



April Newsletter!

by Endy Ukoha-Ajike



It's Tax Time! As a reminder the 2015 Personal Tax Return deadline is April 18th at midnight. If you are unable to file and you obtain an extension, your deadline is October 17th.

~Endy

Prevent Family Drama, Plan for the Inevitable

Time and time again when a family member dies (usually the matriarch or patriarch of the family), drama among family members erupts over the assets left behind. Often the matter ends up in court with family members pitted against each other, each side hiring a team of lawyers.

Sometimes there is a will or no will, which in either case guarantees that there will be probate.

Upcoming Events



**- April Seminar-
Estate Planning: Life
Altering Events**

Join us for our next free seminar on **Estate Planning: Life Altering Events**. Wine and cheese included! Space is Limited.

Date: Apr 28th, 2016 @ 5:30pm

Location: Lungomare
1 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94607
(Jack London Square)

[RSVP Here](#)

**Contribute to the
Conversation!**

Sometimes there is a trust which should avoid probate, but if poorly drafted, the parties still end up in court. The aim of this article is to provide information that will propel you to act and prevent family drama that can erupt when dividing a loved one's assets.

1. Encourage Your Matriarch or Patriarch to Plan for the Inevitable:

While it may look suspicious to others when a family member (son or daughter), encourages their mother or father to execute a will or trust, it is better to do so than not. Even though parents often don't want to broach the topic of planning for what happens at their deaths, it is more prudent for a child or children to encourage the parents to do so while not becoming directly involved in the process. Planning prevents speculation at death regarding the intent of the deceased about their assets.

Here are some dos and don'ts for children:

- **Do:** schedule the meeting if your parents authorize you to do so.
- **Do not:** attend the meeting, or if you escort your parent/s, do not sit in the meeting with your parents/ and the attorney.
- **Do not:** pay the attorney's fees for creating your parent/s estate plan from your funds.
- **Do not:** get involved in deciding who receives assets in your parent/s' estate plan. It is their plan, not yours. By involving yourself too much, you run the risk of allegations of undue influence.

Our goal is to make the seminar as informative and interactive as possible so please submit any questions that you have on this month's topic and Endy will address them at the seminar.

[Submit Your Questions Here](#)

2016 Seminar Co-Host Opportunity

As we launch our educational seminars in 2016, we will be joining forces with complimentary professionals who will co-present with us such as CPA's, Financial Planners, Real Estate/Mortgage Brokers, etc.

If you are interested in co-hosting a future seminar with us, please contact Megan at megan@ukohalaw.com.

Important Notices



2015 Personal Income Tax

Attending a meeting, financing an estate plan, or helping divide assets may result in a challenge or contest when your parent passes away.

2. Put a plan in place while you are able:

Do not wait until you or your loved one has suffered or is suffering from a fatal illness and have been admitted to the hospital before putting a plan in place. The will or trust often ends up being challenged or contested. Instead plan while you are still healthy and in control. While healthy, you are able to think clearly and deeply about who you will appoint to take control of your assets, and how your loved ones will receive those assets. These are not decisions you can make easily while under the pressure of serious illness. A plan written at the hospital may still be valid, but it is more likely to be contested than one that is written with careful and deliberate consideration.

3. After making the plan, record it:

Over the last few years in my practice, I have encouraged my clients to record their testamentary wishes, especially with the prevalence of new technology and small recording devices such as smart phones, video and voice recorders. Even if contested, it is more difficult for a court to ignore a visual/audio recording of a healthy person clearly reciting his/her wishes at death, than to accept the clever arguments of a lawyer who is trying to overturn those wishes as untrue. It helps avoid allegations of duress or undue influence.

Return Filing Deadline: April 18, 2016

- The regular tax return filing deadline is April 15. However, due to the Washington D.C. Emancipation Day holiday being observed on April 15 instead of April 16 2016, Tax Day is on the following Monday, April 18th.

2015 Extension Filing Deadline: October 17, 2016

- Extension to file your 2015 Tax Returns is October 17, 2016 because October 15, 2016 falls on a Saturday.

Conclusion:

Remember the old adage, those who fail to plan, plan to fail. Don't let your failure to plan for the enjoyment of a tax free inheritance by your loved ones lead to protracted, costly and unnecessary litigation that may ultimately tear up the family. Be proactive!!

[Read More Articles →](#)

Endy's Planning Tip:

Record your Estate Plan/Wishes! Even though it is not an absolute guarantee against a contest of your Will or Trust at death, recording your estate plan under non-suspicious circumstances makes it more difficult to overturn your wishes if contested than not doing so.

Contact us if you have any questions regarding any of the items in this Newsletter. We look forward to continuously working with you to resolve your required Business, Tax and Estate Planning needs in 2016.

Share the news!



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Forward



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About Endy:

Endy is an Oakland (Jack London Square) based Tax & Estate Planning Attorney with over 13 years of experience. He has helped countless families throughout California develop individualized estate plans and has administered many estates over that period.

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CONTACT US:

Phone: 510.834.9944

Website: www.ukohalaw.com

Mailing Address:

70 Washington St, Suite 303

@ Jack London Square

Oakland, CA 94607

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Ukoha-Law Group, P.C. · Jack London Square · 70 Washington St, Suite 303 · Oakland, CA 94607 · USA

