



Before It's Too Late:

**3 Simple, but under-
utilized, Steps Towards
Protecting Your Assets in
Today's Economy**



**LERMAN LAW
PARTNERS, LLP**
THE REAL ESTATE INVESTOR'S LAWYERSSM

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BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!!

3 Simple, But Under-Utilized, Steps To Protect Your Assets In Today's Economy.

This free report has been prepared by Michelle C. Lerman, a Certified Legal Specialist in Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law by the California Board of Legal Specialization of the State Bar of California. The report is not intended as legal advice. Be sure to engage counsel before taking any action.

STEP #1: A LIVING TRUST IS CRITICAL TO ELIMINATE THE COST OF PROBATE. Experts generally all agree that a living trust can save tens of thousands of dollars in probate costs. By transferring your assets into a living trust, you eliminate probate and keep your personal affairs private. Why pay tens of thousands of dollars in probate fees, when you can transfer assets to a living trust and completely avoid the cost of probate?

STEP #2: UNDERSTANDING THE "GIFT BONANZA" COULD HELP YOU PASS WEALTH TAX FREE. Under the new law just passed, the lifetime exclusion was increased from \$1M to \$5M, but only until 2013, unless the law is extended. A married couple who already used the exclusion can for a limited time gift an additional \$8M without gift tax! Plus, by transferring fractional interests in property, you can leverage the lifetime exclusion leaving even more to your family.

STEP #3: ENGAGE A "CERTIFIED SPECIALIST". Being a "Certified Specialist*" in the legal community is like being a board certified physician in the medical community. It provides assurance from the State Bar of California that a lawyer has met high standards establishing competency. In addition to annual educational requirements in the field of specialization, a Certified Specialist must have completed a rigorous examination, met minimum experience requirements, completed hours of high level classes, and been the subject of peer review by lawyers— And a Certified Specialist must re-certify every 5 years. These requirements set Certified Specialists apart from other lawyers. Why take the risk of not hiring a Certified Specialist?

Michelle C. Lerman is a “Certified Specialist*” in estate planning, trust and probate law. Being a Certified Specialist in the legal community is like being a board certified physician in the medical community. It provides assurance from the State Bar of California that a lawyer has met high standards establishing competency. In addition to annual educational requirements in the field of specialization, a Certified Specialist must have completed a rigorous examination, met minimum experience requirements, completed hours of high level classes, and been the subject of peer review by lawyers—And a Certified Specialist must re-certify every 5 years. These requirements set Certified Specialists apart from other lawyers. Michelle was also selected for inclusion in the 2009 and 2010 California Super Lawyers, a selection limited to only 5% of the lawyers in the entire State.

Having worked for large firms and preferring the personal attention that a small firm can offer, 18 years ago Jeff and Michelle Lerman created a Firm that gives clients what they want and deserve. They meet their clients at their home away from home, the Lerman Law Building in Central San Rafael, a warm and inviting office with staff that really cares. They listen to your goals and help you implement them. They believe that you want and deserve personal attention.

Instead of cookie-cutter trusts that many attorneys prepare, they create customized plans that are lasting legacies for your family. And unlike other firms, once your plan is signed, you have peace of mind knowing that you keep control of the original documents. Plus, you will have a computer disk with copies of your executed documents so that you can easily transmit your signed documents by email to your family and advisors without wasting paper and the natural resources of our Earth. And since your entire file is saved electronically rather than by hard paper copy, they can instantaneously access your records to answer any future issues, without the delay of retrieving dusty files from storage.

Yes, Michelle is a Certified Specialist, in the select group of “Super Lawyers”, and prepares custom estate plans, but many clients talk about how much she cares. Someone once said, “It doesn’t matter how much you know until others know how much you care.” At our Firm, we care, and we look forward to providing you with the personal attention that you want and deserve.

We welcome the opportunity to help you!

* Certified by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization

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