

~ ~ Special Holiday Edition ~ ~

News of Interest
from
SPEIDEL LAW FIRM



Taylor, Zaidy, Mike, Tawnya, Russ, Jean, David

We wish you, our clients, friends and colleagues a very happy holiday season. As we look toward the end of 2012 and anticipate the beginning of the new year, we are grateful for the opportunities we have to work with you. We value deeply the trust and confidence you have placed in us.

Attorney **Russell J. Speidel** spoke at and attended a number of estate planning related seminars this year. He continues to be active with the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, the premier national professional association for attorneys who practice in this area of law. He also repeated as a Super Lawyer, one of the top five percent in the state, according to the magazine, *Washington Law & Politics*. In addition, Mr. Speidel serves on the statewide board of directors of Northwest Justice Project.

Attorney **David J. Bentsen** attended seminars focused on Elder Law Practice and Estate Planning to keep up to date in the field, and enable him to better serve our clients. Named one of the "30 Under 35" exceptional young professionals in the Wenatchee area for 2012, David is also the President of Wenatchee Rotaract Club.

Attorney **Michael G. Bradford** expanded his knowledge in our core practice areas of Estate Planning, Estate Administration and Estate Litigation as well as Elder Law. Mike is fluent in Spanish and very active in our Immigration Law practice.

Note from Firm Administrator **Jean Speidel**.....We were pleased to welcome legal assistants **Zaidy Tèvez** and **Tawnya Petry** this year. Wenatchee High School senior **Taylor Barger** provides further office support every afternoon.

Legislative News..... At the time this News of Interest goes to press the U.S. will return to the income, gift and estate tax laws of 2001 (higher tax rates; \$1 million gift and estate tax exemption) if Congress does not take action. We are therefore advising many of our clients to take advantage of the current \$5.12 million gift tax exemption and plan their estates in anticipation of disclaimer. We will continue to watch this issue closely as it unfolds.

**We wish you a wonderful holiday season
and a splendid new year!**