

THE PLAN

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Client Events

Believe it or not, it is getting close to that time of year again. The weather outside is turning colder, the leaves are falling, snow is starting to cover Mt. Baker again...that's right ladies and gentlemen, it's time to get your Flu shot. Just kidding...we're talking about our annual Christmas brunch. It will be held at the Lairmont Manor again and this year it will be on Friday, December 11th from 7AM to 11AM. Mark your calendars now. It is going to be a special year this year as we are having Luciano Pavarotti coming to serenade us with classic Christmas carols. Once again...just kidding, it will just be us again. But the food and fellowship will be great as always.



A Well Planned Retirement

From The London Times:

Outside England's Bristol Zoo there is a parking lot for 150 cars and 8 buses. For 25 years its parking fees were managed by a very pleasant attendant. The fees were £1 for cars (\$1.40), £5 for busses (about \$7).

Then, one day, after 25 solid years of never missing a day of work, he just didn't show up; so the Zoo Management called the City Council and asked it to send them another parking agent.

The Council did some research and replied that the parking lot was the Zoo's own responsibility.

The Zoo advised the Council that the attendant was a City employee.

The City Council responded that the lot attendant had never been on the City payroll.

Meanwhile, sitting in his villa somewhere on the coast of Spain (or some such scenario), is a man who'd apparently had a ticket machine installed completely on his own; and then had simply begun to show up every day, commencing to collect and keep the parking fees, estimated at about \$560 per day -- for 25 years.

Assuming 7 days a week, this amounts to just over \$7 million dollars!

Our Expert Panel

by James B. Twining, CFP

Like most everything else in our practice, our process has evolved over the years. I want to communicate to you a recent change to our process that you may not be aware of; as it takes place in your absence.

But first, some background: When I began in the financial planning profession in 1982, things were simpler. Most clients could rely upon the advice of one trusted advisor, and be confident that he or she had an in-depth knowledge of all the important areas. Investments and Insurance were relatively simple, as was the income tax code.

But somewhere along the way things got complicated; **very** complicated. A few hundred investments selections turned into tens of thousands of investment selections. An entire array of share classes with different fee structures was born. ETFs were invented, as were derivatives, structured notes, alternative asset classes, TIPS, and CMOs. Universal Life, Variable Life, Single Pay Life, and Long Term Care Insurance came on the scene. The income tax code became a monster, and the rules began to change yearly. The new rules spawned 401ks, Roth IRAs, Roth conversions, and a host of other retirement plans and strategies. The estate and gift tax laws evolved and began to change yearly as well. Complicated trusts were written to combat estate tax and probate, and to give to charity on a tax advantaged basis, among other concerns.

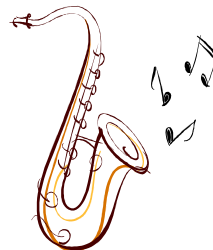
Over time we became aware of the fact that no one person could be an expert in all of these areas. In order to give quality advice we needed to rely upon specialists in a number of fields. In order to accomplish this, we identified who we believe are the top advisors in various disciplines and convened an expert panel.

We meet with our panel quarterly to review client cases, and from those meetings come advanced planning recommendations that we bring to you. The panel consists of a private client lawyer, a CPA, an advanced insurance specialist, and other specialists who we bring in to address special situations. We maintain our core expertise in financial planning and wealth management and a broad knowledge of the advanced planning areas; but we rely upon the experts for detailed guidance and implementation in the advanced planning areas.

Some of the issues that the panel addresses include estate tax mitigation, complex income tax and capital gains solutions, unwinding concentrated securities positions, protection from lawsuit, effective Charitable giving, and tax favored capital transfers. The entire resources of our firm are available to you. Don't hesitate to ask if you need help with any financial objective, no matter how complex.

Disclaimer: For tax and legal advice please talk to a tax advisor and attorney respectively.

On A Personal Note



Jeanne

Well it finally happened, we are grandparents!! Stella Kathryn Wolf was born Sept. 7th (labor day!) at 4:56 PM, she weighed 6 lbs 15 oz and was 18 inches long, just a tiny little thing. We were there for the birth, I was actually in the room with Cheri (the other proud Grandma), Jamie's mom (great-grandma), and of course Devin (Stella's dad), it was awesome! My mom was in town for the event and stayed a few days after to help out. Unfortunately Stephanie and Devin don't live close enough for me to see Stella as often as I would like but if I really can't stand it, it is only a 2 hour drive. Isn't she beautiful!



Stella Kathryn
Labor Day, 2009

Jamie

My folks own a cabin at Sandspit in the Queen Charlotte Islands. A few weeks ago the three of us towed the boat up to Prince Rupert (1,000 miles!) and took the ferry across to the islands, where we stayed and fished for about five days.

While landing a 6 pound 15 ounce baby is exciting, it's nothing compared to landing a 10 pound Coho! (Just kidding, Stephie) Here is a picture of my mom and dad after wrestling a nice fish aboard:



Michelle

Jeanne thinks that being a grandma is going to be so easy, but I've got news for her.....there's a reason that we have children when we are young...*sometimes* its hard work: such as last week when I had the opportunity to help my youngest son & daughter-in-law while they were moving to a new house. To help out, I babysat my grandchildren, 3 year old Taryn & 2 month old Trenton. Well little Taryn has quite the imagination to say the least, and loves to pretend, so when she suggested playing pretend swordfight, I agreed. We pretended that the evil queen was trying to kidnap "Prince Trenton" & it was our job as his "guards" to make sure that didn't happen. At one point during our pretend battle with the evil queen, I find myself standing up on the chaise lounge with Prince Trenton in one arm, plastic glowing sword in the other and fending off an imaginary opponent! What a funny picture that would have been to put in the newsletter! LOL

Check out our new website, it's still a work in progress...

WWW.
FINANCIALPLANINC
.COM

Jennifer

Well now that the kids are back in school Buster is home most of the day by himself. I figured he was getting lonely & felt really bad leaving him all day so I got him a blanket. He even sleeps with it! I'm still not sure how he got into my room to sleep on my bed though!!

Haha. I know I know I need to really think about getting some hobbies!



David

Well, needless to say this last year has been a hum-dinger for all of us. While we were all trying to make sense of corporate bailouts, stimulus packages, credit meltdowns, bank failures and free-falling stock markets, I was having to deal with a much more severe crisis... The notorious and terrifying "shirt stuck on the head" dilemma!

Thankfully, we all survived!

