

President's Message

Happy Holidays! As we enter a new year and a new decade, the nature of the federal estate and gift tax rules our clients will face in the short term is anyone's guess. Of course, this makes estate planning a real challenge, to say the least. Hopefully, Congress will act very soon to solve the mystery, at least for a while (say, for 2010)!

Meanwhile, what better timing to have Kyle Martin, of the IRS, scheduled to present to our council at our January meeting. If new legislation is in place before our meeting, Mr. Martin will undoubtedly have some insight to share. If not, perhaps he will, in addition to shedding light on some interesting technical aspects of estate and gift tax returns, let us know what he thinks we might expect in upcoming legislation.

Valerie has a very attractive list of speakers scheduled for the remaining of the season – through May, 2010. Please don't hesitate to let us know if you have any creative ideas about what activity might be fun to schedule for our "social" meeting in June.

We are grateful for your continuing strong attendance and support, and for inviting your guests to join us at our educational and enjoyable dinner meetings.

All of us on the Board wish you and your loved ones peace, health and joy during the remainder of the holiday season, and in the new year.

- Rob Silverman

“PROBLEMS WITH ESTATE AND GIFT TAX PREPARATION, FROM AN IRS POINT OF VIEW”

For those of us who are involved in preparing estate and gift tax returns, and appraisals to support those returns, it is always good to hear from someone within the IRS about its perspective on the issues. We are really lucky to have **Kyle Martin** address our group this month.

Kyle is a Supervisory Estate Tax Attorney with the Internal Revenue Service in Oakland, and is responsible for managing eleven attorneys. He has been in this position since 2006, prior to which he was an Estate Tax Attorney in San Francisco and Oakland. He was also with The Service from 1989 to 1994.

Kyle is a graduate of the University of Kansas, with a BA in Psychology. He received his JD degree from San Francisco Law School in 1993, and has been a member of the California Bar since 1993.

He will be talking to us about preparer and appraiser penalties under the IRS 6694 and 6695, and the role of the tax preparer in an IRS audit examination of an estate or gift tax return in the context of Circular 230. He is also going to talk about the importance of a good appraisal and the adequate disclosure of gifts.

Wednesday January 20, 2010

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

*6:00 PM. Wine and Registration
6:30 PM Dinner and Speaker*

**Cost: \$40.00 dinner (preregister)
\$45.00 (at the door)**

*Reservations and cancellations
must be received by Monday,
January 18th at 1:30 p.m. to be
assured of a reservation. Please
send your check today!*

or

Pay with a credit card online

<http://www.123signup.com/calendar?Org=epcdv>

or call Bonni at:

925.686.4819

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

February 17, 2010
Economic Outlook
Gary Schlossberg

March 17, 2010
Planning for Businesses
Michael Jones

April 21, 2010
Stale Trusts
Albert Handelman and John Hartog

May 19, 2010
Estate Planning & Valuation Issues
Lance Hall