

June 11, 2011

Where are you going to be on June 22-24? If you don't have plans to visit Cancun, Acacia National Park in Maine, or some similarly exotic locale, and if you want something more long-lasting and beneficial than a suntan or dipping your toes in the Atlantic Ocean, let me suggest Plano, Texas. (Seriously!)

I am talking, of course, about the Annual Course on Estate Planning sponsored by The Center for American and International Law, coming up on June 22-24. I have been the lead presenter in this course since approximately 1968—my gosh; that's 43 years—and I can tell you that this year's program is going to be one of the very best we have presented in all of those years.

It is certainly one of the most timely! As you know all too well, the Tax Act signed by President Obama on December 17, 2010 (introducing what Steve Akers calls "The New Paradigm of \$5 Million Exemptions"), has had a sea change effect on the estate planning advice we will be giving our clients. It has also had an effect on clients we have assisted in the recent past, and one of the subjects we will cover is whether an attorney has a duty/opportunity to contact some of those clients for a review of their estate plans. To give but one example, by increasing the exemption equivalent to \$5 million, Congress changed the dispositive provisions of every Will in the United States that contains a marital deduction formula clause.

Scan-read the enclosed brochure and the topics to be covered, and you can easily see why we believe this year's course will be an investment that is bound to pay dividends to you and help your practice. Note, too, the A List group of presenters, several of whom you no doubt had heard in the past: Steve Akers (Dallas), Sandy Bisignano (Dallas), Mike Bourland (Fort Worth), Darin Digby (San Antonio), and Yours Truly—all of whose presentations are certain to be as strong and useful as the materials that will be provided.

More than a few attendees of this CAIL program in past years have written to tell us that this is the best three-day course on estate planning in the country. And, they are right! I hope to see you on June 22.

Sincerely,

Stanley Johanson  
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University Distinguished Teaching Professor  
The University of Texas School of Law