Anyone who knows the basics of personal finance knows you should at least have a will, a durable power of attorney, and durable power of attorney for health care. Some states require you to also have a living will in order to describe your end of life health care wishes. In the state of Michigan, these wishes can are included in your durable power of attorney for health care.

In my morbid example, I created a phony will based off of my own experiences of writing my own Will and the terms and articles described in the following web pages:

http://www.catholicherald.com/articles/01articles/estate0118.htm
http://www.seniorindian.com/making_your_will.htm
http://www.legalline.ca/wills/141.html

The only site listed above which I am certain has originated in the US is the Catholic Herald site. This site is based in the state Virginia. I believe a Will is likely to be similar for different nations and states. Regardless of national origins, the terms and articles defined on the pages listed above are enough to create a phony Will in order to discuss the structure of a legal document that many people probably are confused by and possibly depressed by as well.
Will of Cleopatra B. Spunkmeyer

I, CLEOPATRA B. SPUNKMEYER, SSN: 123-45-6789, a citizen of the Principality of Sealand declare that this is my Will on January 17, 2004. Introductory Paragraph – defines who you are. For example, this could be a paragraph classified as “intro” and then use another cascading classification for the “identity.” Identity can include name, number, citizenship, etc..

I revoke all previous Wills. Revocation (most likely a type of article, see below).

Each article below would be in its own class. Therefore, if one lawyer lists “family” as its own article but another lists family as a subarticle under a Declarations article such as the case in my own Will, you could still easily find the family article if you understand the structure of article and article classes. In my thinking, subarticles would simply be articles nested within articles. Also, it would be up to the style sheet to define how articles are displayed, for example numbering the articles. Structure and legal content are so intertwined that we sometimes refer to legal articles by their number, for example 401(k) or 403(b). The numbers are helpful in finding content from within a paper document but possibly there are better ways of structuring a legal document digitally.

1) Family
   I am married to Herbert E. Kornfeld. I have a child, Dakoda Fanning, born January 1, 1994.

2) Debts and Expenses
   Don't pay any of dept until after the commission a suitable statue in my honor.

3) Taxes
   Pay all of my estate taxes.

4) Tangible Personal Property
   I leave my farmhouse and pygmy goat collection in Nashville, Michigan to my Spouse, if he does not survive me, to my descendants, and if my descendants do not survive me, make it a part of my Residuary Estate.

5) Residue
   I leave 70% to my Spouse. If he does not survive me, to my descendants. If my descendants do not survive me, then to Children of Sealand Foundation. I leave the remaining 30% to the Great Church of Sealand.

6) Fiduciaries
   The Executor of my Will is my Spouse. If he is unwilling or unable, then I appoint Sheba C. Spunkmeyer.
   I was wonder if a style for each state should be used. For example, in Michigan, the term Personal Representative is used instead of Executor or Executrix. Maybe it would be nice if you could use style=michigan and the correct terms for that state appear. There would be no need for 50 state styles. Some states styles will be similar to others. For example, Michigan could inherit two style definitions from California and one style definition from Illinois. However, I am unsure if the different terminology is structure or content.
7) Guardian for Minor Children
   If neither I or my Spouse survive, I appoint Tom Cruise to be the guardian of my minor children.

General Provisions

1) Overly complicated legal term explained so it appears even more complicated. Term or definition. It would be nice to do something such that every time this particular defined term is used, it links to its definition. With proper linking, the document can simply state what it needs to state and a greater proportion of legalese can be moved external to the page. The same definitions may apply to other documents which could simplify your entire collection of legal documents.

2) Another complicated legal term explained

3) A crazy clause. Clause

I agree to my Will (signature)______________________________________________
This Will has been witnessed by

__________________________________       __________________________________
Witness 1                        Witness 2

The signatures above need to be classified as pertaining to the original, complete Will and date stamped.

Amendment 1 – Family,
A son Haley K Osmond was born on April 1, 2005 and is hereby referred to as part of my descendants. This particular amendment amends the family article. The amendment would be classified with class=family. It would be up to the style to link between the two or to display the amendment closer to the original article.

Amended May 2, 2005
I agree to Amendment 1 (signature)______________________________________________

This Amendment 1 has been witnessed by

__________________________________       __________________________________
Witness 1                        Witness 2

Besides proper dating, the signatures above need to be classified as amendment id 1 and possibly class=family for proper referencing.