

*President's Message*

Regrettably, the problem of elder abuse is becoming increasingly common. As professionals, we are sometimes in a position to identify the symptoms of this phenomenon. The questions arise, what can we do and how can we intervene? Our March program will offer insights into this problem and strategies for addressing it when encountered. This is an important societal issue. I encourage all members to attend.

Shifting gears ... membership is the lifeblood of an organization like ours — and the opportunity to network with professional peers a primary reason many members join. We encourage each of you to invite colleagues to our meetings and to encourage them to join if they would benefit from membership.

When you sponsor a prospective member's application, you are recommending that individual to the Council. We ask that you take this role seriously in providing your recommendation. After all, we may be calling you in follow up.

With tax season upon us, I leave you with the following ...



"I can't decipher this writing—it must be their tax code."

-Kevin Gahagan

## FINANCIAL ELDER ABUSE

**Virginia George** is the Director and Supervising Attorney of the JFK University Elder Law Clinic. The Clinic provides pro bono assistance to victims of elder abuse. Virginia will cover several aspects of financial elder abuse, including:

- The definition of financial elder abuse and specific case examples
- The growing prevalence of abuse in America - particularly in California
- Ways to recognize financial elder abuse
- Methods of prevention and pro-active education

**Wednesday, March 19, 2008**

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

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

**Cost: \$40.00 dinner (if mailed in)  
\$45.00 (at the door)**

*Reservations and cancellations must be received by Monday, Mar 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**

Virginia is a 1984 graduate of the University Of San Francisco School Of Law, having received her B.A. from UC Davis in 1981. She currently teaches Evidence at the JFK University School of Law. She has a limited private practice, specializing in estate planning probate and elder law. Virginia is of counsel with the Walnut Creek Law firm of Richardson & Wilhemy.

Virginia worked as a deputy district attorney for Contra Costa County for fourteen years, prosecuting over 180 criminal trials to verdict. She is currently on the Board of Directors of the Contra Costa Bar Association. Virginia has served as a board member of the Conference of Delegates for the California State Bar and as past president of Contra Costa Senior Legal Services.

Join us on March 19<sup>th</sup> to learn more about this important issue.

**Visit us online: [www.epcdv.org](http://www.epcdv.org)**

**Mark Your Calendars!**  
**April 16, 2008**  
**Joint Meeting with East Bay EP and Tri Valley EP Councils**  
Adam Alban:  
Competency/Mental Capacity

**May 21, 2008**  
Bette Epstein  
Planning to Avoid Estate Litigation  
from a Litigator's Perspective.