

Valerie Gagnon
11, 352e Avenue
Saint Hippolyte, Quebec
J8A 2Y3
450-560-0784
Valerieanne.gagnon@gmail.com

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Virginia State Bar
Office of Bar Counsel
Post Office Box 1810
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Members Of The Bar Association,,

Subject: Formal Complaint Against Attorney Foster Friedman partner of the Law Firm
Wade, Grimes, Friedman, Meinken & Leischner PLLC

OVERVIEW

Introduction

My parents resided at 511 Princess Street, in Alexandria, Virginia. I resided with them for 12 years until 2017. My father, Dr. Pierre Paul Gagnon, passed away on December, the 12th, 2022, and my mother, Gaetane Gagnon, recently passed on July, the 16th 2025.

On February 26, 2020, the law firm Wade, Grimes, Friedman, Meinken & Leischner PLLC re-established the ****Pierre Paul Gagnon Trust****, naming my father as the settlor, with primary beneficiary my mother, Gaetane Gagnon and as second beneficiary myself, Valerie Gagnon. Upon my father's death, Attorney Foster Friedman was appointed as the sole trustee, with the sole discretionary authority over the Trust assets for the maintenance and support of Gaetane Gagnon. It is a complex structure with many Sub-Trusts. There was a Trust set to my name the ****Valerie Gagnon's Trust****. I was never provided with any documents regarding this trust.

According to Article IX of the ****Pierre Paul Gagnon Trust****, upon my mother's passing, the remaining Trust Estate was to be fully distributed to myself, Valerie Gagnon. Despite this requirement, attorney Foster Friedman, established the creation of a new trust for my mother, last year. During the signing attorney Foster Friedman did not provide a

French translator. At aged 89, critically ill with advance chronic heart failure, my mother signed the ****Gaetane Gagnon Trust**** alone without being accompany by a person of trust (either myself, Valerie Gagnon, or any friends nor any other relatives). My mother signed the ****Gaetane Gagnon Trust**** which grants all rights in favor of attorney Foster Friedman.

It was clear to everyone around her, she had become forgetful, disoriented, frail and was incapable of understanding anything beyond mundane, daily conversations. And could not read in English.

Foster Friedman had developed a close relationship with my mother and her circle of friends, among them: Angel Thomas (CPA), Dr. Scott Leaf, and local Real Estate agents Nicole & Robert Hamilton. My mother had gotten enamored with attorney Foster Friedman. He visited her home on his own and called her here, in Quebec on numerous occasions as "a concerned friend".

Most of these people stood to financially gain from both trusts (either they have already profited or will).

Under attorney Foster Friedman's undue influence, they were compelled for example :
1- to convince my mother to transfer her ownership of her residence to the trust control by attorney Friedman 2- persuade her to move to a local retirement home and 3- have her void the ****Pierre Paul Gagnon Trust**** by signing a new Will & Trust drafted by attorney Foster Friedman, (document that made him the sole trustee of my future estate without granting me oversight.).

Before his death, my father suffered from physical and cognitive decline and my ill mother depended on him. My mother immigrated to the USA, aged 50 and again her English was rudimentary. She did not have a higher education nor the intellectual wherewithal to understand legal documents in a foreign language.

In June 2024, I submitted **The Gaetane Gagnon Trust**** to be analyzed by a the PJI law firm in Virginia that specializes in Trusts, Successions & Management. I was informed that I had been effectively disinherited and that attorney Foster Friedman was allowed to do as he pleases with all properties and funds aside from her personal account and investments portfolio. I was told that this type of Trust are normally illegal in most states in the United States. I was advised to hire a specialist in probate litigation upon my mother's passing. Before my mother passed away, my mother and I, hired Outside attorneys in Quebec, Canada (attorneys; Olivier Morin and a tax attorney Jean Francois saucier) to help my mother contest attorney Foster Friedman trustee in the ****Pierre Paul Gagnon Trust**** and to immediately dissolve the ****Gaetane Gagnon Trust****. Unfortunately, my mother passed away before they could execute their mandates. These two attorneys are ready to testify and are in the process of preparing affidavits that can I submit to you upon request.**

Specific Grounds of claim:

Bellow are the specific details of my claim against attorney Foster Friedman partner of the law firm Wade, Grimes, Friedman, Meinken & Leischner PLLC

1. **2018 Irrevocable General POA Signed By Geatane Gagnon Without Proper Understanding Of It's Legal Reach:**

Attorney Foster Friedman had my mother, Gaetane Gagnon, whose native tongue is French and speaks a rudimentary English, grant him, while cognitively impaired before her upcoming a open heart surgery, POA. She never understood the full scope of Mr. Friedman authority and access. She always believed that I her only heir, Valerie Gagnon, would have final say as to where she would live, were she to become incapacitated i.e with me at home. When questioned by outside attorneys, my mother was incapable to explain us what a POA was for nor the reason as to why she had signed this document. My mother had not been provided with a translator when she signed this document. Outside attorney Olivier Morin was then provided a General revocable POA to see about revoking attorney Foster Friedman's POA.

2. **02/26/2020 Failure To Ensure That Gaetane Gagnon Understood The Terms Of **Pierre Paul Gagnon Trust** That She Co-Signed :**

Mr. Foster Friedman knew that my mother barely spoke English. Yet he failed to provide a French translator to that effect. She never understood the concept of a Trust or what it was for. When a outside attorneys Olivier Morin, and Jean Francois Saucier, questioned my mother, she clearly had not understood that she had relinquished her full rights as the primary beneficiary to attorney Foster Friedman. My mother had access to her own personal account and never understood that the Trust's fund and her own account were not one and the same. Testimony and affidavit of both attorneys available.

3. **2021-2025 Refusal to Communicate with Secondary Beneficiary, Valerie Gagnon And Failure to Provide Katie Riverin (the sole heir were I, Valerie Gagnon to die before my mother) her Copy of my father's Will at his death.**

1- I have called attorney Foster Friedman on numerous occasions, leaving multiple voicemails, requesting a personal meeting. I have demanded a certified copy of all the documents that he had in his possession namely both Trusts and Power of Attorney. He has never responded or agreed to meet with me. And has never sent me any documents.

2- Katie Riverin, one of my mother's sister was named in Pierre Paul Gagnon's Will as the sole heir were I, Valerie Gagnon, to die before my mother, Gaetane Gagnon. This crucial fact was unbeknownst to any of us. We learned about it 2 years after my father had passed away. Katia Riverin had never been contacted by attorney Foster Friedman nor was she ever provided with a copy of my father's will.

3- If Katia Riverin had passed away then the proceed of the remaining estate were to go to some non-profit association known for being the victim of fraud and abuse worldwide. This last revelation was choking

to both of us as my mother has 3 other sisters and we have a large extended family, we had wished to provide for. My mother Gaetane Gagnon who co-signed the ****Pierre Paul Gagnon Trust**** had never been made aware of these provisions. Outside attorneys, Oliver Morin and Jean Francois Saucier, and Katia Riverin were can attest to this.

4. **02/2022-present Failure to Provide Certified Copies Of The **** Pierre Paul Gagnon Trust**** and ****Gaetane Gagnon Trust**** To Outside Attorneys Olivier Morin And Notary Catherine Belan.**

The trustee, attorney Foster Freidman ignored my mother's lawyer, attorney Olivier Morin, numerous request to be provided with certified copies of both Trusts. In the case of ****Pierre Paul Gagnon Trust****, My mother requested numerous times to receive a certified copy. Only in 2024 did she finally receive a copy of the trust. Only then could outside attorneys Oliver Morin and tax attorney Jean Francois Saucier, explained us both what were the trust's duty and the trustee's obligations. Last December 2024, I saw for the first time the critical "missing page" #10 where it is stated that at my parents death, the ****Pierre Paul Gagnon**Trust** would be dissolved and that I, Valerie Gagnon would inherit the totally of the remaining estate.

5. **2022-2025 Withholding Inheritance Distribution for the Health & Maintenance of Gaetane Gagnon As Prescribed By The Terms Of The ****Pierre Paul Gagnon Trust****.**

As per the ****Pierre Paul Gagnon Trust****, attorney foster Friedman was obligated to provide funding for Gaetane Gagnon daily maintenance however he failed to provide funding for my mother's daily maintenance including her very expensive heart medications and care givers. It was my mother who was paying from her own personal accounts all of these expenses. Her personal accountant, Mrs Angel Thomas (CPA) can attest to this. My mother never understood that the ****Pierre Paul Gagnon Trust**** was legally bound to take care of these financial burden. Aside from receiving a monthly disbursement of \$5000 my mother paid for practically everything from her own personal bank accounts at Burke & Herbert Trust. Her personal financial adviser Chris Talbert from B&H Bank Trust can attest to this.

6. **Undue Involvement Between Attorney Foster Friedman and Christopher Talbert from B&H Bank & Trust, Gaetane Gagnon's Financial Adviser.**

Gaetane Gagnon was advised never to consult with me, to tell me, Valerie Gagnon with regards to the state of her financial affairs, despite the fact that I have an undergrad certificate in Finance and Economics from Georgetown University and three masters degrees. And they we had embarked in an extensive renovation projects of our property in Quebec.

7. **02/26/2020-07/16/25, Failure To reasonably Inform The Beneficiaries during The Administration Of The Pierre Paul Gagnon's Estate :**

The terms of the ****Pierre Paul Gagnon Trust**** required attorney Foster Friedman to provide a detail accounting of the ****Pierre Paul Gagnon Trust**** finances every six months. No such updates were ever provided to Geatane Gagnon.

Outside attorney Olivier Morin, in September 2024, explained to my mother that it was her legal right to obtain this crucial information, and that it was essential

knowledge to maintain her finances. Outside attorney Oliver Morin maintained that otherwise attorney Foster Friedman could mismanage the ****Pierre Paul Gagnon Trust**** financial accounts. Fearing mismanagement, Gaetane Gagnon, the primary beneficiary then re-hired outside attorney Olivier Morin with a new mandate: to effectuate along side specialist, outside tax-attorney Jean Francois Saucier, a thorough forensic fiscal analysis of the ****Pierre Paul Gagnon Trust****. for this purpose, Attorney Olivier Morin was granted power of attorney by my mother in 09/24. My mother's passed away before they could undertake their mandate.

8. **04/2023 Pressuring Gaetane Gagnon To Property Real Estate Transfer:**

A few months after my father's death, attorney Foster Friedman started to pressure Gaetane Gagnon, to transfer her half of the residence at 511 Princess Street in Alexandria, Virginia, into the existing Family Trust without providing any legitimate explanation or whose benefit this served. To achieve this goal attorney Foster Friedman enlisted my mother close circle of friends. Attorney Foster Friedman claimed that such transfer was necessary as my mother's illness would be costing in the "millions"—false allegations given 1-her age, she was 88, 2- her advance heart failure diagnostic. Moreover, my mother could have never have suffered from a stroke the result of an open heart surgery performed 10 years prior. Attorney Foster Friedman enlisted the help of Reals Estate agents, Nicole and Robert Hamilton who were my late mother's close friends to influence her. Attorney Foster Friedman also during that period tried to convince my mother to move to a retirement home. He used Dr. Scott Leaf and accountant Angel Thomas to persuade by stirring fear in her as to her ability to stay autonomous. I personally called all of the above mentioned, to warn them that I would be suing them for undue influence if they persisted.

9. **02/2023-04/2024 Failure To Discharge His Duties As Trustee And Caused Harm: Car Titles and Urgent Potential Loss Of Property Due to Attorney Foster Friedman's strategic neglect and Inaction:**

In February 2022, my father's car collection stored in Quebec (a value upward \$300,000 CAD) was at imminent risk of theft. The owner of the storage facility had a criminal record and was refusing to allow us to retrieve the cars. We hired a criminal lawyer, outside attorney Olivier Morin, to represent Gaetane Gagnon. Provincial legal requirements demanded the titles of the cars be in my mother's name, Gaetane Gagnon for law enforcement to confiscate the cars. Outside attorney Olivier Morin tried to contacted Attorney Foster Friedman dozens of times. Attorney Foster Friedman ignored him. Attorney Foster Friedman lied about his intentions, creating diversions in order to buy time. He tried to have my mother forge her late husband's signature. He claimed that the United State Post Office had lost his request to the DMV in Virginia. He was impervious to the tremendous pressure we were all exerting on him (outside attorney Olivier Morin, notary Catherine Belan, car sales-agent Pierre Bilodeau, my mother and myself). It is not until February 2023, a year later that attorney Foster Friedman gave in and finally issued the Titles in Gaetane Gagnon's name. That is not until my sick mother demanded them pounding physically his office desk. Attorney Foster Friedman jeopardized the safety of our property. He jeopardized the physical

safety of attorney Olivier Morin and car-sales agent Pierre Bilodeau who had to deal verbally and personally with a storage owner that was physically threatening. By blocking our concerted efforts, attorney Foster Friedman depleted Gaetane Gagnon's bank accounts of \$20,000 in legal fees. Attorney Foster never offered to reimburse my mother for this expenditure. Furthermore, at no point during our dealings, attorney Foster Friedman, informed us that he had the absolute discretion as the sole trustee to ****Pierre Paul Gagnon Trust**** to refuse our request. We were all left in the dark. It was attorney Foster Friedman's duty to inform us that he had the sole legal authority to deal with the car situation if he wished it so. Attorney Foster Friedman cause my critically ill mother, Gaetane Gagnon, harmful stress. This was not only gross negligence from attorney Foster Friedman but his actions were calculated. Attorney Foster Friedman wanted to be in charge himself of the cars' sales. Testimony & affidavit of all available.

10. **06/2024 Profiteering, Conflict of Interest and Ongoing Pressure to Create The ****Gaetane Gagnon Trust**** Thus Voiding The Terms of My Parent's Revocable Living Trust and the will that my mother had signed in 2023 Quebec, Canada , just a 10 months prior**

11. In June 2022, attorney Foster Friedman established yet a new Trust in my mother's name, Gaetane Gagnon (the ****Gaetane Gagnon Trust****). This document stood in direct violation of the original terms of my parents living Trust the ****Pierre Paul Gagnon Trust****. Attorney Foster Friedman had effectively coerced my mother into signing this new Trust by falsely claiming it was necessary to protect me, Valerie Gagnon, from defamation lawsuits—an egregious ploy. Attorney Foster Friedman obviously had manipulated my mother Attorney Foster Friedman used Gaetane Gagnon's close friendship with her personal accountant, Angel Thomas and local Virginia, Real Estate agents; Nicole & Robert Hamilton to convince her of it's necessity. This new Trust voids article IX of the ****Pierre Paul Gagnon Trust**** which granted me, Valerie Gagnon, 100% of the distribution of the Trust property upon my mother's death. Whereas as per the new Trust all the Trust property is under attorney Foster Friedman control. Attorney Foster Friedman now stands to earn well over \$200,000 in compensation fees, were he to go only by the 3% compensation standard. But since my mother's new Trust denies me access to administrative accounting it could be much more.

12. **2022-July Failure of Administrative Oversight Regarding Gaetane Gagnon's Accountant Angel Thomas, Undue influence And Conflict Of Interest.**

Mrs. Angel Thomas (CPD) was in charge of both Gaetane Gagnon's personal accounts and house hold expenses and the **** Pierre Paul Gagnon Trust**** funds. She was in constant contact with Foster Friedman acting as his administrative assistant. Attorney Foster Friedman failed to oversee the work performed by accountant Angel Thomas (CPD) and to act as guardrail against misconduct. For example, Angel Thomas neglected a least twice in 2022, to pay on time the 511 Princess Street's residence city taxes incurring heavy penalties claiming the necessary funds were unavailable. This misdeed was uncovered by outside attorney Wayne Patrick from Virginia who was in charge of enquiring about the

residence's legal ownership. The residence was owned by both owned entities the ****Pierre Paul Gagnon Trust**** and Mrs. Gaetane Gagnon. Attorney Foster

13. 2020- July 2025 Ongoing Conflict of Interest as trustee and Legal

Representative:

Attorney Foster Friedman acted as the sole trustee of the ****Pierre Paul Gagnon Trust**** while simultaneously serving as my parents' personal lawyer. And continued onwards to serve as my mother's personal lawyer after dad passed away. This dual role constitutes a clear conflict of interest, undermining his ability to act impartially and ethically.

14. .F.Y.I. Numerous Yelp Review Shows Ethical Concerns and Pattern of Misconduct:

For example, There is a condemning and heart breaking review on Yelp by a Martha B. from Fairfax, Virginia, attorney Meinken. This involves her dealing with them. She describes how she was lured by Wade, Grimes, Friedman, Meinken & Leischner PLLC. with promises of free Tax assessments and a real estate appraisal. She described how she had been dispossessed of her residence through an irrevocable POA signed by her while she was mentally impaired. Attorney Meinken placed her in a Conservatorship. She ended up losing her house to family members she had no relation with. These reviews raises concerns about a pattern of questionable ethical practices within the firm.

15. 16 of July-Present Attorney made no provisions for my mother's funeral arrangements, including how the funeral would be conducted and who would be responsible for paying the expenses.

Thank you for your attention to this serious matter.

Sincerely,
Valerie Gagnon