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Dear Clients and Friends,

It has been a pleasure working with you as my new “second career” law practice has developed. Thank you for your support.

As you may be aware, in addition to my experience with estate planning and administration, informed by a lifelong interest in maintaining healthy relationships, I have also developed expertise in other related areas. My practice now includes drafting Special Needs Trusts and managing the interface of private funds with public benefits for disabled family members.

As a result, I am able to assist families in developing the best legal strategies for managing the care and support of an elderly or disabled adult family member who needs assistance. Elder law and Special Needs law has become an important part of my law practice.



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In this newsletter you will find links to four newly published articles on my website. I hope that you will find some of them useful, and will share this information with any of your friends who may need estate planning, who have mentally ill adult family members, or who need help with Elder law issues.

All my best,



Welcome to the first edition of our law firm's newsletter. We will be publishing these newsletters occasionally, as a way to stay in touch with our valued clients.

"Jan Cummins, Attorney at Law" is now finishing its eighth year. My journey through law school into a fully-fledged solo practice has been both stimulating and enjoyable, and I want to thank all of you who have been a part of this exciting growth experience.

Special Offer: Discounted Tickets



As the holidays approach, I have a special offer for you. Some of you may know that I sing with the highly regarded choral group, the **Peninsula Women's Chorus**. The holiday concerts this year will be especially rewarding, and I'm offering up to two discounted tickets (\$10 off each ticket) to each of my clients. The concerts

are on the afternoons of **December 7 and 15** at **St. Patrick's Seminary** in Menlo Park, and on **December 14** at **St. Mark's Church** in Palo Alto. Please call us soon, at **650-320-8010**, if you'd like to attend. Tickets will be limited, as these concerts often sell out. For full concert information, go to the chorus web site at

www.pwchorus.org

New Website Launched!

Several months ago our newly designed website was launched. We're pleased with the design, and hope you will find the content useful.

If you haven't been to the site yet, please take a tour, at www.jancummins.com

Four New Articles on Our Website

A Short Review of Death and Taxes in California in 2013

There is a very old saying that nothing is inevitable except Death and Taxes, and estate plans have traditionally focused on two major items:

1. The passage of property at death
2. Tax issues that arise at death. [Read More](#)

Relationship-Focused Estate Planning: The Blended Family

Relationships between people are the foundation of all estate planning. Without beneficiaries and executors, trustees, attorneys-in-fact or health care agents, all estate plans would be meaningless documents – just so much paper and ink. [Read More](#)

Elder Law: An Overview

Elder Law is estate planning for disability in old age, with a particular emphasis on qualifying for public benefits. It is best done as part of a traditional estate plan, as the language of the Revocable Trust can have a critical impact on future eligibility for government benefits. [Read More](#)

Special Needs Law in California: Mental Illness

Mental illness in a family member can be an overwhelming burden for any family. Finding proper, effective treatment and care for a disabled family member can be challenging, at best. And because mentally ill patients are often in denial about their own disease, they may not be receptive to a family's efforts to help them. [Read More](#)