

President's Message

"May you live in interesting times" is often attributed to be an ancient Chinese curse. While I trust that none of us are cursed, we are certainly living in interesting times. This summer's credit crisis and ensuing panic in the credit markets has made life far more interesting than many of our clients and colleagues would prefer. If there is one consolation, it is knowing that this too shall pass.

Welcome back to a new year for the Estate Planning Council of Diablo Valley. For those of us still deemed credit-worthy, the year promises an interesting line up of speakers and topics that we hope will encourage your regular attendance at our meetings.

As you know, membership is the lifeblood of any professional association. This summer, a task force comprised of board members and member representatives from each of the five active member categories was formed to review our membership guidelines. Based on recommendations from the task force, our membership guidelines have been updated. Please review our new guidelines and new membership application. These can be viewed in the "membership" section of our website: www.epcdv.org

Our council is fortunate to have a large and active membership. To continue to keep our council vibrant, we encourage you to invite qualified colleagues and friends to consider joining our council. Don't forget, that your first guest is able to attend at half the normal meeting price (\$18).

I look forward to seeing you at our first meeting on the new program year.

- Kevin Gahagan

"Property Tax Pitfalls and Planning Strategies in Business Transfers"

Just when you thought you knew all there was to know about the change in ownership rules as applied to legal entities:

- Learn the jargon
- Rules of the game
- Playing by the rules
- Using the rules to benefit your clients

For many of our clients, business transfers are the biggest concern in estate planning. **Frayda Bruton, Esq.** will alert us to property tax issues that can have enormous impact on intergeneration succession planning.

Ms. Bruton specializes in estate planning, trust and probate law with emphasis on sophisticated tax planning, including the impact of California property tax on the formation and implementation of legal entities used in succession planning. Her practice includes trust and estate administration, post-mortem tax planning and trust and estate litigation.

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

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

*6:00 PM NO HOST BAR
6:30 PM Dinner and Speaker*

*Cost: \$36.00 dinner (if mailed in)
\$41.00 (at the door)*

Reservations and cancellations must be received by Monday, Sept 17th, 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

Dues Are Due!

*If we haven't received your dues, an invoice is enclosed.
Thank you for your early remittance!*

Mark Your Calendars!

October 17, 2007

Jill Dodd

Charitable Provisions of the Pension Protection Act of 2006

November 14, 2007 (2nd Wed)

Bill Burke

Life Insurance: Still Relevant in Estate Planning?

January 16, 2008

Don Read

Gift and Estate Tax Issues and Strategy for Domestic Partners

Welcome New Members!

We celebrate new members at our September meeting – please help the Board welcome the new members that have joined us since last Fall. Our new members will be wearing badges with a different color border. Please be sure to say hello!