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Estate Planning Seminar

Valerie L. Howe, Esq. will be presenting another Estate Planning Seminar this fall. She will address various aspects of trusts and estates law and how the latest tax law changes may affect an individual's estate planning. The free seminar will be held on Wednesday, November 5, at 6:30 pm at the Nassau Club in Princeton and is open to the public. Ms. Howe has a Masters Degree in Tax Law and is a senior member of the firm's Estates & Trusts Practice Group. Please call 609-436-1205 to register.



Valerie L. Howe,
Esquire, Co-
Coordinator of the
Estates & Trusts
Practice Group at
Mason, Griffin &
Pierson, P.C.

Litigation Practice Group

Mason, Griffin & Pierson's Litigation Practice Group recently prevailed in a national commercial litigation matter involving a valuation damage claim. The lawsuit was filed by a Utah corporation in a contest over the ownership of the newspaper, *The Salt Lake Tribune*. Donald B. Veix, Jr., a Director of the firm, argued the case and succeeded in having it dismissed.

Charles F. Harris, a director of the firm, recently argued a case of first impression in the Superior Court of New Jersey on behalf of a corporate

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FALL 2003



Counsellor

Timely News and Information from Mason, Griffin & Pierson, P.C.

MASON, GRIFFIN & PIERSON, P.C. OFFERS SERVICES IN HUNTERDON COUNTY WITH WILLIAM P. DENI, SR., ESQ., OF COUNSEL



Mr. Deni, Of Counsel to Mason, Griffin & Pierson, P.C., has over thirty years of legal experience. He practices in the areas of criminal law, juvenile law, and matrimonial law. From 1973 to 1975, Mr. Deni served as Assistant Prosecutor and New Jersey Deputy Attorney General. From 1975 to 1978, he served as legal counsel to the Republican State Assembly. From 1978 to 1986, as legal counsel to senator Walter E. Foran, Mr. Deni assisted the legislative body in drafting *The Model Criminal Code of New Jersey*. Mr. Deni has been legal counsel to men and women in all areas of family law and has addressed complex issues dealing with custody, alimony and

equitable distribution of property. At present, he is honored to be a Master in the Family Inn of Court of New Jersey. Mr. Deni's practice also includes criminal law (encompassing criminal defense), juvenile matters, drunk driving and motor vehicle violations. He can be reached at the Princeton office (609-921-6543) or at his Flemington office (908-782-2900).

New Jersey Legislature Update: Carbon Monoxide Detectors

by Allison S. Zangrilli, Esq.

The New Jersey State Legislature has enacted a law requiring the installation of carbon monoxide detector devices upon the initial sale or change of occupancy of one and two-family dwellings. Previously, the carbon monoxide detector requirement applied only to hotels and multiple dwellings. However, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs has conducted studies of the impact of the requirement in hotels and multiple dwellings and has concluded that the potential life-saving benefits of the detectors outweigh the minimal cost of purchase and installation; hence the extension of the requirement to one and two-family homes.

The regulations adopted to implement the new legislation amend the New Jersey Uniform Fire Code and Uniform Construction Code. With the exception of homes that do not have fuel-burning appliances (such as gas ranges) or attached garages, all new and existing one and two-family homes must now be equipped with a single station carbon monoxide detector device installed in the vicinity of the sleeping area(s) as a pre-



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Carbon Monoxide Detectors *continued from front*

condition to sale or rental. The detectors can be of the battery-operated, hard-wired or plug-in type. It is the obligation of the seller or owner to obtain the Certificate of Smoke Detector and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Compliance (CSDCMAC), previously called the Certificate of Smoke Detector Compliance (CSDC), which is valid for a period of six months.

The law became effective on April 7, 2003 and is applicable to all transactions closing after that date. More information about the law can be found at www.state.nj.us/dca or by calling the State Fire Code Enforcement Bureau at 609-633-6110.

Allison S. Zangrilli, Esq. is an associate at Mason, Griffin & Pierson, P.C. She is a graduate of Rutgers Law School, Camden and is admitted to practice law in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York. She is a member of the Mercer County and New Jersey State Bar Associations. Ms. Zangrilli is a member of the firm's Real Estate and Land Use Practice Group and can be reached at 609-436-1214.



Valerie L. Howe, Esq. and Allen (Skip) Grossman, Esq. will be presenters at the Princeton Senior Resource Center on Saturday, October 25. The Resource Center is sponsoring a community event "Legal & Financial Plans for the Future" which will offer seminars on issues that affect seniors and their families. Ms. Howe and Mr. Grossman's seminar will address the handling of Medicaid issues as one aspect of a sensible estate planning approach. To register for the event call the Resource Center at 609-924-7108.

Employment Law Quiz

Test your employment law savvy by answering yes or no. Is an employer permitted to ask these questions before making an offer to a prospective employee?

1. How many sick days did you use at your last job?
2. Do you currently use any illegal drugs?
3. Are you taking any prescription medications?
4. Are you planning to raise a family?
5. Are you active in your church?

Answers are below. For more information call 609-921-6543 and ask for a member of the Employment Law Practice Group.

1. N, 2. Y, 3. N, 4. N, 5. N

Litigation Practice Group *continued from front*

client that is a medical provider. For the first time in New Jersey, a judge determined that there is a standard that an insurance company must meet to obtain reimbursement of benefits it paid to an innocent medical provider based on fraudulent information from an insured patient. The judge concluded that the insurance company failed to establish the criteria to support its claim against our client and, therefore, dismissed the case against it.

Practice Groups

**Bankruptcy • Business & Banking • Criminal Law • Employment Law • Estates & Trusts
Family Law • Governmental Affairs • Litigation • Personal Injury • Real Estate & Land Use**



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