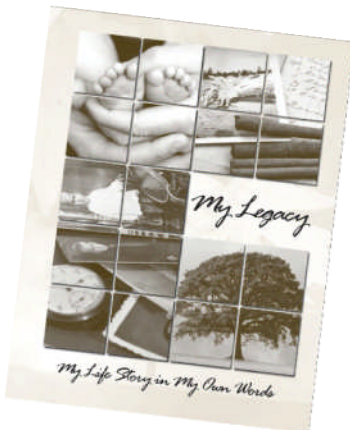


# Estate Planning NEWSLETTER

**January 11, 2011 - Our Annual Client Seminar. This year we celebrated 2011.** This year we discussed the

following ... **My Legacy Planning Booklet.** Hopefully all of you have one. It's located in the back of your binder under the "My Legacy" tab. Get it out and start filling it out. This is a wonderful way to give advice to unborn descendants, discuss family folklore, provide words of wisdom, leave a love letter to your family members. Don't just be a name on your family tree - take time to fill in the pages of this booklet and keep your legacy alive.



**Wealthcare Financial.** It's a joint venture of: Deason Law Firm, Misenhimer, Aivazian & Tennant, P.C. and Financial Advisors (Charles Smith and Steve Schulte). We offer completely unbiased investment and insurance recommendations to suit your family's needs and goals. Now, we are a one-stop shop for our clients providing a one of a kind service... No other law firm, accounting firm and financial firm work together like this to ensure that your needs are being met. Ask us about **Funeral Trust** (*Funeral Trust funds are exempt from: Creditors, Lawsuits, Nursing Homes, IRS, Medicaid*) or the **Leave a Legacy Program** (*Can earn more than 6% tax-free!*) These are two awesome planning techniques we discussed at the family seminar... For more information, call Nancy at 783-4575 to schedule a complimentary appointment with Chuck Smith or Steve Schulte.

**Pet Planning** - Love your pets? Set up a Pet Trust and ensure that they will be taken care of according to your wishes; call our office and make an appointment to discuss this further.

**DocuBank** - Priceless emergency protection. What if you're away from home and need your health care documents or HIPAA forms? Life and death decisions... they are only a phone call and fax away. (You can also list any medications you are taking or the medications you are unable to take).

**Cremation Directive** - This is a written statement directing cremation. If you don't know about this document, then it's been at least 8 years since you've been into the office AND, that's not good. If your choice is to be cremated, then you need to come in and have this document prepared.

**Arizona Trust Code** - In 2009 Arizona adopted a new Trust Code that allows greater protection for beneficiaries and surviving spouses: 1. You no longer have privacy when a spouse dies. (Unless your trust has waived that requirement); 2. You now have to give an accounting to the beneficiaries of your trust (Unless your trust has waived that requirement); 3. You can now provide much greater protection for your spouse and beneficiaries from lawsuits, divorce, creditors, etc. **NOW** with the new Arizona Trust Code, the use of Living Trusts has moved forward as a significant tool for the protection of the surviving spouse and children from a variety of legal and financial pitfalls!

**~ If you want to take advantage of the new creditor protection provisions for your Spouse and Children, ~ If you DON'T want to be required to give Trust information to all beneficiaries, ~ If you DON'T want to be required to give accountings to all beneficiaries, please call Nancy at 783-4575 and schedule a complimentary review appointment**

**Deason Law Firm  
Jan/Feb 2011**

## **Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization and Job Creation Act 2010**

In 2001, Congress passed a law that made big changes to the estate tax. It raised the amount that could pass without tax, increasing it in steps from \$675,000 in 2001, to \$3.5 million in 2009. Then, in 2010, the estate tax was repealed for one year only—2010. However, on December 17, 2010, Congress brought the estate tax back with yet another new law: the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 ("TRA 2010"). The new law sets the amount that could pass without tax at \$5 million per person for 2010-2012. However, the new law is temporary and will expire after 2012. In 2013, the amount that can be passed free from tax will go back down to \$1 million per person. Thus, unless the law is changed again between now and then, someone dying in 2013 would only be able to pass \$1 million without an estate tax.

In addition, the new law reduces the top estate and gift tax rate to 35% in 2010-2012. However, a top rate of 55% returns in 2013 and thereafter.

Congress also introduced a new "portability" provision. This is where one spouse can add their deceased spouse's estate tax exemption to their own exemption, to shelter more from taxes. This portability provision, also known as the "Deceased Spousal Unused Exclusion Amount" can be used to shelter the assets of the surviving spouse. While intriguing on the surface, under current law this portability tax benefit only happens if both spouses die in 2011 or 2012. If either spouse hangs on until 2013 or beyond, there is no portability option available. For more information, please call Nancy at 783-4575.

# Thank You!

## For Voting us Yuma's BEST Law Firm

**We are honored to receive your vote!** At the Deason Law Firm, we are committed to building lifelong relationships with our clients and their families. We will work with you to customize your unique estate plan to protect, preserve and pass your legacy to your family and loved ones exactly how you desire. **All of our estate plans come with a 100% service satisfaction guarantee.** It's very simple, estate planning is what we do... and we look forward to your family joining our family. Again, we thank you for your vote!

**Estate Planning... It's What We Do!**  
Call 783-4575 today and schedule your complimentary estate planning consultation.

**February is National Responsible Pet Owners Month.** This month was created to remind us about the importance of properly caring for our companion animals. According to the Humane Society of the United States, 39 percent of U.S. households have at least one dog and 33 percent have at least one cat. Together, we own more than 77 million dogs and 93 million cats! We Americans really love our pets.

As an estate planning law firm, we think this is also a good time to remind you that while companion animals are sometimes our very best friends in life, they are often not provided for in estate plans. Shelters and veterinarians euthanize an estimated 500,000 pets each year when their owners predecease them. While an outright gift to an animal is void under law in some states, the creation of an honorary trust for the care of your beloved animal companions is generally permissible. Call our office at 783-4575 if you are interested in setting up a Pet Trust.

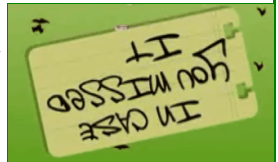
The main objective of using a trust to care for your pet is to provide a flexible method for managing financial assets for the benefit of any pets that survive you. By using a trust, you can designate a party to act as guardian or caretaker for the pet. Furthermore, a trust allows you to leave specific instructions concerning the standard of care and special needs of your beloved companion animal.

In honor of Responsible Pet Owners Month, we suggest that you give your beloved companion some extra treats this week. **But not too many - that would be irresponsible...**



*This is a complimentary, educational newsletter. If you are NOT interested in receiving this information in the future, please contact Nancy at 783-4575.*

Our Annual Client Appreciation Seminar... It was on 1.11.11. Many clients attended and we had a great time celebrating 2011. But if you missed it, please read the article inside to find out what we covered.



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