

President's Message

We welcome all to a new fiscal year of good talk, renewal of friendships, and receipt of wise counsel. While many were taking time off, your board was involved in a planning meeting and dealing with various issues via the Internet.

Congress, however, was even more active during our time off. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 was approved by both the House of Representatives and the Senate before the Congressional summer recess and was signed into law by the President on Aug. 17, 2006. Among other changes, this massive 900-plus-page law overhauls the funding and disclosure rules for defined benefit plans, revises the deduction limits for qualified plans, addresses conversions of pension plans to cash balance plans, carries liberalized payout and rollover rules, and makes a host of other changes relating to pension plans and their beneficiaries. It also revises key charitable giving rules and makes a number of charitable reforms.

We anticipate much will be discussed of this new law and hope to find opportunities for our further enlightenment. Sometimes we may look at something like this in one of two ways. Either we can be bothered at having to research and retool our knowledge for the changes or be excited to provide new information and planning options for our clients. In my opinion, a positive outlook can bring beneficial results for our clients and us.

We look forward to your suggestions and support this year. Please feel free to approach any member of the board with ideas to improve your membership experience.

- Douglas B. Bohne

“Succession Planning for the Family Business and the Business Family”

Succession planning for a family owned business presents many challenging tax, business and ownership issues – but emotional and psychological issues often come into play as well. Advisors, who have been trained to handle a range of complex technical issues often shy away from the psychological and emotional issues which succession planning for family members can entail. Still, these issues deserve equal attention lest advisors violate the very ancient ethical standard of "first of all do no harm." The growth of estate and trust and family litigation is evidence of the risks involved.

Based on his experience in family business and succession planning, our speaker

John Hopkins, will address many of the family issues that arise in succession planning and its implementation (for example the question of "fair vs. equal" treatment). He'll discuss approaches to help advisors identify and deal with these issues along with discussing resources available for help.

In his practice, John emphasizes the need for clients and their families to consider not just the tax-efficient transfer of their business or tangible wealth, but also the preservation and transfer of family values and wisdom to succeeding generations. John founded Hopkins & Carley nearly 40 years ago. He specializes in tax, estate planning, family business, and business succession planning. John is a Fellow of the American College of Trusts and Estates Council, a founder of the Santa Clara University Family Business Forum, and a member and past president of the Santa Clara Estate Planning Council. Along with earning both his bachelor's and law degrees from Stanford University, John also completed four years of graduate work in counseling psychology at Santa Clara University.

Wednesday, September 20, 2006

*Lafayette Park Hotel
3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Lafayette*

6:00 PM. Wine and Registration

6:30 PM Dinner and Speaker

**Cost: \$35.00 dinner (if mailed in)
\$40.00 (at the door)**

*Reservations and cancellations must be
received by Monday, Sept 18th, at 1:30
p.m. to be assured of a reservation.*

*Please send your check in the enclosed
envelope today! or call Bonni at:*

925.686.4819

Please Note: This meeting will qualify for one hour of Continuing Education credit for CPAs, and CFP® professionals and is PACE accredited for CLUs and ChFCs. Attorneys: This activity has also been approved for one hour of continuing Legal Education Credit and qualifies as Legal Specialization Credit for Estate Planning Trust and Probate Law in the amount of one hour.

Dues are Due!

**If we haven't received your dues,
an invoice is enclosed**