

**ABOUT STEVE HORNSTEIN,
CPA, LL.M., CFP®
ATTORNEY AT LAW**

Steve H. Hornstein has worked in the areas of accounting, tax, financial strategy, and estate



planning since 1996, when Mr. Hornstein joined the accounting firm of Deloitte & Touche, LLP in their Financial Counseling Services Group. While at Deloitte, Mr. Hornstein worked in their offices throughout Southern California, on

behalf of many business and individual high profile and high net worth clients.

In 2000, Mr. Hornstein left Deloitte for a position as Controller of an internet consulting firm in Los Angeles, CA, guiding the company through its sale to a venture capital firm in 2004. Mr. Hornstein opened his law and accounting office in Woodland Hills in 2002.

Mr. Hornstein holds a B.A. in Economics-Business from UCLA, a J.D. from Loyola Law School, and an LL.M. in taxation law from Golden Gate University. Mr. Hornstein is a Certified Public Accountant, and a licensed attorney, having been admitted to the California Bar in 1996. He is Series 7, 63, and 66 licensed with LPL Financial, as well as insurance licensed by the California Department of Insurance, and is a Certified Financial Planner® certificant. [CFP® and Certified Financial Planner® are registered trademarks of the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards.]

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to help our clients take the action necessary to plan and organize their financial affairs to effectively meet their goals.

Step 1: **Call** our office and arrange for a free consultation.

Step 2: We will help you **develop** a financial strategy and/or estate plan using our comprehensive questionnaires.

Step 3: We will **prepare** your plan and all documents needed to carry it out.

Step 4: We will **deliver** your plan to you with comprehensive instructions.

Step 5: **Execution** – Signing, notarizing, and recording of documents. Either you can handle the execution of your documents or come to our office and we will have a notary available for you.

Step 6: **Safekeeping** – Put your documents in a safe place. For further protection, we can scan all of your signed documents and give them to you on a CD with your original documents.

*Welcome
To*

**HORNSTEIN
LAW OFFICES**

Ease...

Guidance...

Peace of mind...

- **Estate Planning**
- **Trusts & Wills**
- **Durable Powers of Attorney**
- **Trust Administration**
- **Probate**
- **Litigation**
- **Tax**
- **Accounting**
- **Financial Strategy**

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WHY DO I NEED A LIVING TRUST?

A *Will* may not be the best plan for you and your family, primarily because a will does not avoid probate. A will must be verified by the probate court before it can be enforced.

Furthermore, because a will can only go into effect *after* you die, it provides *no* protection if you become physically or mentally incapacitated. So the court could easily take control of your assets *before* you die – a concern of millions of older Americans and their families.

Fortunately, there is a simple and proven alternative to a will – the *Revocable Living Trust*. It avoids probate, and lets you keep control of your assets while you are living – even if you become incapacitated – and after you die.

WHAT IS PROBATE?

Probate is the legal process through which the court “proves a will”. If you haven’t prepared your own will, the Court will look to the default will in the probate code and the Court will probate that will as your will. Anybody who owns assets or real estate valued at \$100,000 or more is generally required to go through probate before their assets can be transferred.

The probate process can be expensive and time consuming. The main expenses are attorney, executor, appraisal, and court filing fees. The fees generally range from 4% to 10% of the entire value of your estate, and depending upon the complexity of the estate, can take a minimum of four months to as long as two years or more to complete. Probate can become a tremendous time and financial burden for your loved ones.

HERE’S WHAT YOU’LL RECEIVE IN YOUR REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST PACKAGE

REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST

Avoids probate, conservatorship and, in some cases reduces estate taxes.

POUR OVER WILL

Transfers assets held outside of the trust into the trust.

TRUST TRANSFER DOCUMENTS

Deeds, forms, etc. needed to transfer your property into your trust.

CERTIFICATION OF TRUST

Provides a summary copy of the trust for easy use in dealing with banks, brokers, insurance companies, etc.

LIVING WILL

Authorizes medical personnel to remove life support systems, if you so desire, in the event of a terminal illness or injury.

DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY

Authorizes your agent to manage your property in the event of your absence or disability.

MEDICAL POWER OF ATTORNEY

Authorizes your agent to make health care decisions should you become incapacitated.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Assists you in gaining a thorough understanding of your trust and all documents contained in your portfolio.

SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST

For parents who have a disabled child, a special needs trust can protect your child’s inheritance. The establishment of a special needs trust provides benefits that supplement, but do not supplant, government entitlements like Medicaid and supplemental security income (SSI).

BENEFITS OF A LIVING TRUST

- Avoid probate at death, including multiple probates if you own property in other states
- Prevents court control of assets at incapacity
- Brings all your assets together under one plan
- Provides maximum privacy
- Quicker distribution of assets to beneficiaries
- Assets can remain in trust until you want beneficiaries to inherit
- Can reduce or eliminate estate taxes
- Inexpensive, easy to set up and maintain
- Can be changed or cancelled at any time
- Difficult to contest
- Prevents court control of minors’ inheritances
- Can protect dependents with special needs
- Prevents unintentional disinheritance and other problems of joint ownership
- Professional management with corporate trustee
- Peace of mind

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