

You're reading the first Electronic Copy of my Newsletter. I hope you find it informative and interesting. Please consider forwarding this copy to your family and friends.

## In This Issue

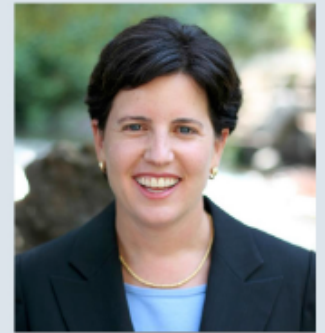
**Charitable Giving**

**Going Green**

**Certified Specialists**

**Expanded Hours & Business**

## Carol Elias Zolla



## My Website

[www.zollalawfirm.com](http://www.zollalawfirm.com)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

## Charitable Giving



Giving to charity can be overwhelming. We all want to "do good" and support our favorite causes, and most of the time its easier just to write a check instead of volunteering. Before you write the check, however, consider making a tax-wise gift that could actually put more into your charity's and your pockets.

Read more at [www.zollalawfirm.com/articles](http://www.zollalawfirm.com/articles)

## Going Green



All of my estate planning clients come into my office thinking they want to "leave something" to their heirs. Most of the time, they're thinking about brokerage accounts, real estate, and personal possessions. But, collectively, we all need to think about leaving this world a little better. I know I'm a little late on the "green" bandwagon, but I do want to share with you a few steps my family has taken to reduce our carbon footprint:

- We bring our own reusable bags to the market and drug stores.
- We've reduced our Diet Coke habit. And, the cans we do drink go straight to a recycling bin.
- We've given up bottled water.

- We plan shopping trips to avoid driving around town.
- We pack our kids' lunches in reusable plastic containers.
- We check every item of plastic for a recyclable symbol before heading for the trash can.
- We've installed an attic fan; and use our air conditioning on only the hottest days.
- We use **freecycle** to give away our usable, but unwanted stuff and avoid the recycle bin altogether.

I'm still looking for more ways to avoid wasteful consumption. So far, the steps we've taken have been easy. If you have any other ideas, I'd love to hear from you.

## Certified Specialists



Did you know that there are over 218,000 lawyers in California? But only about 800 of them are Certified Specialists in Estate Planning, Trust & Probate Law. I have been a Certified Specialist since 2002.

Before a person can be called a **Certified Specialist**, she has to have passed a written exam, demonstrate a high level of experience, complete specialized education classes, and be favorably evaluated by her peers.

I have recently been named to the Estate Planning, Trust & Probate Law Advisory Commission of the State Bar Board of Legal Specialization. This is a great group of nine attorneys and community members who create and grade the specialist exam, recommend attorneys who should be certified as a Specialist, and promote the Certified Specialist program. I am honored to have been asked to serve on this commission for the next few years.

## Expanded Hours & Business

Did you know that I have expanded my practice and am now available to meet with clients Monday - Friday?

I would love the opportunity to get to know your family and friends and assist them in their estate planning. Referrals are always welcome! And, if your group is interesting in learning more about estate planning in a non-threatening environment, I would be happy to give a free seminar to your parents' group, pre-school, work group, or gathering of friends to answer questions about living trusts and probate. Finally, to get my name "out there", I'll donate a coupon worth \$500 of my time to your organization's raffle or silent auction. Just ask!

---

**\*\*This Newsletter is for information and discussion purposes only. Before any action is taken, professional advice, based on your specific situation, should be obtained.**