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Hello to all my Clients,  
 This has been a busy summer already. In May I had the opportunity to take 10 days off and go on a road trip across America. I drove from Boise to Washington DC and along the way, I attended a rock festival in Columbus, Ohio. This was definitely a 'Bucket List' item. I spent three days at *Rock on the Range* enjoying a wide variety of music. The highlight of my trip was the opportunity to visit our nation's capitol. It was fascinating to see the buildings and history for our three branches of government. The weather was great for a walking tour of the Capitol Mall and monuments. The Lincoln Monument was stunning and the World War II Memorial was the most moving to me. A pleasant surprise was that the US Supreme Court building was the most assessable to the public of all the branches of government. They were very welcoming with educational tours and explanations of the role of the court in our lives. I would highly encourage anyone who has not visited our nation's capitol to do so.

The strength of our country and the accountability of government to us, the people, really rests in us. We have a duty and responsibility to be involved in the process and make sure that we are educated as to what our elected officials are doing. One of the greatest fears our founding father had was that we, the people, would become apathetic and stop being involved. Let's not let that happen.

You can still catch me Monday-Thursday weeknights on Idaho's Money Show 6-7pm on KIDO (580AM). I post summaries of various shows on my website.

Give me a call with your questions or concerns,

*Steve*

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**New Estate Planning Rules:**

In a recent US Supreme Court opinion titled *Clark v. Rameker*, that affects Estate Planning, the Court ruled that inherited IRAs are not "retirement funds" within the meaning of the bankruptcy code. That means that inherited IRAs are treated like all other inherited assets and are subject to collections.

Due to the *Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005* and US Supreme Court precedent, traditional IRAs and ROTH IRAs are protected from collections because they are designated as retirement accounts, but once they are inherited (this does not include IRAs passed on to spouses), the Supreme Court has dictated that it is no longer a protected asset. Specifically, an inherited IRA is not eligible for bankruptcy protection and a person's creditors have a right to make claims against it.

Anyone who has an IRA as part of their assets is affected by this ruling because eventually all IRAs, traditional or ROTH will become inherited. If you have an IRA that you are concerned about - you can start a trust, and name your trust as the beneficiary or contingent beneficiary of the IRA. This will extend the protections that exist in your trust over to the IRA account and will protect those assets from possible creditor claims.

Please call anytime and set an appointment with me to get answers to estate planning and other legal questions. Also tell your family and friends, I would feel honored to help them too.