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Presentation by Eric Gamble on January 3 **“Advancements in Ohio Law and** **How They Affect the Estate Planning Process”**

As an attorney with an expertise in estate planning, Eric Gamble can explain the uncertainty around federal tax policies affecting very wealthy individuals, but he has good advice for the vast majority of individuals who should have their financial affairs in order well in advance of a serious illness or death. Eric will offer advice in his Torch paper, “Advancements in Ohio Law and How They Affect the Estate Planning Process,” on Thursday, January 3.

Eric’s paper will touch briefly on the new federal estate tax exemption for 2019 and the federal gift tax exemption, but the former will apply to only two-tenths of one percent of all estates.

“For the rest of us who need estate planning for reasons other than tax planning, there are certainly many good reasons to have your affairs in order,” Eric says. He will touch on some of the most important documents to have in place: health care power of attorney, living will, and general (financial) power of attorney. “These documents can be obtained by anyone online at the Franklin County Probate Court’s website and should be a core part of everybody’s estate plan.”

In 2009, new state laws permitted property to be owned “transferable on death.” “This designation allows an individual to be the sole owner of their property during their lifetime and appoint a beneficiary to transfer the property to upon their death,” Eric explains. “A ‘transfer on death’ designation does not give the beneficiary a present interest in the property and allows the property to transfer to the designated beneficiary outside of probate. Many individuals are now opting to own real estate, vehicles, bank accounts, investment accounts, and other assets with a ‘transfer on death’ designation.”



Eric B. Gamble

Biography of Eric B. Gamble

Eric Gamble has been a member of Gamble Hartshorn since he was admitted to the practice of law in 2002. His legal practice focuses primarily on estate planning, probate administration and corporate law. He has particular expertise in the area of mechanic’s liens, specifically the right of a contractor to place a

lien on a public fund when doing work on a public improvement. His practice also includes intellectual property and trademark law. He is a member of the Columbus and Ohio State bar associations.

Eric received his undergraduate degree from Otterbein College in 1999 and earned his Juris Doctorate from Capital University in 2002. While at Capital University, he was awarded the Order of Curia, a law school honorary society. He joined the Columbus Torch Club in May 2018.

Two Torch Club members pass away in December

Donald B. Cooper

Don, a Torch Club member since 2002, died December 11 at the age of 87. Born in Columbus and a graduate of North High School, he served four years in the Navy during the Korean War. He graduated from The Ohio State University in 1957 with a B.A. in history. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and received the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship for graduate study in Latin American history at the University of Texas where he earned his M.A. in 1958 and his Ph.D. in 1963. He completed a one-year fellowship, researching and archiving the early history of epidemics in Mexico.

A professor emeritus, Don taught Latin American history at Oklahoma State from 1961 to 1963, Tulane from 1963 to 1969, and Ohio State from 1969 to 2002. He was a member of First Community Church and was historian of the Ohio State University Retirees Association (OSURA). His hobbies included classical music, Reds baseball, spending time with grandchildren, and making homemade wine from fruit gathered at his cottage in northern Wisconsin.

Don was preceded in death by his wife, Ellen Hutchins Cooper. He is survived by three adult children. His memorial service was December 15. Contributions in his memory may be made to the OSURA Endowment Fund.

Mervin E. Muller

Merv, a Torch member since 2004, died December 3 at the age of 90. He was born in Hollywood, Calif., the son of immigrants from Hungary. He graduated from UCLA, receiving A.B., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees in mathematics. He also was a three-year varsity letterman in gymnastics at UCLA.

Merv had a varied career in statistics, information technology and international development. Early in his career, he worked for IBM in New York and later spent 15 years at the World Bank in Washington, D.C. He taught at UCLA, Cornell, Princeton and George Mason University, then was a professor of computer science at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. He concluded his career at Ohio State, where he was chairman of the Computer Science Department, held the Robert Critchfield Professorship, and was director of the Performance Analysis Lab. He was a Fellow of the American Statistical Association and was the founding president of the International Association of Statistical Computing.

In his retirement, Merv founded a non-fiction men's book club and took modern bridge lessons. He traveled to compete in duplicate bridge tournaments. He loved Dixieland jazz and classical music and was a board member of Chamber Music Columbus. Merv is survived by his wife, Barbara McAdam Muller, and their three adult sons. His memorial service was December 9. Contributions in his memory may be made to the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Music Columbus or the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Responding to the Evite from Secretary Seelbach

Club secretary Thom Seelbach will send you via electronic mail an Evite to attend the Torch Club meeting on January 3. Respond promptly to the Evite so he will have an accurate count of meals needed. You also may respond to him at tseelbach@gmail.com or (614) 457-5103.

The directions for responding to the Evite are:

1. After you click on the email from Evite, it will bring up a new window on the Evite website. You must click your response in this new window for Evite to register your response.
2. The guest count is the actual number of attendees. If only you are attending, the count will be 1. The cost for a guest to attend the meeting and dinner is \$30. A potential member may attend one meeting without charge.

Schedule of Torch Club speakers and their papers for 2018-19

October 4, 2018: **“Kelton House Shares Sophia’s Secret”** by Diane Selby and Mary Oellermann

November 1, 2018: **“A Century of Chemical Warfare: Trenches, Treaties, Therapy”** by David Lenz

December 6, 2018: **Shiloh Baptist Men’s Chorus**

January 3, 2019: **“Advancements in Ohio Law and How They Affect the Estate Planning Process”** by Eric Gamble

February 7, 2019: **“Time Changes Everything”** by Jeff Baker

March 7, 2019: **“China – Off the Beaten Path”** by Gene Gilliom

April 4, 2019: **“A Journey through Time and Space”** by Sally Willson

May 2, 2019: **“Super Flow in the Universe”** by Will Saam



Torch Club’s monthly meeting agenda

4:30-5:30 p.m. Board of Directors meeting
5:30-6:15 p.m. Cocktails and conversation
6:15-6:35 p.m. Business matters
6:35-7:30 p.m. Speaker presents Torch paper
7:30-8:45 p.m. Dinner and table discussion

Meetings are conducted in The Ohio State University Faculty Club, 181 S. Oval Drive; (614) 292-2262.

Board of Directors of Torch Club of Columbus, Ohio, for 2018-19

President – Tom Costantiello

President-elect – Violet Meek

Immediate Past President – Rich Davis

Secretary – Thom Seelbach

Assistant Secretary – Susan W. Smith

Treasurer – Howard Gauthier

Assistant Treasurer – Susan Tilgner

Fellowship Chair – Jeff Caswell

Membership Chair – Dorothy Driskell

Nominating Chair – Rich Davis

Newsletter Editor – Steve Sterrett

Director-at-Large Dorothy Driskell (2019)

Director-at-Large Richard Meyer (2019)

Director-at-Large Jeff Caswell (2020)

Director-at-Large Deborah Stevens (2020)