

TRUST & ESTATE PLANNING NEWS



LAW OFFICE OF JAMES F. ROBERTS
& ASSOCIATES, APC
ESTATE PLANNING YOU CAN TRUST

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U.S. Supreme Court Ruling: How it Affects Your Family

A recent United States Supreme Court decision has changed the way our clients should be designating the beneficiaries of their retirement accounts, such as IRA's and 401k's. Historically, retirement accounts have offered the important benefit of being protected from the plan participant's creditors, bankruptcy and judgments. Moreover, that creditor protection had historically extended to the plan owner's children or other beneficiaries, once they inherited the retirement account. However, in *Clark vs. Rameker*, the Supreme Court held that when it comes to retirement accounts, your beneficiaries will no longer have creditor protection. The Court's rationale was that because the children seldom use the money for actual retirement, but instead the children generally begin using the funds immediately upon the plan owner's death for purposes other than retirement, that the creditor protection traditionally afforded to the plan owner shall no longer apply to the next generation.

While the government has taken that protection away, we are able to reinstate it through proper planning.

With society being what it is today, and litigation running wild with thousands of frivolous lawsuits filed every day, you may want to ensure that your children are protected from creditors when they inherit your hard earned retirement funds. While the government has taken that protection away, we are able to reinstate it through proper planning. Proper planning involves creating a specialized Retirement Trust to hold the retirement funds upon the plan owner's death, providing a lifetime stream of income to the children while simultaneously protecting them from creditors, lawsuits, bankruptcy and even divorcing spouses.

If you have more than \$100,000 in IRA's or 401k's, contact us at (714) 282-7488 to schedule a consultation to discuss how we can protect your nest egg by creating a Retirement Trust for generations to come.

Funding Your Trust

We cannot overemphasize the importance of funding your trust, which involves properly titling bank accounts, investments, real property, timeshares, business interests and other assets in the name of your family trust. Unfortunately, it is very common to find major assets that are not titled properly, which triggers the risk of probate. Today, take the time to look at your statements and make sure that your assets are funded properly. If you want expert help, our affiliates at Chatterton & Associates are offering an absolutely no-obligation "Free Funding Appointment" to review your assets and make sure that everything is in order. Be sure to mention the offer in this newsletter and contact us at (714) 282-7488 to schedule the appointment.

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Are You Paying Too Much In Taxes?



Many people feel as though they pay more than their fair share in taxes, but few people actually do anything to lessen their tax liability. As the end of the year approaches, consider scheduling a tax projection to see how your tax liability can be reduced or minimized in the coming year. Our affiliates at *Grandfield & Associates* are tax professionals who are offering a special rate for tax projections for clients of *James F. Roberts & Associates*. They will spend time analyzing your tax returns and income sources to

Few people actually do anything to lessen their tax liability.

determine the best ways to save money, at the discounted price of \$100. If you are interested in scheduling a tax projection, please do so as soon as possible before the New Year by contacting *Grandfield & Associates* at (714) 921-2790.

Congratulations to *Grandfield Tax and Business Services*

Congratulations

One of the three businesses inside of our building was recently honored by the Anaheim Chamber of Commerce as the Family Owned Business of the Year for 2015. Congratulations to Larry, Scott and their team.

How Healthy Is Your Trust?

Each year, we review hundreds of estate plans and living trusts for our clients to see whether they are in good order and still meet the client's needs. Between now and

Between now and the end of the year, we are offering a complimentary review of your estate plan by one of our experienced estate planning attorneys.

the end of the year, we are offering a complimentary review of your estate plan by one of our experienced estate planning attorneys. Contact us at (714) 282-7488 by December 31st, 2015 to schedule the complimentary review.



Be sure to mention this newsletter and schedule your appointment as soon as possible, as we have limited appointment availability for the complimentary trust review and

will be offering them on a first-to-call, first serve basis. During your appointment, be sure to indicate whether any of the following specifically apply:

- ✓ Have you or a spouse experienced memory loss or been diagnosed with dementia or Alzheimer's disease?
- ✓ Is a child of yours going through a divorce or are you concerned about their marriage?
- ✓ Do you currently have an AB trust?
- ✓ Is your designated Trustee(s) in good health and still a good candidate to wind down your estate upon your death and act for you during incapacity

Walk to End Alzheimer's Disease



This year, over 50 of our employees, clients and their friends and family have signed up for the annual "Walk to End Alzheimer's Disease". We are so proud of all those who are participating in a cause that is very dear to us. As of 2015, an estimated 5.3 million Americans are suffering from

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Alzheimer's disease and we believe that we owe it to those affected

and their families to raise awareness about this disease. Hopefully, we will be walking one step closer to a cure.

Got 2 Minutes? Enter to Win this Contest!

Congratulations to Max and Carol G. who are the winners of our last newsletter contest. In this edition of our newsletter, the contest begins NOW and you must do the following to enter:

- ✓ Visit www.webuildyourtrust.com/reports/survey.cfm and answer the four multiple choice survey questions.

Once you submit your answers, you will be entered in a drawing to win a "Dinner & A Movie" package, valued at over \$100. Thank you in advance for participating and good luck!



Recipe Corner: Pecan Bars

Ingredients:

Crust

- 1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup butter, softened
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup coarsely chopped pecans

Filling

- 1 1/2 cups dark corn syrup
- 2/3 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 4 Eggs
- 6 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 cups coarsely chopped pecans



Heat oven to 350°F. Combine 1 3/4 cups flour, butter and sugar in bowl. Beat at medium speed, scraping bowl often, until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Stir in 1/3 cup pecans.

Press crust mixture evenly onto bottom of ungreased 13x9-inch baking pan. Bake 18-22 minutes or until edges are very light golden brown.

Combine all filling ingredients except 1 1/2 cups pecans in bowl; mix well. Stir in pecans. Spread evenly over hot, partially baked crust. Bake 30-35 minutes or until filling is set and knife inserted 1-inch from edge comes out clean. Cool completely; refrigerate. Cut into bars.

Happy Holidays From Our Family to Yours

We wish you a Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas, from our family to yours.



From left to right: Amanda Romero (Receptionist) Jim Roberts (Founder), Erick Melendrez (Drafting Specialist), Holly Nabiey (Associate Attorney), Charla Swoveland (Client Relations Specialist), Shannon Webb (Office Manager), Shauna R. Anderson (Associate Attorney)

Sudoku Puzzle

7								
6	3				5	2		
2		4	6		8	7	9	
	7				2			3
	2		5		3		8	
4			9				7	
	5	7	1		9	8		6
		2	8				4	1
								7

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Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each 3-by-3 block contain all of the digits 1 thru 9.

If you use logic you can solve the puzzle without guesswork.

Need a little help? The hints page shows a logical order to solve the puzzle. Use it to identify the next square you should solve. Or use the answers page if you really get stuck.



Gayle Roberts

For Halloween, Gayle Roberts and her staff at Northwood Animal Hospital have their patients and their patients' owners dress up in their favorite costume. This year, Gayle dressed up as the farmer's wife and Jim and Gayle's three dogs reluctantly dressed up as the three blind mice. If you look close enough in the picture you will see Gayle holding a butcher knife and 3 tails.

This year Carol and Max, mutual clients of Northwood Animal Hospital and the Law Office of James F. Roberts and Associates won the first place prize. Congratulations to Max, Carol and their two dogs—Kona and Gideon.



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Newsletter

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Jim's Memo: Acknowledging Our Blessings During the Holiday Season

As I write this memo, Gayle and I are preparing our house for our Thanksgiving feast—the beginning of the Holiday season. Our two children, Dustin and Diana and Dustin's fiancée will be joining us, along with other family. All in all, we will have between 20-30 family members and friends joining us. This year will be the second year without any parents since my mom passed away two years ago.

When I look back over the Holidays, as I was growing up, my mom made such a fuss to make the Holidays special for us. I think that she wanted her children to enjoy the gift of the Holidays that she herself did not experience growing up. My mother's mother had died from complications of childbirth. Her father didn't know what to do with a baby and so my mom was raised by her aunt in Los Angeles. My mom shared with me that she had food and the necessities of life, but she never felt that she belonged and never felt that she was truly loved.

What a difference one generation can make. When I was growing up, I never felt anything but love from my mother. The Holidays were just one more example of her expression of the love that she gave to us.

My wish for you this Holiday season that you join me in not only taking the time to tell those people that are special in your life that you love them, but that you demonstrate that love. I wish that you truly enjoy those special people in your life. I consider many of you to be some of those special people in my life. Thank you!

Happy Holidays