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Exploring the Evolution from Foundational Legal Principles to Modern Day Applications





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INTRODUCTION TO LAW SCHOOL



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FEE SIMPLE ABSOLUTE



Highest form of ownership a person can own.

Key Property Rights

Fee Simple Absolute gives the owner the right to possession, use, transfer, exclude, enjoy, control, destroy encumber and bequeath the property. These rights are



WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DON'T GIVE AWAY ALL OF THE STICKS?

This question was answered in 1943 by the Supreme Court cases Robinette v. Helvering and its companion case Smith v. Shaughnessy.

The rule is the value of the property transferred will be reduced by the value of the interests retained, provided that those interests can be valued using generally accepted valuation principles, and if not, the value of the interests will be ZERO.

This rule is now codified in Treas. Reg. § 25.2511-1(e).



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EXAMPLE 1 – RETENTION OF A LIFE ESTATE



EXAMPLE 1

- A transfers Blackacre (\$1MM) in Trust
- · A for Life
- Remainder to B (who is not related to

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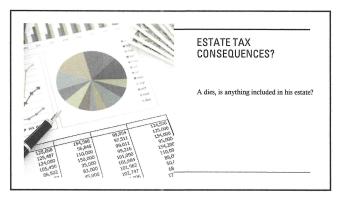
GIFT TAX CONSEQUENCES?

Has A made a gift?
Has he transferred property (or an interest in property) for less than full and adequate consideration in money or money's worth?

If so, what has he given away?

Can we value it?

Does it qualify for the annual exclusion?



EXAMPLE 2 – RETENTION OF A TERM OF YEARS INTEREST

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EXAMPLE 2

- A transfers Blackacre (\$1MM) in Trust in September 2024
- · A for 15 years
- Remainder to B (who is not related to A)

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GIFT TAX CONSEQUENCES?

Has A made a gift?

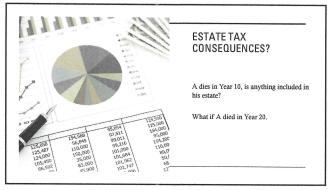
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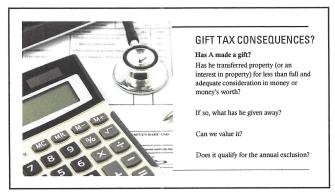
EXAMPLE 3 – COMMON LAW GRIT

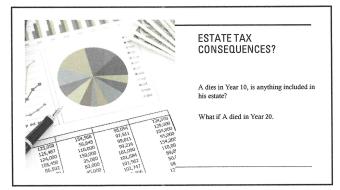
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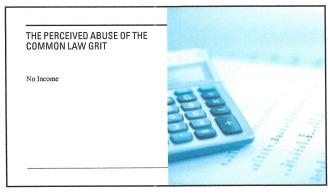


EXAMPLE 3

- A transfers Blackacre (\$1MM) in Trust
- A for the lesser of 15 years or life
- Reversion to A if A dies within 15 years
- Remainder to B (who is not related to A)

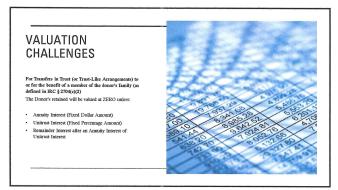




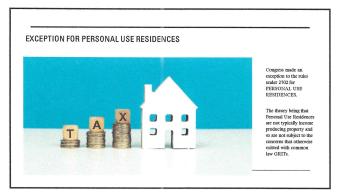


LEGISLATIVE CHANGES - CODE SECTION 2702

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EXAMPLE 4 – TYPICAL QPRT

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EXAMPLE 4

- A transfers 50% of Blackacre (\$1MM) to Trust 1 and 50% to Trust 2
- · A for the lesser of 15 years or life
- Reversion to A if A dies within 15 years
- Remainder of Trust 1 to Child 1
- Remainder of Trust 1 to Child 2

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GIFT TAX CONSEQUENCES?

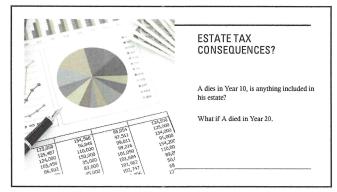
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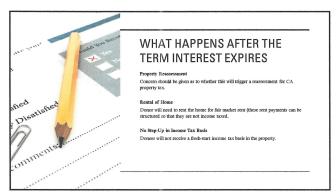
Has he transferred property (or an interest in property) for less than full and adequate consideration in money or money's worth?

If so, what has he given away?

Can we value it?

Does it qualify for the annual exclusion?





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CONCLUSION

Complex concepts in Transfers with gift and estate tax retained interests

GRITs

Legislative changes under Code Section 2702