# Trusts, Death, and Divorce

# THE PARTS OF KEN GRIFFEN'S LIFE THAT HAVEN'T BEEN PUBLISHED

From High School On

Untangling the Web of Ken Griffen's Citadel

u/CruxHub

Trusts, Death and Divorce The Parts of Ken Griffin's Life That Haven't Been Published, From High School On - Untangling the web of Ken Griffin's Citadel Empire - Jan. 18, 2022

Due Diligence

# 0. Intro

We have learned over the last year that Ken Griffin tries to project a certain public image. For example, he just took \$1.15 billion of outside investor money, then went <u>bragging about how much richer he is</u>. Just a few days ago the *Financial Times* released a <u>feel-good piece on Griffin</u>, which simply regurgitated stories from decades old articles, recapped recent news, and called him the "Elon Musk of finance." Gross

This post will delve into parts of Ken Griffin's life which haven't received much attention. Some information you will see here has been touched upon by the mainstream media, but a lot has not.

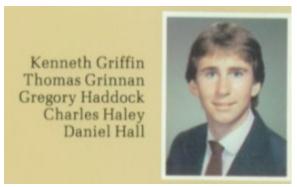
I have previously published on Ken Griffin and Citadel: key posts are pinned in my profile and an interactive network diagram of the "Citadel Empire" can be found <u>here</u>. Several apes have asked for an update on my research, so I thought I would post some new findings.

In this post I will draw from that prior work and present new findings from public records. I will start with brief chronological highlights, covering Ken's high school and the following ten years. Then I will show examples of how trusts have been employed by the Griffin family. Finally, I will reveal an interesting connection between the two: see if you can spot it while reading.

As always I appreciate the feedback, dialogue and great leads you apes provide - keep them coming!

# 1. The Start - High School and the Next 10 Years

If you've read about Ken in the mainstream media then you've heard some of this before. He graduated from Boca Raton High School in 1986, and as it's been reported Ken was president of his math club; it looks like he did that and a lot more.



1986 - Senior year of high school

GRIFFIN, KENNETH "Ken": Cross Country — 1, 4; JV Soccer — 1; Varsity Soccer — 2; BASE — 3; Math Team — 1, 3, 4; Key Club — 3, 4; National Honor Society — 1, 2, 3, 4; French Club — 3; SADD — 3, 4; Silver Knight Nominee in Science; Pride Award in Math and Social Sciences; Top 5% Award — 1, 2, 3, 4

It's tough to read, here is the text:

GRIFFIN, KENNETH "Ken"; Cross Country - 1, 4; JV Soccer - 1; Varsity Soccer - 2; BASE - 3; Math Team - 1, 3, 4; Key Club - 3, 4; National Honor Society - 1, 2, 3, 4; French Club - 3; SADD - 3, 4; Silver Knight Nominee in Science, Pride Award in Math and Social Sciences; Top 5% Award - 1, 2, 3, 4

Looks like he took a nice field trip to Los Angeles during his senior year.

Grouped under a satellite at the Hughes Aircraft Space and Communications Center in Los Angeles are Steve Lawrence, project manager; Dr. Robbe, Kathy Hamel, Bill Horn with Boca Bear; Linda Pearson, Chris Shakib, Rebecca Greene, Rick Shaffer, expert button-master Roy Eckberg; Kevin Osterberger, Andy Riddle, Glen Daniels, Ted Haskin, Cindy Rey, John Mader, David Michel, and Ken Griffin.

At the home of the world champion L.A. Lakers — the Los Angeles Forum — are Sid Porter, Mirza Lara, Matt Hennessey, Ernie McMillan, Kevin Osterberger, Lisa Boothe, Beth Anzalone, Kelly Clawson, Andy Riddle, Kathy Hamel, Jill Vallandigham, Kim Tywford, Todd Lee, Wyndam Girard, Rick Shaffer, Mark Wilson, John Mader, Dr. Robbe, Tom Grinnan, Cindy Rey, Maureen Walker, Glen Daniels, Cheryl Franklin, David Michel, Toni Smith, Kim Hagen, Dionne Smith, Naomi Frost, Ranga Balaskaran, and Roy Eckberg.







Secreto, Kym Capron, Kevin Osterberger, Tom Flannery, Sherry Wilson, Paul Jarvi, Maureen Walker, Heidi Spence, Linda Pearson, Chris Shakib, Jim Petruzzelli, Rick Shaffer, Wyndam Girard, Ranga Balasakaron, Sherry Cooke, Nick Capoziello, John Mader, Anne Hixon, Mary Bushouse, Jennifer Beason, Ted Haskin, Kim Twyford, Jill Vallandigham, Todd Lee, Dr. Robbe, Robyn DeYoung, Marcia Robbe, Matt Hennessey, Ernie McMullen, David Michel, Roy Eckberg, Deborah Marraffino, Diane Schneider, Rebecca Greene, Dawn O'Malley, Tom Grinnan, T. J. Mannix, Ken Griffin, Bobby Crafton, Beth Anzalone, Glen Daniels, Kelly Clawson, Kathy Hamel, Lisa Boothe, Cindy Rey, Brian Kobel, Andy Riddle, and Bill Horn crash on the steps of the Los Angeles City Hall.

Exhausted from sightseeing in LA

It has also been reported that Griffin started his own business in high school, selling educational software. I could only find a business he incorporated February 10, 1984, along with his parents, <u>Personal Computer Software, Inc</u>.

It has also been widely reported that Ken started his first hedge fund during his undergrad at Harvard. Corporate records support the <u>stories that have been told</u>, and his initial investors were Saul Golkin, Rush E. Simonson, and Ken's mother and grandmother. <u>G & S Capital Corporation was formed October 6, 1987</u>, shortly before Black Monday (October 19, 1987). Simonson later sued Griffin but <u>dropped the case</u>.

Ken married Katherine Anne Weingartt on February 9, 1991 in Delray Beach, Florida.

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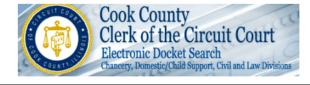
Happily married, until death do us part.

Griffin's parents, Donald G. Griffin and Catherine A. Griffin (Gratz) filed for divorce in 1992.



Ken's parents filed for divorce in 1992

Ken and Katherine didn't last long as a married couple, they filed for divorce in 1994.



Case Information Summary for Case Number 1994D005759						
Filing Date: 04/18/1994 Division: Domestic Relations Division Ad Damnum: \$0.00	Party Information	Case Type: Petition for Dissolution District: First Municipal Calendar: 54				
<b>Plaintiff(s)</b> GRIFFIN, KENNETH C <b>Defendant(s)</b> GRIFFIN, KATHERINE	Defendant Date of Service	Attorney(s) Attorney(s)				
	Case Activity					
Activity Date: 04/18/1994		Participant: GRIFFIN, KENNETH C				
	Petition For Dissolution Of					
Court Fee: 220.00						
Activity Date: 04/18/1994		Participant: GRIFFIN, KENNETH C				
	Marriage					
	Maybe not so happily married					

Ken's parents, despite being divorced, appear to have maintained some kind of relationship. In 1996, Donald and Catherine were d/b/a (doing business as) "KLK Properties, LLC", they won a small judgment.

	3860628
STATE OF ILLINOIS )	Filed for Record in:
COUNTY OF LAKE )	LAKE COUNTY, IL FRANK J. NUSTRA-RECORDER Dn Aug 09 1995 At 11:43am
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NIMETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS	At 11:43am Receipt #: 27230 Doc/Type : JUD Deputy - Cashier #3
DONALD GRIFFIN AND CATHERINE GRIFFIN	
d/b/a KLK PROPERTIES,	
· Plointiffs )	Gen. Non 96 Lin 766
BARRY NYE.	
Defendant	
I hereby certify that on	OF BUDGLINF         Uv 15         19_96         JONALD GRIFFIN AND CATHERINE         NYE, 205 Feterson Rosd, Libertyville,
Illinois, 60048	
in the amount of s 2,52000 plus costs	
	of the Circuit Court of Lake County,

Sticking together for the kids?

KLK existed for some time but Donald may have stepped away. In 2012 Catherine transferred two properties in Libertyville, Illinois to KLK, which the company still holds.

#### QUIT CLAIM DEED

THE GRANTOR, Catherine A. Griffin, of 50 E. Laurel, Lake Forest, County of Lake, in the State of Illinois, for and in consideration of Ten Dollars and 00/100 (\$10.89) DOLLARS, and other good and valuable consideration in hand paid, CONVEYS and QUIT COMMON THE GRANTEE: KLK Properties, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company. of 50% Silverside Road, Suite 87AOC, Wilmington, DE 19809, all right, title and interest which the Grantor holds in the Real Estate situated in the County of Lake, State of Illinois, which is legally described on Exhibit A hereto, hereby releasing and waiving all rights under and by virtue of the Honestead Exemption Laws of the State of Illinois.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD said preventees forever

SUBJECT TO: Real estate taxes for **Jun** and subsequent years, easements, covenants, conditions and restrictions of record.

IN WITNESS WREREOF said Grantor has caused its name to be signed to these presents this 3 day of  $\sqrt{10}$  Autor V, 2012.

CATHERINE A. GRIFFU ather a.

2012

Date:

Page 1 of 3

What does KLK mean? I speculate at least the name has something to do with Ken's siblings, possibly the first initials of their first names: **K**enneth, **L**oren, and **K**elly.

## 2. Trusts

Trusts are a well known vehicle the wealthy can use to hide assets and reduce their taxes. The *International Consortium of Investigative Journalists* reported on offshore "mega-trusts", including those used by Jim Simmons, founder of the hedge fund Renaissance Technologies, being used to hide potentially billions of dollars. *ProPublica* recently reported that more than half of America's 100 richest people exploit special trusts to avoid estate taxes.

In a previous post I identified a trust, *Red Admiral U-A-D 12-20-07*, for which Griffin was the trustee. It turns out trusts have been used in Ken's family for several generations.

Griffin's maternal grandparents were <u>Wayne and Genevieve Gratz</u>. They owned a farm in Libertyville, Illinois, and a business:

They owned and operated Wayne Gratz Oil Company in Libertyville, which served the needs of local families. As a couple, Genevieve and Wayne would travel to the Upper Peninsula in Michigan, where Wayne would hunt for birds with Genevieve as his hunting companion.



Wayne Gratz "Your Dependable Oil Man"

The *Wayne R Gratz trust #51527* was formed August 15, 1961. Wayne passed away soon after, in 1963, and Genevieve took over the company and farm.

### EASEMENT

Deed made this  $25^{fr}$  day of February, 1983, between Bill Anest and Peter Anest of Lake County, Illinois, hereinafter referred to as the grantor, and Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Company of Chicago and Genevieve M. Gratz, as Trustees, under Wayne R. Gratz trust # 51527, hereinafter referred to as the grantee.

At least one property was put into the trust - 117 East Park Ave in Libertyville. In 1983 Genevieve, as trustee of the Trust #51527, granted the property back to Genevieve, the individual.

#### TRUSTEES' DEED.

The Grantor, Genevieve M. Gratz and the Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Company of Chicago, a National Banking Association, as Trustees under the provisions of a trust agreement dated the 15th day of August 1961, known as Trust Number 51527 in exercise of the power and authority granted to Grantor in and by said trust agreement and in pursuance of every other power and authority and enabling, for and in consideration of Ten and no/100 (\$10.00) Pollars and other good and valuable considerations, receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, Convey and Quit Claim to Genevieve M. Gratz, -117 East Park Avenue, Libertyville, Illinois 60048 all interest in the following described real estate, situated in the County of Lake and State of Illinois, to wit:

That part of the South East quarter of the North West quarter of Section 20, Township 44 North, Range 11, East of the 3rd P.M., lying South of the center line of Mechanics Grove Road (now Park Avenue) and Northerly of a line drawn parallel with and 50 feet Northerly of the center line, between the 2 main tracks of the Chicago, North Shore and Milwaukee Railway as said tracks are now located over and across the South East quarter of the North West quarter of said Section 20, Township and Range aforesaid, and Easterly of a line produced Southerly by the extension of the line forming the East side of Harding Avenue, as said Avenue is now located over and across the South East quarter of the North West quarter of Section 20, Township and Range aforesaid, in Lake County, Illinois.

EXCEPT: That part of the Southeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 20, Township 44 North, Range 11 East of the Third Principal Meridian, described as Sollows: Communcing at the intersection of the Southerly extension of the East line of Harding Avenue with the Southerly Line of Mechanics Grove Road, now Park Avenue; thence Northeasterly along the aforesaid Southerly read line 100.000 feet to the point of beginning; thence Southeasterly along a line which forms Ken's grandmother formed a new trust in 1987, the *Genevieve M. Gratz Trust dated June 11, 1987*. She <u>passed away in</u> <u>2010</u>.

Although Genevieve's daughter Catherine Griffin (also Ken Griffin's mother) was still alive, Ken Griffin was listed as the trustee on all documents I found related to the *Genevieve M. Gratz Trust dated June 11, 1987*.

On November 30, 2011, Ken, as trustee, moved two properties out of his grandmother's trust into new LLCs:

THE GRANTOR, Kenneth C. Griffin, as Trustee of the Genevieve M. Gratz Trust dated June 11, 1987, for and in consideration of TEN & 00/100 DOLLARS, and other good and valuable consideration in hand paid, does hereby Convey and Opit Claim in fee simple unto 117 East Park Avenue, LLC, the following described real estate situated in the County of Lake, State of Illinois, to Wit:

See Exhibit A attached hereto ┪

PIN: 11-21-212-046-0000

ADDRESS: 117 E. Park Avenue, Libertyville, Minois

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said premises forever.

The above real estate is not a Homestead property.

Kenneth C. Griffin executes this instrument as Trustee aforesaid and not individually, and is not be held liable in his individual capacity in any way by reason of the same. Any recourse under and by virtue of this instrument shall be against the trust estate only.

Dated this 30 day of November Kenneth C. Griffin, Trustee Exempt under the provisions of 35 ILCS 200/31-45 (c)

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Ken transferring 117 E. Park Ave. out of his grandmother's trust

THE GRANTOR, Kenneth C. Griffin, as Trustee of the Geneviewe M. Gratz Trust dated June 11, 1987, for and in consideration of TEN & 00/106 DOLLARS, and other good and valuable consideration in hand paid, does hereby Convey and Quit Claim in fee simple unto 1229 West Park Avenue, LLC, the following described real estate situated in the County of Lake, State of Illinois, to Wit:



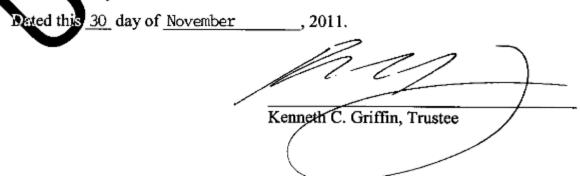
PIN: 11-20-100-010-0000

ADDRESS: 1229 W. Park Avenue, Libertyville, Illinois

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD The said premises forever.

The above real estate is not a Homestead property.

Kenneth C. Griffin executes this instrument as Trustee aforesaid and not individually, and is not to be need liable in his individual capacity in any way by reason of the same. Any recourse under and by virtue of this instrument shall be against the trust estate only.



Ken transferring 1229 W. Park Ave. out of his grandmother's trust

Due to the image limit I won't show the full paper trail, but 117 East Park property was sold, and 1229 West remains in the family, as Catherine Griffin (Gratz) has been listed as a representative of that LLC.

Anyone else in Ken's family use trusts? Of course.

I'm sure you recall Griffin was married to Anne Dias. In 2010 a condominium (along with the parking spots!) was transferred into the *Dias Family 2009 Trust*.

#### EVIDENCE OF CONTROLLING INTEREST TRANSFER

Chestnut Condominium in Ch See Exhibit A attache	ticago, IL.	art hereof for legal description				
See Exhibit A attached hereto and made a part hereof for legal description Permanent Index Numbers: 17-03-217-018-1022 17-03-217-018-1052 17-03-217-018-1052						
On 1/4/2010, 100% o Holdings I LLC to Dias Fami		sts of FH Holdings LLC were transferred by NP				
157		Prepared By and After Recording Mail to: Rithul A Journe				
	TRANSFER TAX	Richard Silverman Sidley Austin LLP				
	41685.00	Richard Silverman				

Ken's father Donald apparently wanted in on the trust action too. He moved an Illinois property into the Donald G. Griffin 2009 Trust.



THE GRANTOR, GGHP LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, for and in consideration of TEN & 00/100 DOLLARS, and other good and valuable consideration, does hereby Convey and Quitclaim in fee simple unto Donald Griffin and David Robbe as Trustees of the Donald G. Griffin 2009 Trust, whose address is 7506 Royal Valley Court; Lakewood Ranca, Florida (collectively, Grantee) the following described real estate situated in the County of Lake, State of Illinois, to wit:

LOT 2 IN GLEN GARDEN ESTATES, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER AND THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 14, TOWNSHIP 44 NORTH, RANGE 10, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAM, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED NOVEMBER 11, 2003 AS DOCUMENT NO. 5430TOT, VM LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Permanent Real Estate Moley Number: 10-14-309-002

Common Address of real estate: 1580 Garden Court, Mundelein, Illinois 60060

Donald also remarried and his Lakewood Ranch, FL home was also moved to the *Donald G. Griffin Revocable Trust u/a* dated April 20, 2015.

Finally, let's not forget the *Red Admiral U-A-D 12-20-07* trust for which Ken is the trustee. When I first uncovered this trust it was related to an investment in eTrade stock that was made alongside many other Citadel entities.

I found more activity. In a Pitkin, CO filing *Red Admiral U-A-D 12-20-07* states it is the sole member of *AP Holdings I LLC*.

#### STATEMENT OF AUTHORITY

1. This Statement of Authority relates to an entity named

#### AP Holdings I LLC

and is executed on behalf of the entity (the "Company") pursuant to the provisions of Section 38-30-172, C.R.S.

- 2. The type of entity is a limited liability company.
- 3. The Company is formed under the laws of Delaware.
- 4. The mailing address for the Company is 131 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603.
- The name of each person authorized to execute instruments conveying, encumbering, or otherwise affecting title to real property on behalf of the entity is:

#### Red Admiral U-A-D 12/20/07, a trust formed under the laws of Illinois

6. The authority of the person named in paragraph 5 to bind the Company is not limited.

Executed this day of July, 2009.	
"OFFICIAL SEAL" ABIGAIL COLTON Notary Public, State of Illinois	AP Holdings I LLC, a Delaware limited liability company By: Red Admiral U-A-D 12/20/07, a trust formed under the laws of Illinois, its sole member
My Commission Expires 01/04/10	By: Kenneth Griffin, Trustee
COUNTY OF COOK ) SS.	
	ed before me this <u>(0</u> day of July, 2009, by Kenneth Griffin, as trust formed under the laws of Illinois, as the sole member of y company.
Witness my hand and official seal.	Notary Public OCOCO
My commission expires: 0104 2010	

They do this because *AP Holdings I LLC* then purchased a property located at 31 North Willow Court, Aspen, CO. *AP Holdings I LLC* later changed its name to 31 *Willow Holdings LLC*.

Delaware

PAGE 1

The First State

I, JEFFREY W. BULLOCK, SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THE ATTACHED IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE CERTIFICATE OF AMENDMENT OF "AP HOLDINGS I LLC", CHANGING ITS NAME FROM "AP HOLDINGS I LLC" TO "31 WILLOW HOLDINGS LLC", FILED IN THIS OFFICE ON THE FIRST DAY OF SEPTEMBER, A.D. 2015, AT 7:32 O'CLOCK A.M.

There must be a good reason for all of this. This isn't financial advice, but I'm looking into using trusts post-MOASS.

## 3. An Odd Connection

Remember the *Dias Family 2009 Trust* and *Donald G. Griffin 2009 Trust* I showed you? What was common between them?

David Robbe was a trustee.

Who is David Robbe? Go back to the start of this post and look again at the captions on the high school photos.

Here is a photo of Robbe:



Yes, this is from Griffin's senior high school yearbook (1986).

David Robbe was a teacher at Boca Raton High School when Griffin attended. He was also a chaperone on that nice field trip to Los Angeles.

When I came across this I was... very surprised. Here is a billionaire many times over with access to all the resources in the world and his high school teacher is a trustee for two of his family's trusts?

It turns out it wasn't just trusts, Robbe also played a role in Griffin's <u>purchase of \$130 of property in Palm Beach</u>. Some of the property was purchased under the name *Black Calabash Family Holdings LLC*, which is tied to Ken Griffin. The deed listed as the address in care of David Robbe, which is odd, as all other paperwork around this purchase I found pointed back to Citadel.



## TRUSTEES' DEED

THIS FRESTEES' DEED is made this 27 day of December, 2012 between MARY P. BOLTON and GEORGE J. GILLESPIE, III, AS CO-TRUSTEES UNDER TRUST AGREEMENT DATED JANUARY 1, 1998 ("Grantor"). with full power and authority under Florida Statute 736 0816(2) and with an address of 30 Blossom Way, Palm Beach, Florida 33480, and BLACK CALABASH FAMILY HOLDINGS LLC, a Delaware limited liability company with an address of c/o David Robbe, 2889 Timbercreek Circle, Boca Raton, Florida 33431 ("Grantee") conveying unto Grantee the following real property described below.

WITNESSETH, that said Grantor, for and in consideration of the sum of Ten Dollars (\$10.00), and other good and caluable considerations to said Grantor in hand paid by said Grantee, bargained and sold to the said Grantee, and Grantee's heirs and assigns forever, the following described land, situate, tying and being in Palm Beach County, Florida, to wit (the "Real Property"):

Lot 3 of THE BLOSSOM ESTATE, according to the Re-plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 54, Page 127 in the Public Records of Palm Beach County, Florida.

What does this mean? I tried following the money and have not found a link.

Griffin made two small donations - \$1,000 total - when Robbe ran for office in 2002 for Florida House Representatives District 87.

Robbe and his wife lived in the same modest house for years (his wife was also a teacher) and his wife recently passed away.

Maybe Robbe is just a nice, trustworthy guy?

Like all things Ken Griffin, when you start digging it reveals more questions than answers.

That's all I have for now.

I hope you've found this interesting. If any sleuth-apes are interested in further investigation here are links to all the public records sites I used:

- Cook County, IL clerk: <u>https://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov/service/search-recordings</u>
- Florida Division of Corporations search: <u>https://search.sunbiz.org/Inquiry/CorporationSearch/ByName</u>

- Illinois corporates search: <u>https://apps.ilsos.gov/corporatellc/</u>
- Lake County, IL recorder of deeds: https://lc38.lakecountyil.gov/eSearch/User/Login.aspx?bSesExp=True
- Lake County, IL Circuit Court case search: <u>https://circuitclerk.lakecountyil.gov/publicAccess/html/common/courtCaseDetails.xhtml</u>
- Lincoln County, ME deeds: <u>https://www.lincolncountymaine.me/deeds</u>
- Palm Beach County, FL clerk: <u>http://oris.co.palm-beach.fl.us/or\_web1/or\_sch\_1.asp</u>
- Palm Beach County, FL court records: <u>https://www.mypalmbeachclerk.com/records/court-records</u>
- Palm Beach County, FL property records: <u>https://www.pbcgov.org/papa/Asps/GeneralAdvSrch/SearchPage.aspx?</u>
   <u>f=a</u>
- Pitkin County, CO clerk: https://countyfusion6.kofiletech.us/countyweb/disclaimer.do