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February 2017 Newsletter

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way To...

(Some of My Craziest Seminar Stories from Over the Years)

By Attorney Philip J. Kavesh

You may already know that one of my favorite things in life is presenting educational seminars on estate planning. What you may not know - - and I've been asked to share with you here - - are some of the unusual occurrences I've experienced in doing over 2,500 seminars over the past 30 plus years.



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Living Trust Seminars

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

Thursday, February 2

Torrance Double Tree Hotel
9:30am
21333 Hawthorne Blvd.

[Register Here](#)

Saturday, February 4

Torrance Double Tree Hotel
9:00am
21333 Hawthorne Blvd.

[Register Here](#)

Tuesday, February 7

Torrance Marriott Hotel
6:30pm
3635 Fashion Way

[Register Here](#)

Wednesday, February 15

Torrance Marriott Hotel
9:30am
3635 Fashion Way

[Register Here](#)

Tuesday, February 21

Torrance Main Office
9:30am
990 W. 190th St., Suite #500

[Register Here](#)

I've had so many funny, odd and not-so-funny events happen on the way to, during and after seminars that I really have to probe my memory to pick out the most unusual ones.

Of course, I've encountered all the "usual" goofs that any seminar speaker has experienced over time. I've traveled to the wrong hotel, or gotten there on the wrong day and time. Or, I've arrived to the right venue and found the seminar room locked and no one could find the key, or found the room open but all the chairs locked up in the storage closet with no one having the key. I've forgotten the slides or handouts or brought the wrong ones. I've suffered equipment failures, power outages and even overhead sprinklers going off! However, I'll bypass all these mundane misfortunes and go right to the weirdest, most memorable occurrences.

Let me start with some of the "lighter" ones.

The Jokester & His "Match"

I recall that once, during a seminar, I was talking about how all your assets comprise your estate, even your antiques and junk - - and quipped "you know there's a fine line between the antiques and junk!" Immediately, a gentleman turned to his wife and blurted out, "Yeah, I know - - she's the antique and she says I'm the junk!" (to which his wife instantly reacted by hitting him in the face with her handbag!)

"Please Hold Your Questions Until the End..."

Another time, during a seminar, a lady began raising her hand above her head. I stopped and reminded her - - per the rules I set out when I began - - to please hold her question until the end and I would be happy to answer it then. But that didn't stop her. Moments later, she raised her hand again. I again had to nicely remind her to wait! Then, after 20 minutes, just when things appeared to be okay, she once again raised her hand, began waiving it wildly back and forth and practically jumped out of her seat to get my attention. I finally caved in and said, "All right, I'll answer your question now", to which she shrieked out, "Can I go to the bathroom?" and then proceeded to run out of the room! (Wow, I guess as a youngster she must have attended a really strict school!)

The Sleepy Attendee

I can recall receiving many strange questions during the question and answer session at the end of my seminar presentations. One of my favorites came from an elderly man, seated in the front row, who had seemed to doze off at times during my two hour, detailed discussion of Living Trusts. When this discussion was over, he raised his hand and I politely asked him for his question. He stopped, seemingly locked in deep thought and then slowly asked, "What's this here Living Trust thing you've been talkin' about?"

Please, Sir, May I Have Some More?

Another time, at a free dinner seminar, I got to the questions part, but no one raised their hand so I stood there and waited for a moment. Finally, I saw a

Long-Term Nursing Care Planning Seminar

Saturday, February 18

Torrance Main Office
10:00am
990 W. 190th St., #500

[Register Here](#)

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hand go up and I said, out of relief, "Good, a question!", to which the person responded, "Can I get another dinner and dessert to take home?"

That reminds me of a near riot I once caused at the end of a seminar...

"The Riot"

I was expecting a large, late afternoon audience and we had put out a big spread of gourmet cheeses, fruit, rolls, desserts and candies. When I finished the seminar, I noticed the great amount of food left so I said, "Help yourselves to any of the remaining food." You should have seen the people bolt out of their seats and stampede to the back of the room - - then fight over the spoils, with ladies elbowing each other out of the way while shoving food in their handbags!

I've also had some "heavier", more serious events occur.

We Will Never Forget

One emblazoned in my mind happened just as I was about to leave my home to go to a seminar. I had spent a great deal of time and energy preparing for this particular seminar and I was very pumped up to give it - - my first ever on the new invention I had just created, the "IRA Inheritance Trust®." As I was halfway out the door, my wife screamed, "Your Mom is on the phone and she sounds like she's having a heart attack!". I ran to the phone and my Mom was shouting almost incoherently, "Turn on your TV - - right now!". I did and just as the picture came on I saw an airplane fly into

OFFICE LOCATIONS

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

Main Office:

Torrance Office
990 West 190th Street
Suite 500
Torrance, California 90502

Other Local Offices:

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

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

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

Newport Beach Office
5000 Birch Street Suite 8000
Newport Beach CA, 92660



the side of a skyscraper building. The day was September 11th, 2001 and after I calmed down my Mom (who lived close to New York and was afraid for her life!), I called my office to cancel the seminar, a small personal misfortune compared to the horrible suffering of many others on that day.

Another False Alarm?

I've also had to call off seminars midway through them due to unexpected, near catastrophic events. Once I was speaking at a hotel where an irritating, loud fire signal repeatedly went off, followed by an announcement over the loudspeaker, "Sorry for the false alarm!" So when it happened for about the fifth time, I just calmly said to the audience, "Don't worry. Stay seated. It's probably just another one of their false alarms." Everything did seem fine, until a few minutes later a man in the audience jumped out of his seat and motioned to the window where we could all see smoke and then flames lapping up the side of the building! Fortunately, we all immediately got out of the room to safety. But you can imagine the ensuing chaos as fire engines were pulling into the parking lot, attendees were scurrying in all directions and I was frantically chasing them to grab their response forms before they got into their cars! (I quickly learned the value of having an assistant accompany me at my seminars!)

Thanks to the Men in Blue

Another mid-seminar disaster was far more strange. As I was speaking, I faced the back of the room where the entry and exit doors were located across from each other. All of a sudden, one door swung wide open and a man with a hoodie pulled over much of his face ran across the back, heading for the other door - - followed by a policeman with his gun drawn! They continued their chase out the exit door, and shortly thereafter police backup came in and cleared the audience and me from the room. As we were standing in the parking lot watching the police place a tape barrier around the building, I realized, to my dismay, that all my seminar equipment, handouts and keys to my car were still in the room - - and I had to travel to another location in about 45 minutes to give another seminar! This time not only didn't I get the attendees' response forms, I had to call off the other seminar too because I wound up spending hours swapping jokes with the policemen in the parking lot before they finally let me back in the room. (You know, I never did find out whether the hooded man was apprehended!)

An Important Lesson Learned by Everybody That Day

But the one mid-seminar disaster I most often recall was scarier than either a roaring fire or armed police chase. While I was speaking, I noticed that a man in the audience suddenly slumped over and looked like he was about to fall out of his chair. The person seated next him shouted out, "Dial 911!" My assistant did so immediately and laid the apparently unconscious man flat on the floor. Seemingly within a minute, paramedics rushed in, placed him on a gurney and wheeled him out. No one knew if he was dead or not, or whether he could be revived. After all this disruption, I tried my best to return to my seminar presentation and in a short time seemed to have recaptured the audience's attention, when all of a sudden the paramedics wheeled the man, now in a conscious and seated position, back into the room! As the rest of us looked at him in shock, he explained, "I'm okay. Just had a minor heart attack be-

cause I forgot my medicine - - but I wasn't going to let them take me to the hospital because I really need to listen to what you have to say!" His entrance seemed right on cue because I was just about to flip to the slide where I explain that the reason people don't have any estate plan, or one that has become old and out-of-date, is procrastination - - and that none of us has a guarantee we'll have a chance to take care of it tomorrow! Needless to say, everyone at that seminar wound up making a consultation appointment! (And, by the way, there may be a lesson in this story for you, too!)

All's Well That Ends Well

Despite all the wild, crazy, funny (and at times not-so-funny) things that have happened on the way to and during my seminars, there does occur a wonderful event after almost every seminar nowadays that keeps me plugging along after all these years. Invariably, someone - - either a client of our firm, or a trustee who has served on behalf of an incapacitated or deceased client, or a client's beneficiary - - walks up, extends his or her hand, and personally thanks me for how we have helped. That alone makes all the seminar "madness" I've endured worthwhile. And it serves as a reminder why I got into this area of law and have devoted to it over half my lifetime.

Hopefully, if you're not already a client of ours, you'll take the time to attend one of our upcoming free educational seminars. And, of course, if you're a client in need of a refresher or know of someone who may benefit from our services, please feel free to attend and bring them as well. I promise you we'll try to keep the seminar as entertaining - - and uneventful - - as possible!

SUB-ARTICLE

What Company Do You Work For Or Have You Retired From?

We're asking because you can help us, others and yourself -- all at the same time!

Over the years, we've presented lots of estate planning seminars for both large and small corporate employers in the area, directly to their employees. The employers like to educate their employees free of charge, and the employees appreciate the useful information. Plus, this helps us keep our marketing cost down -- which translates to lower fees for you!

Please let us know your current (or former) employer's name and, with your permission of course, we'll mention your name as a current (or retired) employee and that you referred us, then see if they may be interested in us presenting a seminar. Just **{Click Here}**

Thanks for your help!

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“ *There is only one happiness in this life,
to love and be loved* ”

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Red Velvet Cupcakes

20 servings, total cooking time: 50 minutes

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 1/2 cups white sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 fluid ounce red food coloring
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 tablespoon distilled white vinegar
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon salt



Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease two 12 cup muffin pans or line with 20 paper baking cups.
2. In a large bowl, beat the butter and sugar with an electric mixer until light and fluffy. Mix in the eggs, buttermilk, red food coloring and vanilla. Stir in the baking soda and vinegar. Combine the flour, cocoa powder and salt; stir into the batter just until blended. Spoon the batter into the prepared cups, dividing evenly.
3. Bake in the preheated oven until the tops spring back when lightly pressed, 20 to 25 minutes. Cool in the pan set over a wire rack. When cool, arrange the cupcakes on a serving platter and frost with desired frosting.

A recipe from [Allrecipes.com](https://www.allrecipes.com)

A SPECIAL “THANK YOU”

Here is a very special THANK YOU to all of our clients who have referred family and friends, or forwarded our newsletter to them! If you are part of a group or club and you would be interested in having us speak to the members on important estate planning topics of interest, please contact us at info@kaveshlaw.com.



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(or just ask the receptionist)**

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CONTACT US

You may contact us to make an appointment for your initial consultation, to schedule a review of your current estate plan, or to make a referral.



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