

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



OUR PUBLIC WORKSHOPS ARE ON PAUSE—OUR EDUCATION ISN'T

While we're taking a break from hosting our public estate planning workshops for the time being, our commitment to education hasn't changed. Watch our [free on-demand webinar](#) whenever it's convenient for you, making it easy to learn the essentials of estate planning from the comfort of your home.

Seth is also available to speak to organizations, either in person or via Zoom. If you're involved with an HOA, workplace, religious organization, nonprofit, social club, or other community group that would benefit from an informative, no-pressure presentation, [we'd love to hear from you](#).

WHEN PLANNING ISN'T POSSIBLE

For years, our focus has been helping California families avoid probate through thoughtful estate planning—and that hasn't changed. In fact, we still believe **avoiding probate is one of the greatest gifts you can leave the people you care about.**

Unfortunately, not every family has a plan in place before a loved one passes away. That's why we're now offering assistance with straightforward, uncontested probate matters. We'll continue referring contested probate matters to attorneys who focus on probate litigation.

If you've recently lost a loved one and aren't sure what comes next, [contact us](#) to see whether we can help guide you through the process.



TED TALK

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

Well buddies...things have taken a turn.

The Boss and the Lawyer brought me to meet some new people at a place called [Access](#). They gave me lots of attention and treats, so I didn't mind going back two days later.

Then I woke up.

Someone had shaved my leg. And my butt cheek! I couldn't feel my left leg. The Lawyer said I had surgery because I completely tore something called a ligament. Nobody explained this to me.

Since then, life has changed dramatically. They won't let me do *anything*. No walks. No zoomies. No window patrol. They even moved the mattress to the floor because...no jumping.

The Boss keeps saying, "I'm sorry, Teddy, you can't." Uhhh...I'm pretty sure I could.

The good news is that I've been getting a suspicious amount of cheese, which is excellent. The weird thing is that it keeps making me sleepy and a little loopy.

Apparently, not taking care of...certain business...for five days is a big deal. When I finally did, the Boss and the Lawyer celebrated like we'd won the lottery. (I'm beginning to think their standards have gotten a little low.)

Thanks for listening. Time for another cheese nap! 🐾



I think someone owes me an explanation



Who knew I had fans?



The bed didn't move. The floor did.

From Seth's Desk

Real questions. Plain-English answers.

DEAR SETH,

WE DON'T HAVE CHILDREN, SO WE ASSUMED A LOT OF ESTATE PLANNING DOESN'T APPLY TO US. ARE WE MISSING ANYTHING?

– PLANNING AHEAD



Many people assume estate planning is mainly about protecting children. While that's certainly important for many families, every family looks different.

Leann and I don't have children ourselves, so this question always makes me smile. Estate planning isn't about fitting into someone else's definition of family. It's about making sure the people and causes that matter most to you are protected.

That might mean providing for a spouse, siblings, nieces and nephews, close friends, or charities that have played an important role in your life. It's also about choosing someone you trust to make financial and health care decisions if you're ever unable to make them yourself.

The right estate plan isn't determined by whether you have children. It's determined by your goals, your relationships, and the legacy you want to leave behind.

In plain English, estate planning is for everyone. The plan just looks a little different for each family.

Have a question for Seth? Reply with ASK SETH.

Knowledge Is Power

Highlighted Articles, Blogs, & Reports

BLOG: THE ESTATE PLANNING CHOICE YOU PROBABLY DON'T KNOW YOU HAVE

Most people know *who* they want to inherit their assets. But did you know you also have a choice in *how* they inherit? In this month's blog, Seth shares a conversation he has with clients every week—one that often changes the way they think about estate planning. It's a choice many people don't even realize they have, and understanding it could make a lasting difference for the people you care about.

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



The Expert Exchange

Conversations with Local Professionals

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

Ana Straser **VP, Retail Banking Manager** **[Malaga Bank](#)**

What do you do?

I am a Branch Manager at Malaga Bank, but a big part of what I do is build relationships. I work closely with individuals, business owners, and nonprofit organizations, taking the time to understand what they are trying to accomplish and helping find solutions that make sense. As a community banker, I also spend a lot of time out in the community, meeting people and supporting local organizations.

What's the best part of your job?

Definitely the people. I love meeting business owners, hearing their stories, and learning how they got to where they are. It's especially rewarding when a client calls me because they trust that I'll help them figure something out. I also love being out in the community and connecting people who might be able to help one another.



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

That all banks are basically the same! Rates and products matter, but banking is also about who picks up the phone when you need something. In community banking, relationships still matter. We know our clients, we know our community, and sometimes simply knowing the person behind the account can make all the difference.

What would people be surprised to learn about you?

I am a proud mom of Ema and Luka and came to the US when I was 18 years old. We love to camp every summer, and cooking is one of the ways I relax and stay connected to home. I've had a lot of fun teaching my kids recipes from my home country (North Macedonia) that have been passed down through generations. I am also proud to say they can cook now when I need them to! 😊

Fun fact: I love to be volunteering in the local community, especially with my Redondo Beach Rotary Club. We always seem to come up with such meaningful projects.

What's your favorite local restaurant?

This is a dangerous question because I love good food! We have so many great restaurants here in the South Bay that picking just one feels almost unfair. One place we find ourselves going back to again and again is [Raffaello Ristorante](#) in San Pedro. Their complimentary roasted red peppers are to die for – one bite, and the flavors immediately remind me of home.

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