



The Law Firm of
KAVESH, MINOR & OTIS, INC.

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Throughout Los Angeles & Orange County

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UPCOMING SEMINARS

New Tax Law Seminars

For the public and our existing clients who want to learn more about the impact of the new American Taxpayer "Relief" Act and how to avoid it!

Tuesday, April 16th

10am to 12pm

Newport Beach Office
Light Refreshments

REGISTER 

Thursday, April 18th

10am to 12pm

Newport Beach Office
Light Refreshments

What Are You Waiting For? (A Travelogue)

By Philip Kavesh, President

Sorry. My regular yearend holidays travelogue was preempted in January by the far more boring (but still important to know about) American Taxpayer "Relief" Act. And I skipped our February newsletter entirely because I was so busy giving seminars on how to avoid all the sneaky new tax increases (I still have a few seminars left, if you're interested).

Anyway, right at the end of last year, I finally got around to working on one of my "bucket list" items - - to visit every continent (well, maybe not Antarctica, brrr). I'd only been to Europe and Asia, so I decided upon South America as my next destination. In particular, having heard for years all the wild stories about Carneval in Rio, I chose to visit Copacabana Beach and experience its renowned firework spectacular on New Year's Eve!

Fortunately, I viewed the fireworks display on a boat, rather than directly on the beach. Because, on a stretch of sand roughly the size of Santa Monica beach, over 1 million crazed and dazed partiers crowded and cavorted. I got a hint this New Year's celebration might be slightly out of control when I visited Copacabana Beach the day before and noticed that, about every 50 yards, there was a white tent with a red cross on it and a huge red balloon floating above it (so no one would miss it even if their vision was impaired)!

No doubt, the fireworks were the most out-of-this-world I've ever seen (and I grew up in a town which had a fireworks factory and prided itself on the best Fourth of July display anywhere!). For about a mile of beach, amazing fireworks were shot off in perfect synchronicity, lighting up the entire bay! I really grapple for the words to describe it, so here's a video clip (fortunately, I brought my iPad):

REGISTER ▶

Living Trust Seminars

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

Tuesday, April 2nd
6:30pm to 8:30pm
Main Torrance Office
Light Refreshments

REGISTER ▶

Tuesday, April 9th
9:30am to 11:30am
Newport Beach Office
Light Refreshments

REGISTER ▶

Thursday, April 11th
9:30am to 11:30am
Newport Beach Office
Light Refreshments

REGISTER ▶

Saturday, April 20th
9am to 11:30am
Torrance Doubletree
Free Breakfast

REGISTER ▶

Tuesday, April 30th
9:30am to 11:30am
Main Torrance Office

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.



So I checked South America off my list. I took a 9 day cruise, starting in Buenos Aires and ending in Rio de Janeiro, visiting a number of quaint, coastal towns like Buzios and Ilhabela on the way. But, frankly, it all went so fast that I really don't feel like I was even there, or at least got any "flavor" of that continent. Before the trip, I was so busy with my normal work and personal activities that I didn't plan any tours of the exotic countries and their unique cultures. And I didn't think ahead how silly it was to schedule only about 1 1/2 days each in Buenos Aires and Rio - - cities the size of New York (or bigger). How do you get to really experience a large city in such a short time? What would you do in L.A. if you only had a day and a half to visit it? And would that give you any idea of what L.A. is really about under the surface?

There definitely was a lesson for me in my failing to block out enough time in advance to wander and breathe in the local aroma. And I got an even a bigger lesson about life in general, that occurred on the next to last day of my trip, in Rio, but didn't really hit me until well afterwards.

The Good Samaritan

I had read that Rio has a uniquely South American modern art museum. I'm not a huge modern art lover, but I do like looking at things from different angles and in different ways, which is the main aspect of modern art I find amusing and at times fascinating. So I decided to check out the museum.

I had already spent most of the day in Rio and had found that everywhere they listed prices in U.S. dollars and were more than happy to take our greenbacks, as well as credit cards. I left to the museum without any Brazilian "reals" (pronounced



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, April 3rd

10am to 12pm

Main Torrance Office

Light Refreshments

REGISTER 

Wednesday, April 17th

10am to 12pm

Main Torrance Office

Light Refreshments

REGISTER 

Investment Markets

"Insider Briefing"

Dryden Pence, Harvard educated economist and Chief Investment Officer of Pence Wealth Management, presents an update on the current and future state of the stock market as well as other investment alternatives.

Thursday, May 9th

10:30am to 12pm

Main Torrance Office

REGISTER

To reserve your seat at one of our seminars, simply click 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:info@kaveshlaw.com).

"ray-als"). I paid the cab driver with dollars and went to enter the gallery. To my surprise, they not only refused to accept dollars, but credit cards too! Of course, that only made me more determined to get in!

I then starting asking other patrons if they could exchange my dollars for reals. Nobody would. I went outside, saw a taxi stand area, and asked the cabbies to exchange money for me. Nobody would. I looked around to see if there were any nearby banks or currency exchanges. None. I grew increasingly and visibly frustrated, when just then there came by a man in a jogging outfit.

The man introduced himself as an expatriate, originally from Michigan and now living there. He clearly was thrilled to talk with a fellow American! He immediately made it his mission to get me into the museum. He started chatting with the guards, wound up getting directed to the security office and finally got one of the museum's curators (who thankfully spoke English, not Portuguese) to come out and talk with us.

While we were waiting for her to come, he shared his life's story. How he had met a beautiful local lady on a visit, came back to marry her and gradually settled full time in Brazil when he retired. He remarked that he jogged almost every day past the museum but had never stopped to go in it!

When the curator appeared, she was exceedingly gracious, apologized for my negative experience and arranged for both me and my good Samaritan to enter for free! You should have seen the look on his face - - like a child opening his or her first gift on Christmas morning!

I wandered separately from him through the museum, laughing (inside) at the "art" I thought was pure junk but also enjoying some rare and different works of beauty. I particularly remember an exhibit of lucite sculptures and opaque rock carvings in odd shapes hanging on strings from the ceiling nearly to the floor, that glistened from various perspectives and surrounded me like some mythical enchanted forest.

Every once in a while, I caught a glimpse of the Samaritan as he slowly studied one museum piece at a time with great curiosity. When I finally finished seeing all the exhibits and was about to leave, I noticed him sitting on a bench absorbed in a picture book from the museum's store, with a radiant smile on his face.

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I thought, "If he had not run into me, would he have ever entered the museum that he passed by every day and experienced the pure joy he now exuded?"

Which Leads Me To...

The smaller and grander lessons of my South American journey.

Lesson #1: Take time, even just a little, to plan an experience, a trip out of your every day environment and block enough time away to really enjoy it at a deeper level than just a photo opportunity.

Lesson #2: More importantly, don't overlook "the diamonds in your own backyard". Have you been to LACMA or MOCA? (If you don't know these acronyms, there's the answer!) Have you visited the new Getty Museum (even if only for the spectacular panoramic view of the L.A. Basin)? What about the Griffith Observatory (and its view of the real "stars" in L.A.)? Laguna Beach or Catalina Island? Ever even go for an occasional walk along the beach or strand?

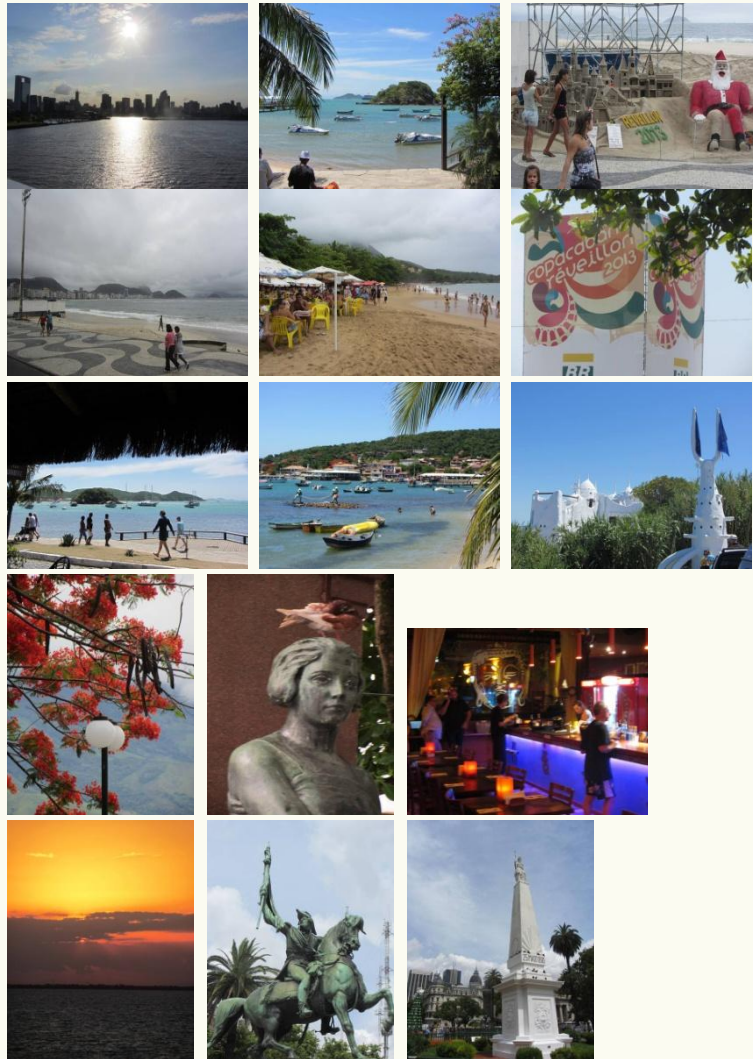
Forget about your estate planning for a moment. Live a little now. Get out of your ordinary routine. Don't sweat the cost. Yes, I'm always preaching about preserving your estate from needless expenses like court fees and taxes. But, if you're like most of my clients, you know you probably have more than you'll ever need to spend - - and pinching pennies to save a few more dollars for your loved ones probably won't make any difference in their lives after you're gone. Instead, enjoy your loved ones now, while you can. Send them a plane ticket to come visit you or plan a trip together to one of your "bucket list" destinations. They'll appreciate that way more than the dollars they'll receive after you're gone.

Don't keep passing by this beautiful museum called "life" and not jumping in because you don't want to pay the small admission fee!

MORE TRIP PHOTOS...

(Click on the photos to enlarge)





**Meet a Member of the KM&O Family:
Alexandria Gilner**

Alexandria Gilner joined the firm in February 2011. Originally hired to assist part-time with client review appointments and other office administrative help, Alexandria has since been promoted to our File Clerk, where her primary responsibility is managing our entire file room. This includes being a gatekeeper to our client's confidential files, assisting the attorneys with the preparation of



documents before and after they are signed by our clients and monitoring our mailing, copying, scanning and paper supplies. In addition to this, she also assists the firm with seminar facilitation.

Alexandria is originally from San Diego and moved to the Los Angeles area after being accepted to attend the only college she applied to, California State University, Long Beach. While in college, she served as Assistant Photo Editor for the campus newspaper, *The Daily 49er*. She later received her Bachelor's Degree in Journalism.

Shortly after graduation, Alexandria's mother delivered a quick ultimatum. Either find employment or prepare to move back home. With an undeterred determination to be independent and live on her own and support herself, Alexandria's job search went into full-effect, where after a couple of stressful months she interviewed and was asked to join our firm. We are so happy to have her with us and she has proven in such a short time that she is an asset to our firm and our clients enjoy her!

In her spare time, Alexandria enjoys photography, shopping, attending church and relaxing to a great flick on Netflix in the comfort of her home.

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Here is a very special **THANK YOU** to all of our clients who have referred family and friends, or forwarded our newsletter to them!

Easter Sunday Dessert Recipe: Sam's Famous Carrot Cake

Here's a delicious recipe from the good folks at AllRecipes.com. Enjoy!



INGREDIENTS:

- 3 eggs
- 3/4 cups buttermilk
- 3/4 cups vegetable oil
- 1 1/2 cups white sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 2 cups shredded carrots
- 1 cup flaked coconut
- 1 cup chopped walnuts
- 1 (8 ounce) can crushed pineapple with juice
- 1 cup raisins

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour a 8x12 inch pan.
2. In a medium bowl, sift together flour, baking soda, salt and cinnamon. Set aside.
3. In a large bowl, combined eggs, buttermilk, oil, sugar and vanilla. Mix well. Add flour mixture and mix well.
4. In a medium bowl, combine shredded carrots, coconut, walnuts, pineapple and raisins.
5. Using a large wooden spoon or a very heavy whisk, add carrot mixture to batter and fold in well.
6. Pour into prepared 8x12 inch pan, and back at 350 degrees for 1 hour. Check with toothpick
7. Allow to cool for at least 20 minutes before serving.



When you reach a fork in the road, take it!

Yogi Berra

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