



A gift to **NARAL Pro-Choice America**, a 501(c)(4) organization, *is not* tax-deductible. Gifts to this entity allow us to develop and sustain a constituency that uses the political process to guarantee every woman the right to make personal decisions regarding the full range of reproductive choices, including preventing unintended pregnancy, bearing healthy children and choosing legal abortion. To determine how you can provide support to NARAL Pro-Choice America, see the contact information below.

A gift to **NARAL Pro-Choice America Foundation**, a 501(c)(3) organization, *is* tax-deductible. Gifts to this entity allow us to support and protect, as a fundamental right and value, a woman's freedom to make personal decisions regarding the full range of reproductive choices through education, training, organizing, legal action and public policy. To determine how you can provide support to NARAL Pro-Choice America Foundation, see the contact information below.

Please note that the information contained within this newsletter does not constitute legal advice and that we recommend that you seek your own attorney, financial advisor or financial planner when establishing a Will or a charitable gift to ensure that your income, gift and estate tax objectives are met.

If you would like additional information on making a charitable gift to NARAL Pro-Choice America using various assets, please contact:  
 Steve I. Schneider, Esq.  
 Planned Giving Advisor  
 NARAL Pro-Choice America  
 1156 15th Street, NW, Suite 700  
 Washington, DC 20005  
 Telephone: 202 530 4160  
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 Email: SSchneider@ProChoiceAmerica.org

Charitable bequests allow you to support programs you believe in. By making the gift through your Will instead of outright during your lifetime, you may benefit the charity without depleting your assets while you need them and help save estate taxes. The estate tax rate is progressive — that is, the larger your estate, the higher the applicable tax rate; your gift reduces your taxable estate, dollar for dollar.

You may make charitable bequests either outright or in trust. If your estate is especially large, you should consider establishing a charitable lead trust under your Will. You transfer assets into a trust for a specific term of years. For that term, the trust pays a nonprofit organization such as NARAL Pro-Choice America Foundation either a fixed dollar amount or a percentage of the trust assets. When the trust terminates, the principal passes to a non-charitable beneficiary (your children or grandchildren, perhaps). Because of the structure of the tax laws, your

beneficiaries may actually receive more through a lead trust than they would if you simply left the assets to them outright.

You also should consider a charitable remainder trust, which operates in a reverse fashion from the lead trust. You transfer assets to a trust for the lifetime of the beneficiary or for a set term of years (up to 20). During this period, the trust pays that beneficiary either a fixed dollar amount or a percentage of the trust assets. At the termination of the trust, the principal passes to a nonprofit organization you designate, such as NARAL Pro-Choice America Foundation.

If you would like wording to name NARAL Pro-Choice America or NARAL Pro-Choice America Foundation beneficiary of your Will or trust, please contact our office. A bequest to NARAL Pro-Choice America is not tax-deductible and may be subject to taxation. A bequest (through a Will or trust) to NARAL Pro-Choice America Foundation, however, is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.



**NARAL Pro-Choice America staff delivers 40,000 pieces of GOTV mail in Pennsylvania 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Districts.**



# FREEDOM OF CHOICE

LEGACY CIRCLE NEWSLETTER

## NARAL Pro-Choice America's 2007 Plan of Action

### Real Progress. Real Change. Real Choice.

Pro-choice Americans ended 2006 on a very bright note, with sweeping victories in November's elections. NARAL Pro-Choice America will use this momentum to fight off attacks on a woman's right to choose; promote commonsense pro-choice policies; and invigo-

rate pro-choice candidates, activists, and voters for the upcoming presidential election cycle. But we must act now. NARAL Pro-Choice America's **2007 Plan of Action** outlines our core strategies for achieving *real progress* on issues that protect women's health and safety ... securing *real change* as we prepare for the 2008 elections ... and guaranteeing that

women have a *real choice* when it comes to their reproductive-health decisions.

Our **2007 Plan of Action** includes the following initiatives:

### Prevention First: Challenge for Common Ground

In addition to our work defending safe, legal abortion, NARAL Pro-Choice America has long championed the cause of prevention. Building on that commitment, we launched our most recent campaign, *Prevention First*, two years ago, successfully reframing the debate around the pro-choice values of freedom, privacy, and personal responsibility. Pro-choice candidates used this effective message as they worked with us during the 2006 elections, as did lawmakers during the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress to advance commonsense prevention measures and advocate comprehensive sex education, teen-pregnancy prevention, insurance coverage for contra-

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**Nancy Keenan, president of NARAL Pro-Choice America, joins Arizona candidates, including victorious Harry Mitchell at a women's rally.**

## Getting the Best from Your Bequests

Wills don't have to be complex, but they do have to be precise. The manner in which you phrase a bequest under your Will determines not only how an asset will be transferred from your estate to your beneficiaries, but also in what amount. In this issue of our newsletter, we'll discuss bequests: the types, the language and the reasoning behind them.

### There are three basic categories of bequests

The concept of bequests is quite simple. A *bequest* is a gift of money or personal property made under your Will. The person receiving this gift is called a *beneficiary* or *legatee*. A *devise* is a gift of real estate under your Will. The person receiving a gift of real estate is called a *devisee*. For the sake of simplicity, however, we'll refer to both as bequests and beneficiaries.

There are three basic types of bequests you should be aware of as you prepare your Will. They are specific, general and residuary.

The term *specific bequest* describes exactly what you want a particular beneficiary to receive: you want your sister, Ruth, to receive your emerald brooch; you want your grandson, Kevin, to receive your stamp collection; and so on.

You may also hear the term *demonstrative bequest*.

This refers to a bequest of a dollar amount (or a specific quantity) that is to be paid from a designated source. "I give \$25,000 to my son, Alan, to be paid from my Money Market checking account." Throughout this newsletter, we'll use only the one term — specific bequest — to represent this category.

*General bequests* do not specify a source from which they are to be paid. To use the example we mentioned above: "I give \$25,000 to my son, Alan." The amount is the same; however, you have given your executor the flexibility to honor that bequest from any of the available assets.

A *residuary bequest* is paid after all other bequests have been made and all debts, expenses and taxes of the estate have been satisfied. If you don't make arrangements for your residuary estate, any asset not mentioned specifically in your Will will be distributed as if you had died intestate (without a Will).

There are two other types of bequests you should become familiar with: the contingent bequest and the charitable bequest. These two types overlap the previous three categories and, as such, are not considered distinct types of bequests on their own.

A *contingent bequest* takes effect only if certain conditions are met. For instance, you may leave one-half of your gross estate to your daughter, Julie. If Julie predeceases you, though, you want the assets to go to your sister-in-law, Madge. The contingent bequest can also be used in conjunction with the charitable bequest.

**Example 1:** You make a specific bequest. "I give my emerald brooch to my sister, Ruth, if she survives me; and if not, then to my other sister, Janet."

**Example 2:** You make a general bequest. "I give the sum of \$10,000 to my daughter, Julie, if she survives me; and if not, then to my son-in-law, Nathan."

**Example 3:** You make a residuary bequest. "I give the residue of my real and personal estate to my husband, if he survives me; and if not, then 50 percent in equal shares to my children who survive me and 50 percent to XYZ Charity."

Contingent bequests work nicely with any type of bequest. You can avoid the *overuse* of contingent bequests if you review and/or

## 2007 Plan of Action, continued from page one

ception, family-planning services, and guaranteed access to birth-control prescriptions and emergency contraception.

### Protect Choice Programs

NARAL Pro-Choice America is committed to using our Protect Choice programs to combat threats in the courts, Congress, and state legislatures across the country. With organization, pre-planning, and a mobilized membership, we can use anti-choice attacks as opportunities to advance a pro-choice vision and protect a woman's right to choose.

### Election Activities: Road to 2008

With the help of our members and activists, NARAL Pro-Choice America helped elect 23 new pro-choice members in the House and three in the Senate in the 2006 elections — returning congressional leadership to pro-choice hands in *both* chambers. NARAL Pro-Choice America contacted 8,887,877 voters, sent 1,495,998 pieces of targeted voter mail, made 1,248,521 get-out-to-vote phone calls, aired hard-hitting ads, mobilized the grassroots, and turned out pro-choice voters. Now we are building on that success and laying the groundwork to elect a pro-choice president in 2008.

### Pro-Choice Activism: On-Line and On-the-Ground

At NARAL Pro-Choice America, we believe in the power of the grassroots. Our more than one million members and 24 state affiliates give us the leverage we need to remain an active and effective force across the country. We invest heavily in mobilizing pro-choice citizens to be strong advocates for choice in their own communities — and our investment paid off in the elections last November. Our goals for this year include building on our current momentum and enhancing our efforts to inform and inspire pro-choice America to get involved. The more we can accomplish today, the better-positioned we will be when the heavy presidential campaigning gets underway.

It is imperative that NARAL Pro-Choice America keep pro-choice citizens across the country engaged and active — so that we can ward off anti-choice attacks and demonstrate to our leaders that Americans stand wholeheartedly behind privacy, freedom, and choice.

*We are grateful that you are part of this movement in 2007.* To receive a complete and in-depth copy of our **2007 Plan of Action**, please contact Steve I. Schneider, Esq., Planned Giving Advisor at [SSchneider@ProChoiceAmerica.org](mailto:SSchneider@ProChoiceAmerica.org) or (202) 530-4160.

update your Will periodically. Some attorneys advise you to review your Will every other year. Others suggest every three to five years, especially when there are births, deaths, marriages and remarriages within your circle of beneficiaries. These could affect your Will and what you want to accomplish.

### Charitable bequests offer superb benefits

The *charitable bequest*, which involves a gift to a nonprofit organization such as NARAL Pro-Choice America or NARAL Pro-Choice America Foundation, also overlaps the other types of bequests. You may make a specific bequest to charity ("I give 100 shares of IBM

stock to ABC Charity."), a general bequest ("I give \$30,000 to ABC Charity.") or a residuary bequest ("I give the residue of my real and personal estate to ABC Charity."). The charitable bequest can also be contingent. Thus, you give \$30,000 to your son, Alan, if he survives you and otherwise to ABC Charity.