



LEGACY LAW

Protecting the assets in your family tree

**Our evaluation of the final episodes of the HBO show Succession  
– warning containers spoilers if you plan to watch the final episodes**



***Was the Logan family flourishing?***

While they still had financial capital, the other capitals that a family like theirs should measure (human, intellectual, social and spiritual) were all poor. They appeared lost and broken.

***Were the heirs prepared?***

No. Sibling position raised its head in terms of expectations. Each of the three younger children felt their father had anointed them.

In the absence of a clear plan, the children at the last minute agreed another strategy but it was not built on solid foundations and faltered under pressure only a few scenes later.

***How was the communication within the family?***

If a shared lexicon of swear words is the measure then, it was clear and consistent. However, as we discuss below, a lack of timely communication scuppered the family. They failed the key metric of being able to work through differences and make joint decisions.

***Were their values known and aligned?***

No. They flipped regularly on what to do. It was all reactive without any anchor.

LEGACY LAW PTY LIMITED

t 02 9188 3980 e [dgriffin@legacylaw.com.au](mailto:dgriffin@legacylaw.com.au) a Level 3, The Cooperage, 56 Bowman Street Pyrmont NSW 2009 | GPO Box 568 Sydney NSW 2001 w [www.legacylaw.com.au](http://www.legacylaw.com.au)

ABN 58 600 167 959

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***Was there a clear statement about succession?***

It may have been a reference to Shakespeare's Will where a line was drawn through the words "sonne in L[aw]" as apparently, he did not trust the said Thomas Quiney and replaced with his daughter Judith. Back to five centuries later, a note was found with Logan's personal papers (unsigned, undated and unwitnessed) saying that Kendall was his choice to take over the business. There was a pencil line around Kendall's name which was either an under-line or a strike-out – contradictory interpretations to say the least. Dramatic? Definitely.

***Was a clean exit possible?***

Was there an agreed alternative dispute resolution plan with a mediator that all agreed to and a prohibition on going to Court and a plan to heal and resolve any lingering dissatisfaction? Eh, no.

***Was the preparatory work done?***

No, unresolved emotional issues reared up in a crucial board meeting which scuppered the unity of the family. Confusion about a "confession" made at a wedding in Italy was the main reason given for an about-turn on a strategy. There was no time to clarify before a crucial vote took place.

***Were the families long-standing advisers retained?***

No but Gerri who had flagged she was looking for an eye-watering pay-off in the hundreds of millions of dollars was being called back into the room. The statistics are that 90% of advisers (and their knowledge of a family) are replaced by new advisers more likely to be aligned with the children who appoint them, often each has their own adviser.

***Was the role of spouses clear?***

No. The various spouses of Logan sat aligned together in the front pew of the Church because they were united by being on the "outside" of the family.

***Was the role of the rising generation clear?***

No. There was a last minute fight about whether step-children or adopted children were to be considered as bloodline. It was unsightly to say the least and likely to linger inter-generationally.

***Was there an argument about the deceased's personal effects?***

Yes. Certain items were removed by Connor before the others got to participate in the "Sticker Perambulating Circuits" ("SPCs") over Logan's Manhattan home. Not since watching the ABC's "Fisk" have we at Legacy Law felt so connected with the zeitgeist. We would add that stickers and "post-it" notes can just as easily be removed and applied to more desirable items.



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***Was there a last-minute attempt to share funny footage of the family that drew tears, perhaps because it was too little too late?***

Yes. There was also a moving scene when the three younger siblings enjoyed a childish play ceremony with a “meal fit for a king”. Momentarily, they were bonded again. Would more of those shared “fun” gatherings have helped build on the shared “culture” they had? Probably.

***Could this family enjoy a campfire with spouses and 3 gens?***

Highly unlikely. At the end, it seemed like a significant battle had been lost but the war still raged. This image is the closest they got to a joint endeavour and it was making a childish poisonous concoction (like 4 year olds – most adults behave like this when back with family).



We would not act for someone like Logan Roy as we suspect there would not be a “fit”!

However for our “Be A Better Ancestor” families, we engage strategies used in the US to:

- assess unspoken issues, expectations and rules,
- consider how best to meet the key unmet needs and practise disagreeing well,
- develop a culture of communication that allows better communication,
- openly discuss transitions with a focus on preserving family relations,
- co-create exit plans that preserve your legacy, and
- normalise family meetings and inject fun so the rising generation are naturally drawn in.

Suggestion: read <https://www.legacylaw.com.au/shop/be-a-better-ancestor/>

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