

President's Message

Our V.P./Program Chair, Valerie Neale, arranged a terrific program in April, in which our very own member (and Past President), John Hartog, Esq. and Albert Handleman, Esq. spoke about the challenging, uncertain world of "stale trusts". It was a lively and informative presentation that included some valuable practice points. A record 120 members and guests joined us for April's joint meeting with Tri-Valley and East Bay councils.

Our May program should also be excellent, as we welcome a sophisticated estate planning expert - Lance Hall, from FMV Opinions - who will talk about important issues, including the status and projected changes in the politics of estate tax, audits, fractional discounts, and family limited partnerships.

Our May meeting will begin with the election of officers and directors for 2010-2011. The nominees are:

Valerie Neale, President
Bruce Coblentz, Vice President
Paula Leibovitz, Secretary
Terry Allen, Treasurer
Geoffrey Zimmerman, Membership
Elisabeth Andreason, Director
Carla Bryant, Director
Darrell Claridge, Director
Tim Hyden, Director
Howard Thomas, Director
Rob Silverman, Chairman

Our June 16th social meeting is a Noel Coward Celebration at the Leshner Center in Walnut Creek. Titled "A Marvelous Party", it is an evening of classic Coward songs and music presented by the Center REP Company.

- Robert J. Silverman, Esq.

"2010 – A Year of Controversy, Change and Opportunity"

Our speaker this month is **Lance Hall**. Anyone who has heard Lance speak before will know that he is a very lively speaker. His presentation will cover five main areas:

1. The latest news and rumors in the legislative battles over the estate tax
2. How the audit rate will increase (and then decrease), and what that means to our clients.
3. Tax Court Cases. More Tax Court cases on valuation issues are being decided than ever before. This presentation will discuss why so many Court decisions are being issued and how current IRS Tax Court victories will affect current estate planning techniques.
4. The viability of the ubiquitous Family Limited Partnership and how to use it effectively with the least amount of audit risk.
5. How the high volatility of prices of start-up companies increases the lack of marketability significantly.

Wednesday, May 19, 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,
May 17th at 1:30 p.m. to be
assured of a reservation.
Please send your check today!

or

Pay with a credit card online
Using the link below

or call Bonni at:

925.686.4819

Lance Hall, ASA, is Co-Founder and President of FMV Opinions, Inc. and supervises the firm's New York office. FMV Opinions, Inc. is the largest estate and gift tax valuation firm in the nation focusing on estates over \$20 million. A prolific author and expert witness, Mr. Hall is a highly sought after speaker known for his exciting, dynamic and informative presentations. Mr. Hall is an Accredited Senior Appraiser of the American Society of Appraisers, and earned his MBA from Brigham Young University. Mr. Hall also sits on the Editorial Advisory Board of Business Valuation Update, and writes a regular column for Valuation Strategies and The Journal of Practical Estate Planning magazines.

Join us On June 16th for
"A Marvelous Party"
Starting at 6:00 PM
Massimo's Restaurant
Wine and Hors d'oeuvres
Then more party across the
street – "at the threewater"
\$55 per person

Credit Card Registration Link

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