Update

Fourth Quarter 2009

Women's Estate Planning Council

Mission: To promote interaction between women estate planning professionals educationally, professionally and socially.

President's Corner

By Cathy Schwartz, CFP ®, WEPC President

The mission statement of the Women's Estate Planning Council is to promote interaction between women estate planning professionals: educationally, professionally, and socially. As for the education component: I would like to commend our Program Chairs Myra Donovan and Pam Hesselgrave, for working hard to ensure that we have informative, interesting, quality programs that allow us to earn continuing education credits during our meetings. As for the social component: I would like to commend our Hospitality chair Debbie Reinberg and our Membership committee (headed by Mary Bock, Dana Sandoval, and Lisa Ludwig) for making sure that the networking and refreshment time during our meetings runs smoothly.

We had a great time at the recent "picnic in the park" meeting held at Wash Park, getting to know each other better both socially and professionally (thanks goes out to "People Bingo" created by the Program committee). Thanks again to all those involved in planning that event for making it a resounding success. And I'm looking forward to our December outing, as this is always fun and a great time to get to know one another even better.

As we look ahead to 2010, I look to our PR/Outreach Committee (headed by Leslie Karotkin and Kristi Sullivan) and our Website/ Technology Committee (headed by Amy Berk) to continue to expand our development as an organization: educationally, professionally, and socially.

However, I would also like to challenge each of our individual members to think about how she can contribute to fulfilling our mission. I have been thrilled to see our membership continue to increase and see enthusiastic involvement from so many of our members. But take a moment to think about how you might be able to contribute: educationally, professionally, and socially.

Perhaps you would like to offer to provide a program for an upcoming meeting, or could suggest a topic or speaker that would be of interest to the group? Or perhaps you would like to get to know more about other members who might be good referral partners for you…..why not give someone a call and set up a coffee?

With Thanksgiving rapidly approaching, we should all be thankful and mindful of the fact that one of the richest resources we have is each other.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a prosperous new year!

--Catherine Schwartz, CFP®, CDFA, President, WEPC

RSVP Policy

In order to get an accurate food estimate for meetings, we MUST have RSVPs by the Tuesday before each meeting. Those who do not RSVP will be charged a $5 at the door. Thank you for your understanding.

Meetings

2nd Thursday of each month

Networking: 5:30 pm
Remarks: 5:50 pm
Program: 6:00 – 7:00 pm
Guest Fee: $15.00
No RSVP Fee: $5
Light dinner served
Location: Galleria Building, 720 S. Colorado Blvd., Garden level conference room-**north west** corner of bldg. Park on the Bluebell level

Programs

Check out our Website, www.wepc.net for upcoming programs.

Please contact Myra Donovan or Pamela Hesselgrave (see page 2 for phone numbers) if you are interested in speaking at a meeting. We'd like to hear from our members!

GRAT Changes May be Coming

The Grantor Retained Annuity Trust (GRAT) has been getting a lot of attention lately because low market interest rates create a window for passing assets to heirs without incurring much, if any, estate or gift tax. These advantages have become so pronounced in the current market environment that the President's tax proposal to Congress earlier this year included a new restriction for such trusts in the future. The trust term will have to be at least 10 years in order to be effective for federal tax purposes.

If this change is made, it will likely be part of a larger estate tax reform plan that keeps the federal exempt amount at $3.5million ($7million for married couples). Such a move could limit the need for more sophisticated strategies, such as GRATs, for wealthier families.

Thanks to Sara Wade for contributing this article!

Quote of the Quarter: When you have told anyone you have left them a legacy, the only decent thing to do is die at once. - Samuel Butler (English novelist, essayist, and critic)

2009-2010 Board Members

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Vice President	Darla Daniel 303-864-7209
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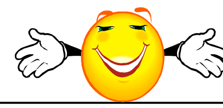
Public Relations	Leslie Karotkin 303-300-1790
Hospitality	Debbie Reinberg 303-268-2282
Website/Technology	Amy Berk 303-721-6055
Newsletter	Kristi Sullivan 303-324-0014

Welcome, New Members!

- **Sheryl Brake**, CPA, Eide Bailly, LLP
- **Stephanie Bruno**, Financial, Cascade Financial Mgmt.
- **Karen Cecile**, Financial, Financial Designs, Ltd.
- **Katrina Jones**, Attorney, Chayet and Danzo, LLC
- **Erica Longnecker**, Attorney
- **Thiensa Nguyen**, Associate Financial, World Financial Group
- **Keira Rawlings**, Associate Financial, The Denver Legacy Group at Morgan Stanley Smith Barney
- **Daniela Ronchetti**, Attorney, Baker Hostetler



Good News From Sharkey, Howes & Javer

Kudos! In the September issue of "Best Wealth Managers" in both *5280* and *ColoradoBiz* magazines, , five CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professionals from Sharkey, Howes & Javer, are listed as 2009 FIVE STAR: including Eileen Sharkey, CFP®, Lawrence Howes, CFP®, Joel Javer, CFP®, Mimi Hackley, CFP® and Harold Kirschner, CFP®. Read More at www.shwj.com.

Eileen M. Sharkey, CFP® was also honored as Denver's Outstanding Professional Woman by the Denver Business Journal on August 27, 2009.

Flash Interview with New Member Sheryl Brake

What is your favorite food to eat? Anything healthy, but especially sweet potatoes

Describe your favorite travel destination. A tropical island away from all forms of technology.

If you could have a superpower – what would it be? Be able to eat anything I wanted and not gain weight.

What is your philosophy of exercise? Exercise is a must for personal health and stress relief – I try to do some form of physical activity at least 5 days a week.

Briefly describe your ideal client. My ideal client is someone who is looking to build a personal relationship with their professional advisor, values my input, and is goal oriented.

Flash Interview with Existing Member Nora Roth

What is your favorite food to eat? Rich milk chocolate - my motto is "You can never have too much chocolate." (Although this is not good for my waistline.)

Describe your favorite travel destination. London, England - my husband and I went to London for the first time for our honeymoon - we were married on the day Diana, Princess of Wales, died. All of London - and all of England actually (we visited several different areas of England on that trip) - was in mourning. We stayed at a hotel close to Kensington Palace and saw first-hand the hip-high piles of flowers left in front of the Palace. It was a very moving experience that I will never forget. London itself is a great city and it is very easy to get around.

If you could have a superpower – what would it be? The ability to instantly transport myself (and others) anywhere in the world (like in Star Trek). I hate airplane travel.

What is your philosophy of exercise? Exercise should be something you enjoy doing so you will keep at it - like dancing or walking the dogs.

Briefly describe your ideal client. Someone who has amassed investable assets from $150,000+ to unlimited millions and for whom I can serve as a resource for financial, legal and life planning so the client can live his or her (or their) best life.

Thanks to Barbara Cashman Hahn for conducting the Flash Interviews!

National Association of Estate Planners & Councils
The Association of Choice for Estate Planning Professionals

NAEPC Update

By Nora E. Roth, Personal Trust Officer
Colorado State Bank and Trust

As a member of the Women's Estate Planning Council, you are also a member of The National Association of Estate Planners & Councils ("NAEPC"). The NAEPC publishes a monthly newsletter on its website, which includes listings for upcoming free and reduced cost webinars offered through NAEPC for its members. These webinars cover many different topics and include speakers from all over the country.

For example, NAEPC and AICPA's Personal Financial Planning Section teamed up to present the seminar "Why 2009 Is So Important for Financial and Estate Planning: Reviews Everyone Should Do Now!" for professionals on September 22, 2009. The webinar had over 1,200 registered attendees and offered professional education from Sidney Kess, CPA, JD, LL.M., AEP® Distinguished and panelists Steven Siegel, JD, LL.M., Martin M. Shenkman, CPA, PFS, MBA, JD, Jacqueline Patterson, CPA, JD, MBT and Daniel L. Daniels, JD. The recording can be heard online through the NAEPC website free of charge.

The NAEPC is hosting its Annual Conference this month, so there are no webinars offered in November, but the webinars are announced in the NAEPC monthly newsletter.

Additionally, NAEPC offers access to many different publications that are available for free (such as its own NAEPC Journal of Estate & Tax Planning) or at a discounted rate. It also offers free article reprints on many different topics.

Further, the **Estate Planning Law Specialist (EPLS)** designation is available to attorneys by the Estate Law Specialist Board, Inc., an attorney-run subsidiary of the National Association of Estate Planners & Councils. Attorneys who become Board-certified under this program demonstrate a high level of professionalism and commitment to the concept of specialization. We believe that as attorney specialization increases, it will benefit not only lawyers but the public. This program is currently the only program, other than certain state bar association programs which are only for residents of their particular states, accredited by the American Bar Association to Board-certify attorneys as Estate Planning Law Specialists.

Please spend a few minutes looking at the website – www.napec.org – to become familiar with its offerings. If you have not received your membership website access information, please let me know – send me an e-mail with your e-mail address at nroth@csbt.com.

WEPC Members On the Move!

Congratulations to Nancy Peterson, who opened The Peterson Law Firm, LLC on October 1, 2009!

The focus of **THE PETERSON LAW FIRM, LLC,** will be estate administration, guardianships (for both minors and incapacitated adults) and conservatorships (for both minors and incapacitated adults).

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