40](http://www.investmentnews.com/section/40-under-40/2017/profile/24/Jeffrey-Levine) by InvestmentNews, and as a Young Advisor to Watch by Financial Advisor Magazine in 2020. Previously, Jeffrey served as Ed Slott and Company’s Chief Retirement Strategist, where his ability to simplify the complex laws that govern individual retirement accounts, combined with his unique blend of humor and tax planning, was first recognized. You can follow Jeff on Twitter [@CPAPlanner](https://twitter.com/CPAPlanner), where he is known to break down the latest tax updates in GIF-filled tweets storms, and via his personal website, [www.FullyVestedAdvice.com](http://www.fullyvestedadvice.com/).

*Session Description:*

The U.S. retirement market is roughly $30 trillion, and more than half of those assets are held in IRAs and similar defined contribution plans. Much of that wealth rests in the hands of an aging Baby Boomer generation, and financial advisors will play a critical role in passing these assets along to clients’ beneficiaries as intended, and as tax efficiently as possible. Sometimes, that may require using a trust as an IRA beneficiary. But while these tools can be incredibly effective at protecting and preserving wealth, they can also add considerable cost and complexity to a plan. In this session, attendees will learn about some of the biggest pros and cons of leaving an IRA to a trust, as well as the critical IRA trust rules they must know in order to properly guide clients.

*Learning Objectives:*

- LO #1: Understand the difference between the treatment of see-through trusts and non-see-through trusts.

- LO #2: Review the requirements of a see-through trust

- LO #3: Discover the different types of see-through trusts and how they impact the calculation and taxation of distributions

- LO #4: Explore the “life cycle” of an IRA Trust

- LO #5: Identify common mistakes made when trusts are named as a beneficiary

- LO #6: Analyze different alternatives to naming a trust as a beneficiary

*Level of Complexity:*

- CFP / IMCA: Advanced

- NASBA: Basic

*Topic Area(s):*

- CFP: General Principles of Financial Planning/Income Tax Planning/Estate Planning

- IMCA: Taxes & Regulation

- NASBA: Specialized Knowledge (Personal Financial Planning)

*Hour(s) of CE:*

CFP: 1.0

IMCA Financial Planning: 0.0

IMCA Taxes & Regulation: 1.0

IMCA Ethics: 0.0

NASBA: 1.0

*Outline:*

* Overview of post-death distributions rules…………………………………………….. 7 minutes
* Understanding the separate account rules………………...……………………………... 3 minutes
* Common reasons to name a trust as an IRA beneficiary...………...…………………... 7 minutes
* Common reasons NOT to name a trust as an IRA beneficiary.………...………….....…. 3 minutes
* Requirements of a see-through trust……………………...…..…………..…………….. 7 minutes
* Life cycle of an IRA Trust…………………….…….……………………….………..… 3 minutes
* Conduit vs. Discretionary trusts……..…………………………………………………. 7 minutes
* Common IRA trust beneficiary mistakes………………………………………………. 7 minutes
* Recent/landmark IRA trust cases and rulings……………..…………………………….6 minutes

Total: 50 minutes