

**LEGACY
LETTERS
APRIL
2015**

**What's Happening at
Minko Law Office:**

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH:
TEAM FUNDRAISER**



Our firm's Director of Client Services, Kristen Velloza, recently participated in a fundraising campaign and raised over \$1,000 to fund the non-profit organization *charity:water*.

Water is obviously something no one can live without. Yet there are nearly 750 million people in the world living without access to clean water. Illnesses arising from unsafe water and lack of basic sanitation kill more people each year than all forms of violence combined, including war. Further, 90% of the more than 4,000 deaths that occur each day due to unsafe water and unsanitary conditions are in children, under the age of five years old.

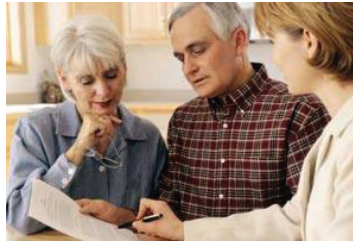
Charity:water is working to change that with a variety of creative strategies to help raise funds for this worthy cause. Kristen took part recently by "pledging her birthday" – she invited everyone she knew to participate in her campaign for clean water by donating her age in dollars to the cause. After 4 weeks, Kristen raised enough money to bring access to clean, safe drinking water to over 40 people around the world. Every penny of the money raised directly funds clean water projects in developing countries. *Charity:water* even keeps participants informed of the projects they helped to fund after they've been completed. For more information about this organization, visit www.charitywater.org.

At Minko Law Office, we take pride in participating in charity events and fundraisers for great causes. Many of our clients also enjoy giving back and even leave a percentage of their estate to charity through trusts and special gifts after their passing.

If you'd like to learn more about charitable giving during your lifetime or as part of your estate plan, call our office today at (718) 238-1727.

In The News:

**LONG-TERM CARE
INSURANCE COSTS RISE**



According to a recent report by the American Association for Long-Term Care Insurance, rates for long-term care insurance policies – which can help pay for in-home or nursing home care – have increased by roughly 9% over the last year. Higher claims costs are a chief factor behind the rate increases; in 2014, insurance companies paid out over \$7.8 billion in long-term care claims, an increase of nearly 5% from 2013.

Although rates vary greatly depending upon the insurer, the coverage limits of the policy, and the age of the insured, average costs increased across the board. A couple, 60 years old, can expect to pay up to \$5,637 per year for coverage that includes a \$150 daily benefit, a three-year maximum benefit period, and a 3% compound growth option to ensure that the benefit keeps pace with inflation. (Nursing home costs in New York City average \$389 per day.)

Increasing the daily benefit, the maximum benefit period, or the age of the insured person can substantially increase the cost of the policy. And coverage not only becomes more expensive as you age but it is also more difficult to obtain, as certain health conditions can disqualify an applicant completely. Further, insurers take gender into account when pricing long-term care policies; women pay more because, statistically, they live longer and are more likely to need long-term care.

Given that long-term care insurance may be too expensive or simply unavailable due to age or health concerns, many clients choose to protect their home and life savings using legal asset protection strategies, including irrevocable trusts. When done properly and in advance, such strategies may be far less costly and more effective than insurance in protecting a family's assets from nursing home or in-home care expenses.

**Upcoming
ESTATE PLANNING
WORKSHOPS**

April 2015

If your friends or family members are interested in attending one of our seminars, please let us know!

BAY RIDGE

Tuesday, April 28th
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Vesuvio Restaurant
7305 3rd Avenue

MARINE PARK

Wednesday, April 29th
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Buckley's Catering
2926 Avenue S

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Thursday, April 30th
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

il Fornetto Restaurant
2902 Emmons Avenue

BAY RIDGE

Saturday, May 2nd
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Bridgeview Diner
9011 3rd Avenue

**Seating is Limited
Call Now!**

(718) 238-1727

**Or Register Online:
www.minkolaw.com**

Attendees will receive a FREE, no-obligation, 1-hour consultation and a 10% credit certificate towards the creation of their Legacy Wealth Plan!

Notable Narratives

FENG SHUI ARCHITECT RD CHIN



Minko Law Office was recently highlighted by the national publication *Business Insider* for the planning and interior design of our new office space. The article, titled "Here's How a 2000-Year-Old Chinese Art Can Make You More Productive," detailed the way that architect RD Chin successfully applied ancient feng shui principles in designing our new location.

As stated in the article, "The whole process started with our values in the law firm," Anthony Minko said, "how we care about keeping families together across the generations." Architect RD Chin focused on creating a calm and supportive atmosphere, a space where clients could feel comfortable discussing the legacy they would like to leave behind for future generations. In working with Chin throughout the process, Minko commented "What surprised me was how practical the feng shui principles were in helping us arrive at the optimal layout for the office."

RD Chin believes "that everybody can sense feng shui – it's simply the *how-it-feels* quality of being in a place. If you feel inspired, creative, and capable in an office, then it's got some positive feng shui going on, but if you feel trapped, blocked, and insecure, then it's some poor feng shui, and your productivity will suffer as a result."

Architect RD Chin has been practicing the art of feng shui since 1991. Prior to focusing his architectural practice on feng shui, Chin worked with renowned architect Paul Rudolph for over 14 years. He received his training in engineering and architecture at Tufts University, the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard University. He regularly works on government and large commercial commissions as well as small business and residential projects.

RD Chin did a wonderful presentation at our Open House last June, where he signed copies of his book *Feng Shui Revealed*. We hope to have him back for more client events in the near future. To learn more, visit www.rdchin.com.

From the Blog of Anthony J. Minko...

UPDATE YOUR ESTATE PLAN AS YOUR LIFE CHANGES

When you create an estate plan, you need to be prepared to make updates as your family circumstances change. There are a lot of changes your family can go through over time that should prompt you to reconsider some of the choices you made in your original plan.

Changing Guardians

One of the most important decisions you have to make as a parent is deciding who will serve as a guardian for your children in the event of your death or incapacity. Most parents chose primary and successor guardians soon after the birth of a child, and they memorialize their choices in a Last Will & Testament.

There are several factors that can influence this decision, and because those factors may change over time, it can be important to make updates periodically. For example, the person who you selected as a guardian when your child was an infant may no longer be the best choice ten to fifteen years later, when your child becomes a teenager.

Changing Your Representatives

You will also want to ensure that the representatives you designated in your original estate plan are still able to serve. For example, if you chose your spouse as your health care representative, they need to be able to make medical decisions for you if you become incapacitated. You'll need to revisit this if your spouse is diagnosed with a significant illness that affects their capacity, like Alzheimer's disease or dementia. Similarly, if your representative is now located much farther away than when you originally selected that person, considering a new representative can be an important step in keeping your estate plan up to date.

➤ **Still have questions?** Call us today at (718) 238-1727 to schedule a consultation or visit us online at www.minkolaw.com.

➤ **Want someone you care about to attend one of our upcoming workshops?** Let us know and we'd be happy to invite them.

➤ **Have we provided you and your family with peace of mind?** Don't keep us a secret! Share your copy of this newsletter with friends and family to help them create their legacy and preserve their wealth.

Cook's Corner

ROASTED CHICKEN WITH SPRING VEGETABLES



Submitted by Rosa R.

Ingredients

- 3½ pounds bone-in chicken quarters
- Kosher salt & fresh pepper
- 1 lemon, halved
- 3 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 pound fingerling potatoes
- 2 bunches radishes
- 1 bunch scallions
- 1 bunch baby carrots
- ¼ cup chopped fresh dill

Directions

Preheat the oven to 500 degrees. Rinse the chicken and pat dry. Season with salt and pepper, then place skin-side up on a rimmed baking sheet. Squeeze ½ lemon over the chicken and drizzle with 1 tbsp. olive oil. Roast for 15 minutes.

Cut the potatoes and radishes in half and cut the scallions into thirds. Toss the potatoes, radishes, carrots and the remaining 2 tablespoons olive oil in a bowl; season with salt and pepper.

Remove chicken from the oven and scatter the vegetables around it. Continue to roast until the vegetables are tender and the chicken is golden and cooked through, about 20 more minutes. Squeeze the remaining ½ lemon over the chicken and vegetables. Top with the dill and season with salt. Enjoy!

To feature your recipe in our next newsletter, call Kristen at (718) 238-1727.



As always, thank you so much for keeping our firm in mind for your friends & family!
~ Anthony & Brooke