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Trusts & Estates Quarterly
Fall 2017

We are pleased to send you our Fall 2017 edition of the *Trusts and Estates Quarterly*. The members of our Trusts and Estates Department write on topics that we think will be of interest to our clients and friends. Please don't hesitate to let us know if there is any topic of particular interest to you.

How to Take Care of your Animal Family Members: Estate Planning for Pets

You love your pet and devote your time and money to caring for your pet's happiness and well-being. So, what do you do if you become incapacitated or die while your pet is living? You have two choices: find a friend or family member who, on an informal basis, will agree to take care of your pet; or make a more formal plan as part of your estate planning. [Click here to read the full article](#)



Inflation-Adjusted Federal Estate and Gift Tax Exclusion *Estimated* Amounts for 2018

The IRS has not yet made its annual announcement, but using data from the Consumer Price Index, Bloomberg BNA has projected inflation-adjusted amounts for the 2018 federal estate and gift tax exclusion. The prediction is that the exclusion amount will increase by \$110,000 from this year's \$5.49 million to \$5.6 million. If correct, that means that in 2018, a person can die having transferred during life or at death, in the aggregate, \$5.6 million in assets and no federal estate tax will be owed. [Click here to read the full article](#)

4 Things to Know if You are Married to a Non-US Citizen

An unlimited deduction from what would otherwise be taxable as a gift or bequest, known as the marital deduction, is available for all gifts and bequests by U.S. citizens to U.S. citizen spouses. However, if your spouse is not a U.S. citizen, no marital deduction will be available for bequests to your spouse unless you create a special trust to hold assets for your spouse's benefit (called a "qualified domestic trust" or "QDOT"). [Click here to read the full article](#)



A Few Thoughts on Retirement Accounts

A well managed 401(k) plan often has combined administrative and investment management costs that are lower than those available to a rollover IRA managed by an investment manager. If

you are considering a rollover from a 401(k) plan, you should understand whether your total costs will go up by more than any additional expected investment return. If your 401(k) plan offers comparable investment options to those that you would expect in your rollover IRA, you may not benefit from the rollover. However... [Click here to read the full article](#)



The *Trusts & Estates Quarterly* is written and published by the members of the [Trusts and Estates Department](#) at Bulkley Richardson.

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