MARIN COUNTY ESTATE PLANNING COUNCIL

MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES
(As of July 14, 2006)

These guidelines are intended for the Board's use when considering membership.

These guidelines are not intended to be hard and fast rules to be applied in all cases. Each candidate's circumstances are unique and the Board has discretion when considering their application for membership.

These guidelines are subject to interpretation and change by a resolution of the Board at any time.

Application

Persons interested in applying for membership in the Council must complete an Application for Membership, include a resume and statement of their professional experience, and must be nominated by two existing members of the Council.

Membership Requirements

Estate Planning Activities

In order to be approved for membership in the Council, a prospective member must be actively and professionally involved in estate planning and/or estate administration, in providing services to clients or, in the case of academic members, in teaching and/or scholarship. The applicant's current business activities must be significantly involved in the formulation and/or implementation of estate planning strategies and techniques.

This requirement must first be met, regardless of the category of membership being requested by the applicant.

For example, neither fundraising nor the sale, disposition, procurement and management of assets, in and of themselves, shall be considered estate planning strategies and techniques.

Minimum Years of Experience and Residency Requirement

The applicant must have a minimum of five (5) years experience in estate planning activities, as described above, and be a resident of or doing business in the County of Marin.

Nominations for Membership

The nominations of two members in good standing, one of whom must have been a member for at least one year, are required to accompany the application. A nominating member must have had sufficient historical professional contact with the applicant to assert his or her belief that the applicant meets the membership criteria.

Membership Categories

The Marin County Estate Planning Council's Bylaws provide for five membership categories:

(1) Accountant

(2) Attorney

(3) Financial Planner/Life Insurance Agent

(4) Trust Administrator/Investment Manager

(5) At Large Professional

The appropriate category of membership must be determined. Shown below are the requirements and/or definitions of each membership category.

Accountants - Must be a licensed CPA in public practice.

At-Large - Members who do not fit into another membership category, but who clearly are engaged in estate planning (as described above). For example, those individuals who have on-going client relationships which include their being significantly involved in the formulation and/or implementation of estate planning strategies and techniques may be approved for membership in the At Large category.

Attorneys - Must be an active member of the State Bar of California and actively engaged in the practice of law.

Financial Planners/Life Underwriters - Must be a Certified Financial Planner (CFP), a Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU) or a Chartered Financial Consultant (ChFC).

Trust Administrators - Must be employed by a state or national institution with trust powers in California (i.e. bank or trust company) or must be a private professional fiduciary, must be a Certified Trust and Financial Advisor (CTFA), and must have interaction with clients.

Investment Managers – Must be a Registered Investment Advisor or hold a Series 7 registration. However, those individuals whose job function is providing investment advisory services, whose primary job duty is the procurement of assets and/or portfolio management, and who are not significantly involved in the formulation and/or implementation of estate planning strategies and techniques may not be approved for membership.

Guest Policy

Individuals potentially qualified for membership may be brought to meetings as a guest a maximum of **two times per fiscal year**.

MARIN COUNTY ESTATE PLANNING COUNCIL

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

2007-2008

Applicant Name____

Occupation__________________________________Years in Profession_______

Employer/Company____

Mailing Address____

City State Zip________________________________Phone________________

E-mail_____________________________________Fax__________________

Name as you'd like it to appear on your nametag ____________________________

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (see Membership Guidelines for required qualifications)
Indicate category under which you are applying:

___ Accountant   ___ Attorney   ___ Trust Administrator/Invest. Manager

___ Financial Planner/Life Underwriter   ___ At-Large

Professional licenses/certificates held ___________________ License # __________

Are you a member of other estate planning council(s)? _________ Where? __________

Are you significantly involved in the formulation and/or implementation of estate planning strategies and techniques? ________ How many years? _______ How much of your professional time is involved with estate planning activities? _______%

Is this application the result of encouragement by one of our members? If so, please provide their name. ____

Please attach 1) your resume and 2) a thoughtful statement describing your experience and professional activities in estate planning and/or trust administration and why you believe you are qualified for membership. Please note that a minimum of five years experience in estate planning activities is required.

Nomination by two current council members (Printed Names, Original or Fax Signatures, and years known):

____________________________ _______________________________ ____

____________________________ _______________________________ ____

Fiscal year dues are applied in accordance with the schedule on page 2. They are due upon approval of membership.

Refer to the Application Procedures on page 2 for forwarding instructions and additional information.

Applicant's
Signature____________________________________Date__________________

DUES STRUCTURE AND MEETING SCHEDULE

Membership dues for the fiscal year of August 2007 to July 2008 are **$200.00**, which includes the cost of meals for the five meetings generally held on the 2nd Wednesday of September, November, January, March, and May.

Partial year dues are payable as follows: $160 if admitted before the November meeting; $120 if before the January meeting; $80 if before the March meeting; and $40 if before the May meeting. (Please note: Membership privileges do not extend to assignment of meals to another person nor does failure to attend result in credit or refund of dues.)

MCEPC APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Current members are encouraged to sponsor new members. To insure that the Council accepts as new members only people of quality who will actively participate, the following procedures are to be followed:

1. Applicant is to complete the "APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP" form, obtain the nomination of two members in good standing, and attach the required documents.

2. By nominating an applicant and signing the application, a member is asserting his or her belief that the applicant meets the membership criteria.

MEMBERS NOMINATING AN APPLICANT SHOULD BE MINDFUL THAT IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR MEMBERSHIP, AN APPLICANT MUST HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY ENGAGED IN ESTATE PLANNING ACTIVITIES FOR THE REQUIRED PERIOD AND HAVE KNOWLEDGE IN THAT FIELD WHICH WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE PURPOSES AND GOALS OF THE COUNCIL.

3. The completed application and all attachments are to be forwarded to the Board prior to the next Board meeting (generally held the 3rd Friday of September, November, January, March and May). **Please send to: Doug Paul, c/o Ghirardo CPA, 7200 Redwood Blvd., Suite 403, Novato, CA 94945**

4. A Board member may contact one or both of the nominating members to discuss the applicant' s qualifications.

5. Approval of the membership application is made by the Board of Directors. Customarily, the Board meets the week following the general membership meeting.

6. Any questions should be directed to the officers and/or directors.