



# TRUST COUNSEL

Estate Planning & Business Succession



## Your Estate Planning, Asset Protection, & Family Business Succession Attorneys



### *Personal Note*

Hi Everyone!

This is **Estate Planning & Asset Protection Attorney, Leslie V. Marengo** to bring you our newsletter and to *THANK YOU for all your REFERRALS.*

I consider myself to be pretty healthy, I mean other than common colds I've never really had any medical issues. Then a couple of weeks ago, I woke up in the middle of the night and the world was spinning ... and I don't mean a little dizziness, I mean like crazy Wheel of Fortune type spinning!



After a couple of minutes of sitting still, the spinning did slow down...

Unfortunately - that's also when the nausea would hit me from the dizziness and not long after I was running to the bathroom ... you get the picture! ☐

As this happened over and over that night, I proceeded to list everything I had eaten the day before because this had to be some kind of food poisoning,

right?

The next morning, I promptly UBERed myself over to a doctor who started asking me lots of questions and ordering tests. Before I knew it, he ordered a head CT, a MRI, and an EEG and very casually mentioned that I might have a brain tumor or I might have had a stroke or an aneurysm.

🤯 **Whaaaaaat!!?** ☐

I couldn't even believe what this guy was saying to me! I thought I had a stomach bug! This cannot be happening. How could I have had a stroke? **I'm not even that old!!!** Could I REALLY have a brain tumor!?

..... *Those were the things going through my head* .....

As I waited for the results, I really started thinking about the insanity of this situation and how circumstances can literally turn on you in a second. I mean yes, I'm an estate planning attorney, I help people plan for their death and of course we have encountered tragic situations before in our practice, but that is still NOT the same as when it is possibly happening to *you!!*

Well, I am happy to report I do not have a brain tumor and I did not have a stroke! They really don't know what caused that episode or if it will come back... ☐ so they told me it was probably brought on by "stress" and sent me on my merry way with instructions to come back if it happens again.

What is the lesson here? No idea really. I am no philosopher but go home and kiss your partner, call your mom, tell your kids you love them and be grateful every morning that you DON'T have an actual brain tumor!

To your family's continued Health, Wealth, & Happiness!

*-Leslie*

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*Featured Article*

***I Care a Lot - Scares a Lot!***

# And for Good Reason...

Netflix's new, Golden Globe-nominated movie *I Care a Lot* hits on most people's worst fears regarding court-appointed fiduciaries: being wrapped up in an assembly line that takes away rights and that is impossible to escape.



The movie stars Rosamund Pike and Peter Dinklage. Pike is a professional guardian in cahoots with a doctor and care facility manager. The set-up portrayed in *I Care a Lot* hits home for probate professionals in that it actually seems like it could happen.

The doctor gets kickbacks for writing letters recommending emergency guardianship (I mean this is Miami right, that would *NEVER* happen here!) □□ Pike's character is the court's go-to professional guardian. She, in turn, places her wards in a care home that meticulously follows her directions regarding excluding family members and over-medicating patients. We learn all of this in the first 10 minutes, so no real spoilers there.

The fear level really ratchets up when the professional guardian successfully implements her scheme on a totally competent, very wealthy woman that the guardian believes is without family. Cue Peter Dinklage's character, and we will leave it there to avoid any further spoilers.

The chain of events in the movie seems plausible, and probate professionals may have a few moments while watching that seems like a kick to the gut. We have seen these claims presented in court; but the respondents really were incompetent. Right?

[\*Keep Reading the Article...\*](#)

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# *Thank You!*

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We would like to give a BIG  
"*Thank You*" this week to:

*Laura B.*  
*Michael G.*  
*Karen L.*  
*Alcides G.*  
*Stephanie M.*



We truly appreciate your ongoing  
**REFERRALS** and **TRUST** in us!

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***DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO NEEDS TO  
PROTECT THEIR FAMILY & THEIR ASSETS?***

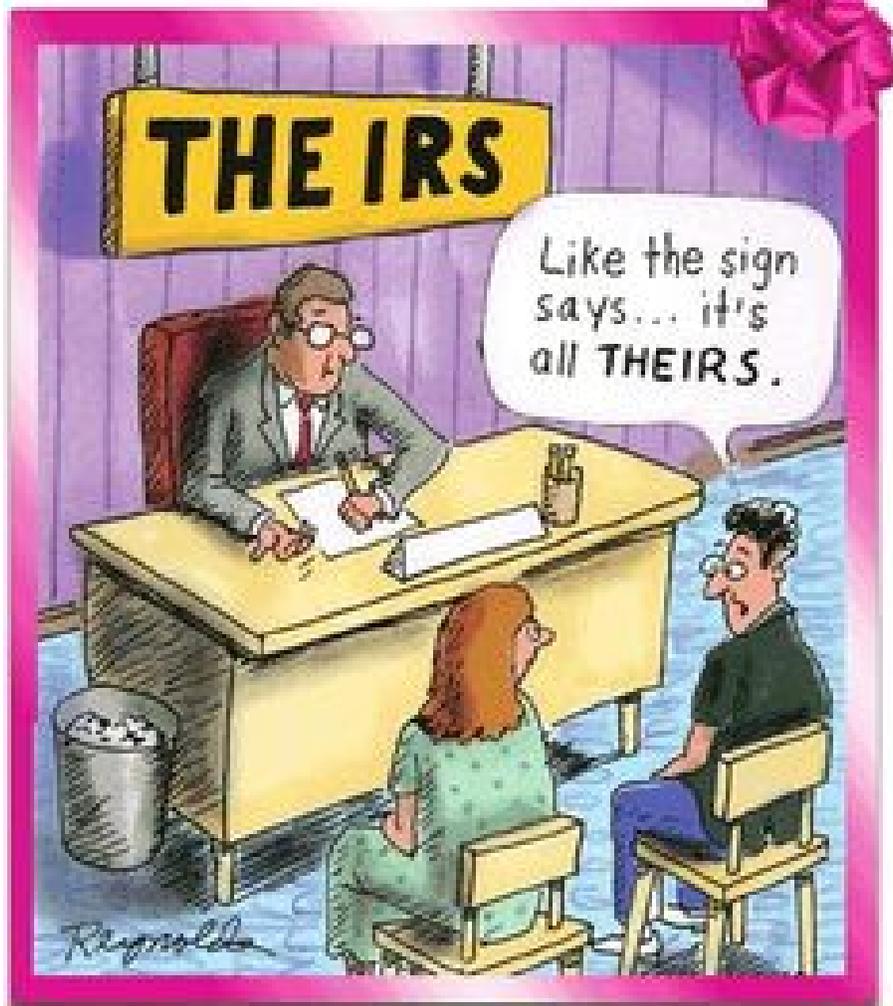
Send us your introduction here!

**\*\*Your referrals are the highest form of professional compliment!**

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## *Funnies*

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*Take the Plunge!*

GET ALL YOUR *DUCKS IN A ROW*  
& KEEP THEM THERE!



Estate Planning can be complex...  
but our approach isn't!

*Protect yourself, your family, and your assets!*

The first step is the hardest part.

Book your Family Wealth Strategy Session Today.

*What is a FAMILY WEALTH STRATEGY SESSION?*

This is a **90-min strategy session** where we cover your specific situation and how you can protect your family from creditors and predators. At a minimum, you walk away more organized than ever before.

Call us today at:

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or

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