



The Law Firm of
**KAVESH
MINOR &
OTIS, INC**

Estate Planning Specialists
for your peace of mind®

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DECEMBER 2021 ISSUE

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**"I Enjoyed
Everyone Else's
Christmas!"**
by Attorney Philip Kavesh

As a small boy, I loved that time of year when cheerful music emanated from seemingly everywhere and most all the local street lamps, storefronts, and homes were adorned in various colored, blinking lights and tinsel.

Except for my own home.

We watched all our neighbors go through the apparently delightful routine of putting up their holiday decorations and somehow miraculously squeezing huge green-needed trees through their doorways. But we didn't participate

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LIVING TRUST SEMINARS

These seminars are for the public and also for our existing clients who want to bring family or friends!

PLEASE NOTE:

Most of our seminars listed below are currently being held in-person. If you, or someone you know, would like to attend a virtual seminar instead, including any friends and family who might not live in the area, we have some limited virtual seminars (noted below) or please [send us an e-mail](#) and we can book a private viewing of our seminar online.

(Also note: We can provide services to anyone residing in California without them having to travel to our offices.)

IN-PERSON LIVING TRUST SEMINARS

**WEDNESDAY
December 1st**

9:30am - 11:00am

Main Torrance Office

990 W. 190th Street, Suite 500

Extremely Limited Capacity

REGISTER

**SATURDAY
December 11th**

9:30am - 11:00am

Torrance Marriott Hotel

3635 Fashion Way

Extremely Limited Capacity

REGISTER

in these community rituals. And I wanted to know why.

So I asked, "Mommy, why don't we put up lights and get a big tree too?" My Mom, unprepared for such an incisive question blurted out by such a young child, said something to the effect, "We are different from them. We don't believe in those things." Then she went through a long (and hard for me to follow) explanation of the difference between us being Jewish and them being Christian. I didn't really digest or understand most of it. We all lived next to each other, the kids all played with each other, and I didn't notice any difference between us. I just felt heartbroken that we weren't going to have lights and a tree like everyone else.

After a few days of seeing me moping around with a downcast expression, my Mom wisely decided to do something about it. "Philip" (that's what my Mom called me, rather than Phil, when she was really serious!), "we're going to visit the neighbors' houses and see their trees!"

And immediately off we went.

I remember the first neighbors we visited, who lived right next to us, were an older couple who I had rarely ever seen (because they didn't have any young kids). I was amazed how good their house smelled, a delicious gumbo of fir tree and recently baked gingerbread cookies. And when I saw their tree, they turned on its lights and even let me put some silvery string on the

VIRTUAL LIVING TRUST SEMINAR

TUESDAY
December 14th
9:30am - 11:00am
Online Webinar

[REGISTER](#)



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**WHY YOU
SHOULD REVIEW
YOUR ESTATE PLAN**

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for your peace of mind!

BY: PHILIP J. KAVESH, J.D., LL. M. (TAX)
CALIFORNIA STATE BAR CERTIFIED SPECIALIST IN ESTATE PLANNING, TRUST AND PROBATE LAW

Many people mistakenly believe that getting their estate plan is a "one and done" process—but it's not. Your and your beneficiaries' circumstances, needs, relationships, assets, and more change all of the time. This is why we bring in all of our clients every three years for a complimentary review meeting.

Download this FREE report to learn more

branches. In the midst of all this fun, I spotted with curiosity the beautifully colored boxes beneath the tree and before I spoke they said "They're presents and one of them is for you!" Was I ever overjoyed with this thing called Christmas!

As we continued on to walk around the block, we received the same warm welcome from all the neighbors, even ones who were pretty much strangers to us. We were taken to view each family's tree and examine the many unusual ornaments (sometimes with too lengthy a history of them, which I didn't mind because I always got a sugar cookie to eat or a toy to play with while I pretended to studiously listen!)

When we returned home, I plopped down all the small gifts I had received onto the kitchen table. I felt so happy after such a wonderful time at all the others' houses. But I quickly became sad again when I looked around our house and it was noticeably devoid of any beautifully wrapped boxes. "Mommy," I asked, "where are *our* family's presents?"

Frankly, I was expecting to be disappointed by this Christmas thing again, since it was clear we were not getting any lights or a tree.

But I was joyfully surprised when my Mom responded, "That's the best part of our holiday, Hanukkah. All those other children only get one day of Christmas gifts, but you'll get gifts for eight days in a row and it begins tonight!"

about the reasons you should have your estate plan reviewed.

[DOWNLOAD NOW](#)

**REMINDER:
WE ARE OPEN!**



As a reminder, we are now officially open for business for clients to come for in-person meetings. We have limited visitor capacity and all the necessary safety precautions and protocols are in place at our premises to keep our clients and our staff safe. In addition, all of our attorneys and staff are fully vaccinated.

We know that virtual meetings have not been accessible or preferred by some and we are happy to be able to offer in-person meetings again. We will still have virtual meetings available for those who cannot or do not wish to come into the office at this time.

A big smile came across my face as I thought, “Wow, I get to enjoy everyone else’s Christmas and our Hanukkah too!”

When I now look back at such times of my youth, and as an adult now see so much fighting, fear and distrust between people of the world - - often in the name of religious differences - - I feel compelled to implore us all to open our hearts and our doors to share with others the spirit of generosity and true meaning of this holiday season.

Happy Holidays to you and your loved ones (and your neighbors too!) from all of us at Kavesh, Minor & Otis.



In 2022, Social Security Beneficiaries Will See the Biggest Increase in 39 Years

Courtesy of Elder Law Answers

The year was 1983: The U.S. invaded Granada. A gallon of gas cost 96 cents.

Michael Jackson's 'Thriller' video premiered. That year was also the last time that Social Security recipients saw a cost-of-living increase steeper than the one just announced for 2022. This year, Social Security benefits will rise 5.9 percent, the sharpest upsurge since 1983's 7.4 percent jump.



Cost-of-living increases are tied to the consumer price index, and rising inflation rates and gas prices caused by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic mean Social Security recipients will get a large boost in 2022. The 5.9 percent increase dwarfs last year's [1.3 percent rise](#), and over the past decade hikes have averaged just 1.65 percent. The average monthly benefit of \$1,565 in 2021 will go up by \$92 a month to \$1,657 a month for an individual beneficiary, or \$19,884 yearly.

The cost-of-living change also affects the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax, which will grow from \$142,800 to \$147,000.

For 2022, the monthly federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payment standard will be \$841 for an individual and \$1,261 for a couple.

Part of the increase will be eaten up by higher Medicare Part B premiums, however. The standard monthly premium for Medicare Part B enrollees has not been announced yet, but it is projected to rise \$10 a month to \$158.30.

Most beneficiaries will be able to find out their specific cost-of-living adjustment online by logging on to [my Social Security](#) in December 2021. While you can still receive your increase notice by mail, you have the option to get the notice online instead. For more on the 2022 Social Security benefit levels, [click here](#).

FINANCIAL & MARKET UPDATE

Courtesy of
Pence Wealth Management



PENCE

WEALTH
MANAGEMENT

Thanks to the advisors at Pence Wealth Management, we are pleased to provide to you access to the insights on the financial and market updates.

Join Chief Investment Officer, E. Dryden Pence, III and CEP and President, Laila Pence on their next Pence Podcast on Thursday, December 2nd at 3pm PT. See below for more details.

PENCE PODCAST SEASON 2

The new stimulus package affects your taxes, the markets, and the economy.

Find out how! Join our podcast.

Next Podcast:
Thursday, December 2nd @3PM PT



[REGISTER NOW](#)

These financial updates are helpful to many of our clients as the advisors at Pence Wealth Management continue to help us understand what's going on and the trends in the financial world.

DISCLOSURE: The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual. Historical performance is no guarantee of future results. All market indices are unmanaged and may not be invested into directly. The economic forecasts set forth may not develop as predicted and there can be no guarantee that strategies promoted will be successful. All investing involves risk including loss of principal. Pence Wealth Management does not provide legal and/or tax advice or services. Please consult your legal and/or tax advisor regarding your specific situation. E. Dryden Pence III and Laila Marshall-Pence are Registered Principals with LPL Financial. Securities and Advisory Services offered through LPL Financial, a Registered Investment Advisor. Member FINRA/SIPC. LPL Financial and Pence Wealth Management are separate entities.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Gingerbread Snowflake

What better way to enjoy the holiday season than with soft gingerbread cookies. This can be a great treat to enjoy with a cup of coffee, tea, or even eggnog. If you want a fun activity to gather some friends and family, icing them together is a great option and enjoyed right after. Enjoy!

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup molasses
- 1/4 cup water

- 5 cups all-purpose flour
- 2-1/2 teaspoons ground ginger
- 1-1/2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1-1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

FROSTING

- 3-3/4 cups confectioners' sugar
- 1/4 cup water
- 1-1/2 teaspoons light corn syrup
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract



DIRECTIONS

1. In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in molasses and water. Combine the flour, ginger, baking soda, cinnamon, allspice and salt; gradually add to creamed mixture and mix well. Cover and refrigerate for 1 hour or until easy to handle.
2. On a lightly floured surface, roll out to 1/4-in. thickness. Cut with 2-1/2-in. cookie cutters dipped in flour. Place 2 in. apart on ungreased baking sheets.
3. Bake at 350° until edges are firm, 10-12 minutes. Remove to wire racks to cool.
4. In a small bowl, combine frosting ingredients; beat until smooth. Transfer to a pastry bag fitted with a tip; pipe frosting onto cookies in desired designs.

SOURCE: www.tasteofhome.com

CAN YOU PLEASE DO US A QUICK FAVOR?

We know that our clients and all the members of our community have many options to choose from when it comes to assisting with their estate planning needs. It is very gratifying to us that people put their trust in us to help them with these important decisions that will impact them and their loved ones for years to come.

Many have asked how they can continue to support us over the years and they do so by not only referring their friends and family, but another way you can help us is by taking the time to leave us an online review (if you haven't done so already). Below are a handful of websites you can choose from to leave a quick online review of your experience with our firm.

Thank you, in advance, for continuing to support us over the years! We look forward to continuing to help you and your loved ones for many more years to

come!



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"The holiday season is the perfect time to reflect on our blessings and seek out ways to make life better for those around us."

—Terri Marshall,
American Author



OFFICE LOCATIONS

For your convenience, we have multiple office locations throughout Southern California.

NOTE: COVID-19 regulations now permit us to meet with you in person at our offices, but personalized meetings are still available through Zoom, FaceTime or telephone.

MAIN OFFICE

TORRANCE OFFICE

990 W. 190th Street, Suite 500
Torrance, CA 90502

TELEPHONE NUMBER

1.800.756.5596

OTHER LOCAL OFFICES

PASADENA OFFICE

790 E. Colorado Blvd., 9th Floor
Pasadena, CA 91101

ORANGE OFFICE

333 City Drive West, 17th Floor
Orange, CA 92868

WOODLAND HILLS OFFICE

5850 Canoga Avenue, 4th Floor
Woodland Hills, CA 91367

NEWPORT BEACH OFFICE

5000 Birch Street, Suite 8000
Newport Beach, CA 92660



The testimonials in this newsletter and throughout our website were provided by actual clients. To maintain their

privacy, their names may be abbreviated and their photos are not shown. Please note that testimonials do not warrant, guarantee or predict your particular results. Actual client testimonial letters may be viewed by you in several "Thank You" books, proudly displayed at our main office lobby.

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