

BIER LAW BULLETIN

Be Informed. Be Prepared. Be Free.

Each month, we share practical tips for keeping your estate plan up to date, a few personal and firm highlights, and an introduction to one of our favorite local experts. If there's a topic you'd like us to cover in a future issue, simply reply to this email—we'd love to hear from you.

Seth and Leann Bier

seth@bier-law.com

(323) 999-1230

leann@bier-law.com

What's Happening

Recent News and Upcoming Events



MAKING WILLS AND TRUSTS MORE “PALATABLE”

MAY 13 | 6:00 PM | TOTAL WINE & MORE

At this free workshop, estate planning attorney Seth Bier will walk through how Wills, Trusts, and probate actually work in California — using a clear, story-based approach that's easy to follow.

You'll learn:

- The key differences between a Will and a Trust
- Why probate is so expensive (& how to avoid it)
- Common mistakes families make
- How to make things easier for your loved ones

This is a straightforward, educational class — no pressure, no legal jargon.

>>> [Reserve Your Seat](#)

A LIMITED-TIME OPPORTUNITY

Many of our clients are surprised to learn that once a child turns 18, parents no longer have automatic legal authority to step in — even in a medical or financial emergency.

Most families don't think about it...until it's urgent. [Seth shares more about this in this month's blog.](#)

The WHEN Plan is designed to solve this exact problem. It gives adult children a simple way to name the people they trust to make decisions if something happens — without needing a full estate plan.

For the month of May only, we're offering the WHEN Plan at a reduced rate. *This offer is available through May 31, 2026.*

[Learn how the WHEN Plan works](#)



TED TALK

A Pawsitively Exciting Update from CEO (Chief Excitement Officer) Teddy Bier!

This month, the Boss and the Lawyer took me on a nice long walk on the Greenbelt—one of my favorite places. Lots of squirrels. I stay on squirr-alert at all times.

Sure enough, I encountered one. We locked eyes. A true staring contest. Steady. Focused. *Electric*.

I just needed him to come a liiiittle closer. He chose not to.

Shortly after, I saw something new. Looked like ducks. Walked like ducks. I'm told they *were* ducks. Interestingly, the ducks showed zero awareness of me. No eye contact. No acknowledgment. I'm still processing that level of disrepect.

Later in the month, the Lawyer's parents came to stay with us for a whole week. I have to say—I liked having a bigger pack around. More walks, more attention, and Grandpa came through with treats and toys. Strong showing.

I hear we're going back to Idyllwild next month. Stay tuned. 🐾



So close. Not close enough.



Two of them. Not one reaction.



Best part of the visit.

From Seth's Desk

Real questions. Plain-English answers.

DEAR SETH,

HOW DO I KNOW WHEN IT'S THE "RIGHT TIME" TO GET MY PLAN DONE?

– WAITING IN THE WINGS

Dear Waiting,

Most people are looking for a clear signal.

A big life event. More time. Less uncertainty. A moment where everything feels settled enough to finally check this off the list.

The problem is, life doesn't really work that way.

There's always something — work, family, travel, competing priorities. And because estate planning isn't urgent (until it is), it tends to stay in the "later" category longer than people expect.

In my experience, the "right time" isn't when everything is perfectly aligned. It's when you have enough awareness to know that putting it off doesn't make things simpler — it just pushes decisions into a more stressful moment later.

A simple next step: Watch the [webinar](#) or join us on [May 13](#) to get started.



Have a question for Seth? Reply with ASK SETH.

Knowledge is Power

Highlighted Articles, Blogs, & Reports

BLOG: THE “MY KID TURNED 18” PROBLEM

(AND WHY THAT SHOULD FREAK YOU OUT A LITTLE)

There's a moment that catches a lot of parents off guard — the day your child turns 18. Legally, everything changes. In an emergency, you may not be able to access medical information or step in to help, even if you're right there. It's a gap most families don't discover until something goes wrong. In this month's blog, Seth breaks down what actually happens — and how to fix it before it becomes a problem.

[>>> Read the full article](#)



The Expert Exchange

Conversations with Local Professionals

Get to know a little more about the experts in our community.

Laura Diepenbrock

Executive Director

[Palos Verdes Peninsula Village](#)

What do you do?

I lead an incredible nonprofit, the Palos Verdes Peninsula Village, which is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for older adults living in their own homes in PV. We strive to bring people together to create a feeling of community, build new connections, and offer practical volunteer-provided help with a wide range of tasks.

What's the best part of your job?

The best part of my job is the opportunity to meet so many interesting people. I'm continually inspired by Village members and volunteers and love being part of a community dedicated to transforming the experience of aging on the Peninsula.

What's the most common misconception people have about your industry?

I think a common misconception about older adult services is that you take advantage of them when you *need* them — versus thinking about and planning for these services *before* they're needed. Along those lines, the best time to join the PVP Village is when you're able to be an active part of our community — volunteer, meet new people, and attend events. Then, you have a caring network of people to turn to when you need an extra hand.

What would people be surprised to learn about you?

I spent about 6 months backpacking through Southeast Asia after finishing my Teach for America commitment and before starting grad school. I ended up teaching English in Bangkok for a few months as well. This was pre-9/11, so there was no iPhone and I had very little money, resulting in many strange experiences along the way.

What's your favorite local restaurant?

[Salsa Verdes](#) in Lunada Bay! My family and I go there every Friday, and every Friday, I order the same thing. It's great because we can sit on the patio with our dog, enjoy a great meal, and run into lots of neighbors.



Know someone who should be featured? Reply and let us know.