WILLMS, S.C.

LAW FIRM

CLIENT NEWSLETTER
JUNE 8, 2012

As we frequently remind our clients, an estate plan is not a static set of documents that can be signed and then stored away without a second thought. Taking that first step and creating an estate plan certainly yields a variety of benefits. However, if the process stops there, you risk losing out on the added benefits that come from a plan that is specially tailored to your family, your personal finances, your goals and your beneficiaries. These are things that change over time. If your estate plan is going to be a good fit for you and do exactly what you intend it to do, it too must experience modifications and additions over time. Therefore, the topics we highlight in this newsletter all relate to issues that may make a review of your estate plan a good investment.

Investing In Your Estate Plan

Oftentimes when we meet with clients for the first time, they already have a well-established foundation of wealth. These clients are looking to protect what they have and make sure it lasts. Other clients are in earlier phases, starting to accumulate their wealth and looking to create a plan that will help them grow and attain goals over time. For either type of client, the structure of their estate plan can help enhance the returns generated by their investments. The article written by Atty. Andrew Willms entitled, "Investing With Your Estate Plan," (found on our Articles page of our website) discusses the interaction of investment strategy and estate planning. His observations are based on many years of experience coordinating client's estate planning with their investment objectives. Please contact him directly if you would like to learn more about the material covered in this article. Andy's email address is awillms@estatecounselors.com.

Planning Ahead for 2013 Taxes

As you know, part of our services to our clients is looking one step ahead for new developments in the law that may make immediate planning action more desirable. In the article written by Atty. Maureen O'Leary entitled, "New Taxes to Take Effect in 2013," (found on the Articles page of our website) she discusses the new investment income tax and earned income tax developments that may affect you beginning in 2013. She also provides strategies for taking action now that may minimize any detrimental impact on you in the next year. Please contact her if you would like to learn more about the items discussed in her article. Maureen's email address is moleary@willmslaw.com.

Irrevocable Trusts and Long-Term Care Planning

Irrevocable trusts are a popular tool in the estate planning world because they can be structured a variety of different ways depending on a client's particular planning objectives. These objectives may include passing assets to future generations, reducing estate tax liability, or protecting assets from long-term care expenses. However, irrevocable trusts can take many forms, and must be structured depending on your particular goal. The article written by Atty. Jessica Bourke entitled, "Irrevocable Trusts and Long-Term Care Planning," (found on the Articles page of our website) discusses what it means for your assets to be owned by an irrevocable trust. She also provides planning considerations when long-term care expenses are a concern. Please contact her if you would like to learn more about the subject of her article. You can email Jessica at jbourke@willmslaw.com.

What Does My Attorney Do?

Here at Willms, S.C., we pride ourselves on the level of expertise and knowledge we provide to our estate planning clients. However, as many of our clients well know, estate planning encompasses much more than a traditional estate plan, and our expertise does not end there. We do also frequently assist clients in the following types of legal matters:

- **Real Estate** – We assists clients with negotiating, reviewing and preparing the sales documents if clients are purchasing or selling real estate.

- **Taxes** – We handle a variety of tax questions for clients. We also prepare income tax, gift tax and estate tax returns.

- **Asset Protection** – We utilize a variety of strategies to help clients protect their assets from creditor claims.

- **Business** – For our business owner clients, we create and implement business succession plans and prepare corporate documents.

- **Probate/Estate Administration** – We understand the issues that arise when there is a death in the family. We help with every aspect of administering a decedent's estate.

- **Mediation** – We offers mediation services to assist clients in resolving disputes without going to court.

- **Fiduciary Litigation** – Sometimes litigation is necessary to resolve a dispute regarding a trust or estate. In that event, we guide our clients through this process.

- **Elder Law and Disability Law –** We work with clients who experience disability, or want to plan for a loved one with a disability, or need to plan for long-term care expenses. We utilize a variety of tools including special needs trusts, guardianships and protective placements, insurance products, and available government benefits and community programs.

If you have a legal issue and are not sure if it is one of our areas of practice, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. If it is a matter we work with, we can assist you directly. If it is a matter outside of our scope of expertise, we are always happy to help our clients by referring them to a well-trusted colleague who specializes in those matters.

We hope you find the information included in this newsletter helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact us for more information about the topics in this newsletter.

Sincerely,

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If you would like to stay up-to-date with the latest developments at Willms, S.C. through LinkedIn, please visit Andy Willms' LinkedIn page by clicking here, Maureen O'Leary's page by clicking here, and Jessica Bourke's LinkedIn page by clicking here.