

SCHILLER LAW GROUP

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Planning for the Future Newsletter

CONGRESSIONAL ALERT

Estate tax law modification remains a political football. The movie on point is *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*. There is simply too much money on the table for the elected officials to avoid posturing. Thus, a non-binding resolution to increase the estate tax exemption and lower rates was approved by Senate, while the House approved a resolution tying added estate tax relief to comparable tax savings for individuals with net income under \$100,000. Some day the real discussion will start.

Proposals to allow the estate tax exemption to go to a spouse without having to have the spouse receive his or her share in trust seems to have support. If it passes, it would eliminate the use of the Exemption Trust/ByPassTrust/Family Trust otherwise established for purely tax purposes. However, *A Cinderella Story*® provides an apt reminder that outright giving may be shortsighted if there is a desire to protect the children or other loved ones.

SUPPORTING THE JOHN MUIR HEALTH FOUNDATION

The John Muir Medical Centers of Walnut Creek and Concord, California do great work. We are pleased to support its charitable foundation, through the May 21, 2009, presentation of "ESTATE PLANNING AT THE MOVIES—DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN?" to the Heritage Society of the John Muir Health Foundation. Keith will be relating shared experiences at the movies to the challenges of aging. Following his presentation, Arlene Phillips of John Muir Health Senior Services will be discussing the signs of memory loss. The Foundation raises money for the programs and services of John Muir Health, a not-for-profit health care system, and a gem right here in Contra Costa County. The luncheon will honor individuals who have included the Foundation in their estate plans or who have been long-time consecutive donors. If you would like more information about the luncheon or the John Muir Health Foundation, please call Linda Solow Jaffe, VP for Gift Planning, at 947-4449.