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In This Issue

A Truly American Thanksgiving Feast by Attorney, Philip J. Kavesh

Top 10 Things to Complete Before the End of the Year

Meet a Member of the KM&O Family: Peter A. Keon, Esq.

Recent Blog Entries

Holiday Recipe: Sweet Potato Pie

Some Words of Wisdom

UPCOMING SEMINARS

Living Trust Seminars

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

SPECIAL HOLIDAY

A Truly American Thanksgiving Feast! By Attorney Philip J. Kavesh, President

Growing up in a small farm town in Southern New Jersey, Thanksgiving was always one of my favorite days of the year.

Of course, there was the sheer natural beauty of seeing the tree leaves change color and carpet the ground with shades of yellow, orange and brown. And all the pumpkins - - each rivaling the next in shape and size - - literally sprouting up from all the local fields.

But, what I remember most about Thanksgiving was the feast - - of football!

My family's holiday ritual began with my Dad and me getting up early and putting on our "uniforms" (layering up with enough clothing to sit outside in the chilly morning air). Because by 8am we were off to attend the annual bragging rights game - - between Millville High School (boo!) and our beloved Vineland High School (yea!) - - which began promptly at 10am every Thanksgiving Day. It was a classic battle between two neighboring towns, pitting the factory mill workers against the farm boys (I'm not kidding! A glass factory was the major employer of Millville, while the Vineland team was known as the "Poultry Clan" because of all the chicken farms and, believe it or not, our school mascot was a fighting rooster! Imagine the insults we heard every other year when we had to travel to Millville!)

This was more than a mere football game. It was about respecting an ages-old tradition. Every year, I was reminded that the Millville-Vineland game was one of the oldest high school battles in the nation! (By the way, just before writing this, I looked it up for the first time and, sure enough, it's still the third or fourth longest-running high school football rivalry,

WEEKEND EVENT
Saturday, Nov. 24th
9am to 11:30am
Torrance DoubleTree
Breakfast Seminar



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Seminar Preview**



Client Review Seminar

This is a seminar for our existing clients who have not been in for their free 3-year review meeting, so they may hear about all of the changes in laws, planning technology and services that we now offer.

Wednesday, Nov. 14th

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the "REGISTER" link under the event you wish to attend or you may also call us at 1-800-756-5596 or [e-mail us](mailto:us).

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since 1894, and remarkably both schools are about tied in number of wins!).

The Thanksgiving morning game was also a unique social and bonding event for the members of each community, no matter their "status" or place in life. This was particularly true for the home team, as neighbor after neighbor streamed from their houses, most of them walking in groups, to attend this revered event at the local stadium. I remember always struggling to squeeze into the packed bench-style seats (on the Vineland side, of course) and along the way to finding seats, saying hello with my Dad to about everyone we knew in town!

I also remember a few goofy events that occurred over the years at this Thanksgiving football classic. One time, the visiting Millville stands collapsed! (No matter where the game occurred, rickety open wooden stands were reserved for the away team, while the home team sat in the comfortable concrete supported stadium seats.) The Millville fans had been jumping up and down boasting of the success of their boys during the game, much to our dismay, so we all thought on the Vineland side when they fell, "Ha! Ha! You deserved it!" (Actually, I thought that it might have been a result of some unseen mischief by a few leather-jacketed Vineland High dropouts.)

The back and forth mischief between the fans seemed to escalate over the years until it was decided there simply had to be an end put to it! One year, the visiting Millville fans tore down both goalposts after the game and pulled up big chunks of the field too. So the next time the game was played in Vineland, the police brought in the "K-9 Corps" - - and most of the fourth quarter was played with snarling and barking attack dogs leashed to the goal posts in each end zone!

Mostly, though, the game was good, clean fun. But the day was only getting started when the game ended. The next event on schedule was the annual Thanksgiving parade down the main street of town. (At least my time-filtered memory of Thanksgiving has the parade on that same day - - but it may have been on Friday or Saturday!) Both towns held essentially the same parade. Whichever school was the visitor had its marching band play in the home town's parade, which invariably ended with Santa Claus passing by in his sleigh, tossing to the cheering onlookers (much to the delight of younger kids) miniature candy canes. Then, most of the parade moved on to the other town! I remember how thrilling it was to stand just a few feet away, on the curb, as the local marching bands shook the street with their pounding feet and loud brass horns and drums! (I guess it's no coincidence that my Dad

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chose to play the lead, Professor Harold Hill, in an off-Broadway production of *The Music Man* and that I still consider that show, including the song "76 Trombones", one of my favorites to this day!)

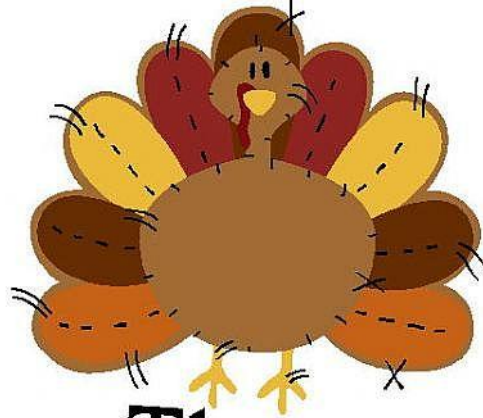


After the game and the parade, the day was still only half over. Next came the early afternoon family Thanksgiving dinners, with plenty of turkey and every other kind of food you can imagine. Then, everyone crowded around the television (a color one, if you were really lucky!) to watch the only NFL game of the day, the Green Bay Packers at the Detroit Lions. (No matter how good the Packers were and how bad the Lions were, I remember it was always an exciting fight to the finish!) During the halftime of that game, the neighborhood Dads and sons gathered in the street or a nearby field for a friendly game of touch football. Then, it was back to the televisions (and more eating until everyone was too sleepy to do anything else!). What a wonderful day Thanksgiving Day was!

For years, until I graduated high school and left our small town to go off to college, I thought (or took for granted) that everyone in America - - and all over the world - - enjoyed a Thanksgiving holiday like this. Of course, I soon learned nothing was farther from the truth. It was only after breaking away from the wonderful Thanksgiving tradition with which I had been raised that I truly understood the meaning of Thanksgiving. We are so very lucky and truly blessed to live in such a free country with all its opportunities and bounty.

I know many people are experiencing hard times these days and I believe it's not just the obligation, but the duty, of those of us who are well off to help others less fortunate. Give of your time to assist others in need or of your spare money to contribute to worthy charitable causes. Consider placing a

special bequest in your estate plan to charity, even if it's just 1% of what you've accumulated over a lifetime! Your family will hardly miss that 1%, but imagine what good it will do in the world, particularly if others join you to do the same.



Happy Thanksgiving

In hope of getting us all into the true spirit of Thanksgiving, I'll leave you with these moving words from an anonymous source...

Be Thankful

*Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire;
If you did, what would there be to look forward to?*

*Be thankful when you don't know something...
For it gives you the opportunity to learn.*

*Be thankful for the difficult times;
During those times you grow.*

*Be thankful for your limitations...
They give you opportunities for improvement.*

*Be thankful for each new challenge...
That's how you build strength and character.*

*Be thankful for your mistakes;
They will teach you valuable lessons.*

*Be thankful when you're tired and weary...
Because it means you've given your all.*

*It's easy to be thankful for the "good" things;
Yet a life of rich fulfillment comes to those
who are thankful for the setbacks.*

*Gratitude can turn a negative into a positive...
Find a way to be thankful for your troubles,
and they can become your blessings.*

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone! I hope you and yours have a safe and memorable holiday, filled with love, cheer, fun - - and your own tradition!

Top Ten Things To Complete Before December 31st

The end of the year will be here before we know it. But there is still time to get some major estate planning goals accomplished. Here are ten things to do before the end of 2012.

This is a sample of our monthly e-mail newsletter. To sign up to receive our newsletter, go to www.kaveshlaw.com or call 1-800-756-5596.

1. **Have your estate planning done.** Set the end of the year as your deadline to finally get this completed. Figure out why you have been procrastinating and conquer your fears. If it's because you don't have an attorney, ask friends and acquaintances for referrals. If it's because you aren't sure who you want to be the guardian for your minor children or who you want to be your executor or trustee or how to divide your estate, your attorney can help you decide. (You can always change your mind later; don't let these decisions keep you from putting a plan in place now.) If money is an issue, start with what you can afford (a will, power of attorney, health care documents) and upgrade later when you can. Your attorney may also be willing to accept payments.
2. **Review and update your existing estate plan.** Personal and financial circumstances will change throughout your lifetime, and your plan needs to change with them. Revisions may be appropriate any time there are changes in your family (birth, death, marriage, divorce, remarriage), your finances, tax laws, or if a trustee or executor can no longer serve. Now is a perfect time to do this; if there are changes you want to share with family members, you can do that when they are home for the holidays. (While they are visiting, you may want to attend our [special seminar on Saturday morning after Thanksgiving!](#))
3. **Use your \$5.12 million exemption.** For the rest of this year, every American can transfer up to \$5.12 million free of federal gift, estate and generation-skipping

transfer tax. (A married couple can transfer up to \$10.24 million.) If Congress does not change the current law, the federal estate tax exemption in 2013 will be just \$1 million. You do not have to die in 2012 to use this exemption; you can use it to make gifts now, while you are living. You do not have to completely give away your assets; you can make the transfers in ways that will let you keep control and even have access to gifted assets if you later need them or keep the income your assets are generating. And you do not have to use the full \$5.12 million exemption to benefit; even those with less than \$1 million should consider some planning to prevent future tax liability.

4. **Make tax-free gifts.** Under current federal law, you can give up to \$13,000 to as many people as you wish each year. This is a great way to reduce the size of your estate (and potentially save estate taxes) over time. For example, if you give \$13,000 per year to your two children and three grandchildren, you would remove \$65,000 from your estate in just one year and \$325,000 in five years. (You can double these amounts if you are married.) Charitable gifts are unlimited. So are gifts for tuition and medical expenses, if you pay them directly to the institution.
5. **Secure/update health care documents.** At the minimum, everyone over the age of 18 needs: (1) a *Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care*, which gives another person legal authority to make health care decisions (including life and death decisions) for you if you are unable to make them for yourself; and (2) a *HIPAA Authorization*, which gives written consent for doctors to discuss your medical situation with others, including family members. In addition, a *Revocable Living Trust* is preferable over a *Will* at incapacity because it can prevent the court from controlling your assets.
6. **Review/update guardian for minor kids.** It is quite likely that the person you name as guardian for your children when they are small will not be the best choice as they get older. Also, this person could change his/her mind, move away or even become ill or die. Revisit your choice from time to time, and name more than one in case your first choice cannot serve. Remember, if you haven't named a guardian who is able and willing to serve and something happens to you, the court will decide who will raise your kids.

7. **Review/update beneficiary designations.** This is especially important if your beneficiary has died or if you are divorced. If your beneficiary is incapacitated or is a minor, setting up a trust for this person and naming the trust as beneficiary will prevent the court from taking control of the proceeds.
8. **Review/update your insurance.** Check the amount of your life insurance coverage and see if it meets your family's current needs. Consider getting long-term care insurance to help pay for the costs of long-term nursing care (and preserve your assets for your family) in the event you and/or your spouse should need it due to illness or injury.
9. **Talk to your children about your estate plan.** You don't have to show them bank and financial statements, but you can talk in general terms about what you are planning and why. The more they understand it, the more likely they are to readily accept it - - and that will help to avoid discord after you are gone. You can also talk to them about your values and the opportunities that their inheritance can provide. Even better, show your values by doing - - the holidays are an excellent time for families to do charitable work together.
10. **Get basic documents for your unmarried kids who are over 18.** It's a mild shock when we learn we can't see our college kids' grades without their permission, even though we pay the tuition. It can be much worse if they become ill. Unmarried adults (18 and over) need to have a *Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care* and *HIPAA Authorization* so you can act on their behalf in a medical emergency. (See #5 above.) And, while you're at it, go ahead and have your attorney prepare a *Simple Will* and *Durable Power of Attorney*. Hopefully, these will not be needed but if an event does occur, you will be glad your child has them.

If you would like to request an appointment to take care of some of these estate planning matters before the end of the year, contact us at 1-800-756-5596 or to request an appointment online, [click here](#).

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Meet a Member of the KM&O Family

Peter A. Keon, Esq. has been with our firm since July 2003. He works very closely with Mr. Kavesh with respect to the development and design of our estate planning documents and his specialty areas include the IRA Inheritance Trust® and the Flexible Irrevocable (Gifting) Trust. Recently, Peter passed the Certified Estate Planning Specialist examination and is now undergoing the process to complete his certification. (He will soon become our firm's third specialist, along with Mr. Kavesh and Jane Lee!)



Mr. Keon is originally from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and holds a Masters degree in Tax Law, as well as his Juris Doctorate Degree from Temple University School of Law. He earned his Bachelor's of Arts Degree from Franklin & Marshall College. Although now inactive, Mr. Keon also holds the Certified Public Accountant designation and previously practiced as a CPA.

In his spare time, Mr. Keon enjoys watching professional baseball. In fact, he takes off every March for his "spring pilgrimage" to visit training camps in Florida and Arizona. (Peter bleeds red for his beloved Phillies, but he is also now Dodger true blue - - except when they play his Phillies!)

Recent Blog Entries

Here are the latest blog entries for your reading pleasure!

- [Peter's World Series Predictions](#)
(he was close!)
- [Wills vs Living Trusts: What's the Difference and Which One is Right for Me?](#)
- [Caring for Your Estate Planning](#)



- [The Terrible Cost of Not Having an Estate Plan](#)
- [And Much More!](#)

Did you know that each blog entry has the option for you to leave a comment? We welcome your comments and feedback on our blog entries. Also, if you have any particular articles or topics that you would like to see featured in our blog, please let us know! Thanks, in advance, and we look forward to hearing back from you!

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Thanksgiving Recipe: Sweet Potato Pie

In observance of Thanksgiving, we provide you this delicious Thanksgiving Sweet Potato Pie recipe, care of the folks at AllRecipe.com.



INGREDIENTS:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 (1 pound) sweet potato | 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg |
| 1/2 cup butter, softened | 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon |
| 1 cup white sugar | 1 teaspoon vanilla extract |
| 1/2 cup milk | 1 (9 inch) unbaked pie crust |
| 2 eggs | |

DIRECTIONS:

1. Boil sweet potato whole in skin for 40 to 50 minutes, or until done. Run cold water over the sweet potato, and remove the skin.
2. Break apart sweet potato in a bowl. Add butter, and mix well with mixer. Stir in sugar, milk, eggs, nutmeg, cinnamon and vanilla. Beat on medium speed until mixture is smooth. Pour filling into an unbaked pie crust.
3. Bake at 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) for 55 to 60 minutes, or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Pie will puff up like a soufflé, and then will sink down as it cools.

Top with some pecans and whipped cream and enjoy!

Some Words of Wisdom for the Thanksgiving Holiday



As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.

John F. Kennedy

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