



**Academy of Prosthodontics 2025 Annual Scientific Session
The Westin Kierland Resort and Spa, Scottsdale, AZ | May 28-31, 2025**

Dr. David H. Wands Leadership Legacy Seminar

Thomas Deans, PhD

Title

The Great Wealth Transfer: Opportunities and Threats to Generational Wealth

Abstract

Prepare to unlearn everything you thought you knew about transitioning family wealth.

At the very moment in time when a record amount of wealth is being inherited (an estimated \$3 Billion every day in America) a record 137 million American adults do not have a legal will. For those who do have legal wills, the percentage of out-dated wills is on the rise. The consequence of this rampant estate planning neglect is sending a record number of surviving family members into litigation over the distribution of substantial and complex estate assets including dental practices, vacation homes, wine collections and investment portfolios to list a few.

But it's not all bad news. A new generation of wealth creators are approaching estate planning from a different perspective – one that is replacing traditional silence and secrecy with facilitated family meetings. This approach is bringing transparency and predictability to the transfer of generational wealth. When executed thoughtfully, this approach is producing new and extraordinary results for families and their communities.

Objectives

- Learn why 50% of all dentists worldwide are missing important estate planning documents including a legal will, Power of Attorney for Finance and a Health Care Directive.
- Learn how and why it's important to select an estate planning team long before you need one.
- Learn why keeping estate planning secrets from intended beneficiaries can have both devastating consequences for both benefactors and the recipients of inherited wealth.

Biography

Dr. Tom Deans is the author of *three books on the subject of family wealth transfers*. His first book, *Every Family's Business*, remains the best-selling family business book of all-time -- selected by *The New York Times* as one of the Top Ten Books Business Owners Should Read.

Having delivered more than 2000 speeches in 28 countries, he is regarded as the preeminent thought-leader on the subject of inter-generational wealth transfers. With 4 generations of his family selling businesses for more than \$100 million, prepare to unlearn everything you thought you knew about transitioning family businesses and family wealth.

Deans earned a Ph.D. from the University of Warwick in England and has sold more than two million copies of his books worldwide.