Estate Planning Day Highlights

On May 4th 2017, the HHEPC held its 2017 Estate Planning day. The event was held in the Monroe Convention Center in Bloomington and there were 94 attendees. Five presenters spoke on seven different topics.

Keith P. Huffman, J.D. presented *Advance Care Planning for Your Health and Wealth in the Digital Age*. In this presentation, he discussed the growth of digital information and storage of information and the changes the digital world is bringing to the estate administration and planning process. He also gave an in depth presentation on the different types of advance directives for health care planning.

Keith also presented *What Elder Law Attorneys do that Others Need to Know*. In this presentation, he spoke about the Medicaid requirements including the lookback period, loan and personal service agreements, estate recovery, and eligibility requirements. He also spoke on a variety of other related topics including long-term care insurance, veteran's benefits, special needs trusts, and the ABLE Act.

Pamela Jones Davidson, J.D. gave a presentation titled *The Vital Role of Ethics for Profit and Nonprofits Both*. In this presentation, she spoke of the role of ethics in planning for charitable gifts and went over a variety of cases that demonstrated the gift planning options and ethics involved. She also discussed the model standards for the charitable gift planner.

Jeffrey S. Dible, J.D. presented *Designing Discretionary [Spendthrift] Trusts for Children*. He gave an overview of what a spendthrift trust is and how a well-written trust should set-up. He gave four general principles to keep in mind when working with these trusts. He also discussed the appointment of the trustees and distributions.

Jeffrey also presented *Trust Provisions to Minimize Administration Problems*. He spoke about two general types of trust administration issues and how to deal with them. He gave advice on how to design and draft trusts to avoid or minimize these issues in the future. He also discussed dealing with family disputes among trust beneficiaries and trustees and how to deal with those issues.

Eric A. Manterfield, J.D. gave a presentation titled *Trust Protectors for Family Business Interests Held in Trust*. In the presentation he gave an overview of what a trust protect is and their role including their duties and powers. He discussed the ethical issues that arise for attorneys who serve as trust protectors. He discussed the relationship between a trust protector and the trustee. He also spoke on the tax implications for the trust protector.

Brian Melvin, RICP presented *Savvy Social Security Planning*. He spoke about planning techniques for baby boomers to help maximize their retirement income. He discussed what questions and concerns regarding their social security income those nearing retirement have. He discussed the value of social security, inflation adjustments, survivor benefits, and how benefits are calculated. He also gave several strategies for maximizing your social security benefits and minimizing the taxes on those benefits.