

# HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM JACKSON, JACKSON & KURTZ, Inc. P.S.

December 2005

Best wishes for a happy Holiday and a prosperous New Year, from all of us.....

Attorneys:  
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## Seminar Notice:

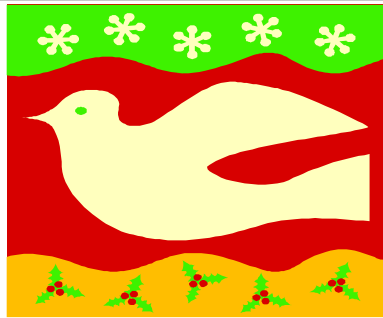
The Top Ten Estate Planning Questions - presented by Jill Kurtz and Rick Van Hoos, Certified Trust & Financial Advisor at Columbia Credit Union January 25, 2006 at the Operations Center, 200 SE Park Plaza Drive, Vancouver—6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. To RSVP call (360) 891-4093.

## NEW WASHINGTON TAX

Unfortunately, a new Washington estate tax was enacted May 17, 2005, applying to decedents who die on or after that date. Although the inheritance tax applies only to decedents who own more than \$1.5 million in assets for decedents dying in 2005 or 2 million for decedents dying in 2006 or thereafter, it is in addition to the federal estate tax.

The state tax rate starts at ten percent of assets exceeding the \$1.5 or \$2 million floor, and increases to 19% of assets exceeding \$9 million.

Federal estate taxes have the same tax-exempt floor as the State until 2009, when the federal tax exempt floor increases to \$3.5 million. In 2010 there is no federal inheritance tax, but under current federal law in 2011 the tax-exempt floor de-



creases to 1 million! The federal rate starts at 45% of estate assets over the tax-exempt floor, and potentially could be as high as 55%! Hopefully, federal tax reform will occur in the upcoming year.

## COURT HUMOR

**The Court addressing a jury:** Now— As we begin, I must ask you to banish all present information and prejudice from your minds — if you have any.

**By Attorney:** You don't know what it was, and you didn't know what it looked like, but can you describe it?

(Actual Transcripts)

## COUNTY ZONING

Our attorney Earl Jackson has been assisting landowners around Clark County who are requesting changes to their property zoning. Zone changes are usually begun by requests to change the Clark County Comprehensive Plan. Comprehensive Plan changes are reviewed annually on request if a change of circumstances or zoning error can be shown. Also in 2005 the Clark County Commissioners initiated requests to the cities in Clark County, as well as to individual owners, to suggest changes in the Comprehensive Plan, to expand urban areas around the cities to allow for increased population growth projected. The latest map draft, and how to comment, can be found at [www.clark.wa.gov/longrangeplan/review/index.html](http://www.clark.wa.gov/longrangeplan/review/index.html).