

~ ~ February 29, 2012 ~ ~

News of Interest
from
SPEIDEL LAW FIRM

~~~~~

This has been a busy month of continuing legal education for our three attorneys. They attend and present seminars in areas related to our practice in order to keep their knowledge and skills at the cutting edge of the law, and thereby enable us to serve you most effectively.

February 16, 2012 -- Attorneys **David J. Bentsen** and **Michael G. Bradford** participated in a webinar discussing **Veteran's Administration Benefits and Medicaid Eligibility**. Applicable to our clients involved in Medicaid Planning who are veterans, this webinar provided an update of the effect that receiving veteran's benefits has on a person's eligibility to qualify for Medicaid coverage of their health care costs.

February 28, 2012 – Attorney **Michael G. Bradford** participated in an immigration law webinar entitled **Dealing with the 3 Year, 10 Year, and Permanent Bars**. People who arrived in the United States without proper documentation can be subject to prohibitions against re-entry for either three or ten years, or permanently barred, depending on their particular circumstances. We see this issue arising in our practice when clients come to us for assistance in adjusting their status to that of legal permanent residents.

February 29, 2012 – Attorneys **David J. Bentsen** and **Michael G. Bradford** recently became **admitted to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington**. This means that they can now represent clients in matters that are filed in federal court. United States district courts are the trial courts of the federal court system. They have jurisdiction to hear nearly all categories of federal cases, including both civil and criminal matters. In connection with their admission, David and Mike attended a seminar in Yakima which provided training in the electronic document filing system of the federal courts.

March 2, 2012 – Attorney **Russell J. Speidel** served as one of the program faculty for **The 9th Annual Trust and Estate Litigation Seminar** presented in Seattle by the Washington State Bar Association Real Property, Probate and Trust Section. His three-person group addressed **Risk Management for Trustees in the Context of the 2011 Washington Trust Act**. They discussed how trustees should manage their new statutory notice obligations, what trustees should consider in evaluating who can receive notices as virtual representatives, and how recent statutory amendments impact affirmative defenses in fiduciary litigation.

-- Attorneys **David J. Bentsen** and **Michael G. Bentsen** attended the March 2 seminar, which also covered the topics of Evidentiary Issues in Will Contests and in Challenges to Inter Vivos Gifting, Best Practices for Managing Litigation, the Deadman Statute, and the Law of Mutual and Reciprocal Wills in Washington.

If you have a particular interest in any of these topics, we would be happy to discuss them with you. Just call our office and we will be pleased to speak with you.

~~~~~

Daylight Saving Time is upon us again. Let's enjoy the longer evening light!

~~~~~