



JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

Introducing the New... Mr. & Mrs. Goralka



John and his beautiful wife, Ainur, were married on December 10th at the Grand Island Mansion Inn. The Mansion was built in 1917 in a remote area of

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the Sacramento Delta. The Mansion has an interesting history as paddle wheel boats would bring visitors from San Francisco. During Prohibition, large parties were held there serving alcohol away from the watchful eyes of Elliot Ness. John has been taking his kids, family and friends there for brunch for 30+ years. He has never attended an event there and was so happy to be married there. The new Mr. & Mrs. Goralka were able to spend the night at the mansion after the wedding with family. A great way for the new members to the family to bond. They then spent seven days in Kuauai. Ainur tried her first Scuba Dive, toured the island by helicopter and enjoyed a luau. A great way to begin the next chapter in their lives.

[\(How We Helped Solve This for Our Client!\)](#)

RECOMMENDED RESTAURANT:
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WATCH HIGHLIGHT VIDEO



John Goralka Named 2022 Best Lawyer

We are very pleased to announce that for the third year in a row, John Goralka, has been named one of the Best Lawyers in the area of Tax Law and Trusts & Estates by [Best Lawyers®](#)—the oldest and most respected peer-review publication company in the legal profession. This is an award that is given to lawyers who are nominated by their

DECEMBER SURVEY RESULTS



Last month, we asked when does your family open gifts—Christmas Eve, Christmas Day or Both Days? An astounding 100% of the responses said **BOTH DAYS!** 🎁

JANUARY SURVEY

peers and a limited number of lawyers across the nation have this recognition. This is an honor typically reserved for a much larger, often national law firm. As a small, boutique law firm, this award is extremely unique and special!

Best Lawyers



John M. Goralka

Goralka Law Firm, PC
Recognized since 2020
Sacramento, California

Practice Areas

Tax Law
Trusts & Estates

[READ MORE](#)

**Family Owned
and Operated**
by John Goralka, Esq. &
David W. Holaday, ChFC, CAP

AS FEATURED IN *BEST LAWYERS*®

In the era of sweeping tax reform, family businesses, particularly agricultural business, face many environmental and governmental risks. Outlined below are strategies to ensure family business survival in the face of these threats.



JUST FOR FUN

What is your 2023
New Year's Resolution?

[SUBMIT](#)

**THOUGHTS
OF THE DAY**

“Everyone is waiting to become something more. We are all waiting for the invitation to the next great adventure...”

—A Hallmark Movie

“Don’t let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do.”

—John Wooden



The family business, in the best of times, faces unique challenges, particularly with business succession and estate planning. Moreover, the family business is often not merely a business but a lifestyle. The hard work, long hours and heightened risk can be common challenges. The business owner's very identity is more likely to be tied to the success, or failure, of the family business.

This is particularly evident for agricultural or farm businesses. The family farm is connected to the land, which is critical to success. In California, where our firm is based, the news is replete with stories of fires and critical water shortages as our megadrought continues.

In addition to such forces of nature, family farms and other family businesses face another threat: An increasingly inhospitable tax environment. First, let's examine some of the changes in the wind.

[READ ON](#)



What's New in the Tax World for 2023?

by John M. Goralka, Esq.

Happy New Year! With the start of a new year, you may be wondering... what's new in the tax world and how might this impact me?

Starting January 1, 2023

- Individuals can transfer \$12.92 million during life or at death without triggering a federal estate tax bill. This is an increase from \$12.06 million in 2022. Note that on January 1, 2026, this exemption drops to just under \$6 million (Inflation adjusted).
- The annual gift tax exclusion increases to \$17,000 which is an increase from \$16,000 in 2022.



Planning Tips

In the event of the death of a spouse, with a combined estate of close to 5 million (or less) consider filing a portability estate tax return (IRS Form 706) to utilize the deceased spouse's... [READ ON](#)

New Year's Resolutions

by Members of the Goralka Law Firm Team

Did you know that some 4,000+ years ago, the ancient Babylonians are said to have been the first people to make New Year's resolutions? The idea of the start of a new year brings with it a renewing energy to begin something new and for many, that includes working towards a goal or creating a new habit (or even eliminating a habit!). We surveyed some of the GLF team members to see if they had any resolutions to share for 2023.

JOHN GORALKA, Attorney

As a newly married man, I am reminded of the need to take better care of myself. I work too much, stopped exercising due to these time demands and drink too much wine. My son Patrick recently introduced me to whiskey.



When my firm was smaller years ago, I went to the gym virtually every day. As a single parent of young kids, I went to the gym in the morning or the weekend. The gym's childcare facility gave me an hour to myself before focusing on the kids.

My goal is to take more walks, bike, lift weights, and exercise more. I have a great home gym, so there's really no excuse. Looking back at my wedding pictures, I noticed how heavy I have gotten. I am now committed to being healthier and thinner before my one-year anniversary.

When my kids were younger, I survived by compartmentalizing my life. I formed my law firm to allow me to spend more time with my kids. I went to help with yard duty supervision at their schools, coached basketball, soccer, indoor soccer and baseball teams. On my days, I left work early to pick them up from school. The penalty for a late pickup from day care was \$10 a minute. That was very expensive one day when, worried that I would be late, I did not stop for gas and in fact ran out of gas on the way. Those priorities forced me to get away from work. When the kids got older and moved on, working seemed to consume my life. Not as a choice, clients just needed help and I did not have those obligations. (Below are some photos of great times with my kids when they were younger.)

Lastly, I need to make time for me and Ainur to travel, work in the yard or even just read the paper or a book. And, more importantly, I need to make time for my wife and our life together.





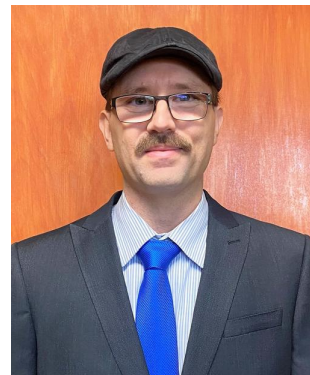
HANNAH GARCIA, Office Manager & Legal Assistant

Just one...I have like thirty! I would say that I would like to set a resolution to donate my time to Loaves & Fishes, a non-profit organization that helps the homeless and less fortunate in the community.



STEVEN FAZZI, Associate Attorney

My New Year's resolution is to spend more time with my parents. My secondary resolution is to clean off my desk (or, rather, to find my desk under the mountain of stuff that is decidedly not my desk but which is suspiciously located where my desk should be and which seems, equally suspiciously, to have taken on the shape of my desk).



JENNIFER LOPEZ, Legal Assistant

My 2023 New Year's Resolution would be to practice a little more self-care and try to meditate once a day.



EMILY OROKOS, Receptionist

My New Year's resolution for 2023 is to do research and build a foundation of knowledge about the stock market, and once I feel confident, to make some smart investments.



**WATCH THIS VIDEO:
A Worker's Comp Insurance Nightmare!**

The Goralka Law Firm represented this client for well over 25 years. They owned and operated a fencing company focused on building residential yard fencing for new subdivisions. They learned at the end of the year that their workers compensation insurance premium increased substantially because the company was too large. They also learned that the deductible for each claim increased by tenfold (10x). They were going to close the business if the solution was not identified. Click the play button below for the rest of the story and the unique solution found and implemented by the Goralka Law Firm.



CLIENT TESTIMONIALS

“My mother and I have appreciated the care, and respect, we have received with each and every appointment. You feel welcomed when you walk in and realize you are not just another client to them. Quick responses when needing answers with extra steps to ensure you understand and that the outcome is truly the one you want. We had complex tax issues that had arisen from my father's estate, and I can't imagine a better person to deal with these issues other than Attorney Goralka and his team. Thank you to the entire staff!”

—Laurie H.

“I needed some advice on a business tax matter and found John. After looking at his online reviews I could tell that he was going to be the right person for the job and I was right. John knew exactly what needed to be done and how to move forward with the structure of our estate and business. I couldn't have asked for a better advisor! I would definitely recommend John and his team for any business or estate planning in the Sacramento area.”

—Napolitano S.

“I recently came into quite of bit of money and Attorney Goralka helped me figure out what the tax

consequences might be. Attorney Goralka was incredibly thorough during the process of settling the incredibly large estate and I will be forever grateful. He is brilliant and his staff was always on top of everything.”

—Jayme B.

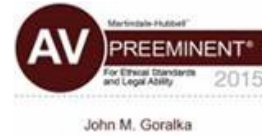


Thanks for these lovely reviews, Napolitano, Laurie and Jayme. It's a reminder of why we do what we do!

And thanks to all of our clients for their business and referrals over the years. Reviews like these are a reminder about why we do what we do and reaffirms that we are not simply just preparing legal documents, but we're cultivating relationships and really helping families and their loved ones with transformational changes for generations to come.

Can you do us a huge favor and take a couple minutes of your time to leave us some feedback and a review online at one (or more) of the following websites:





RESTAURANT RECOMMENDATION Seasons 52

After all of the holiday cooking and festivities, you might prefer to dine out and what better way to enjoy some of the season's yummiest foods than at Seasons 52.



Seasons 52 features seasonal menus with dishes made from ingredients at their peak of freshness, oak-fire grilled or brick oven roasted (without a fryer in sight). They also offer 52 wines by the glass (hence the 52!). Here, you'll always feel free to enjoy every bite, every sip, every moment.

ADDRESS

Seasons 52
1689 Arden Way, Suite 1065
Sacramento, CA 95815



[VIEW MENU](#)

HOURS OF OPERATION

- Monday through Thursday - 11:00 AM to 10:00 PM
- Friday and Saturday - 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM
- Sunday - 11:00 AM to 9:00 PM

AMENITIES

Car-side Pickup Available
Valet Parking Available
Private Dining Available

Large Party Seating
Patio Seating Available

Have you been to Seasons 52 yet? If so, what's your favorite dish? If not, try it out and let us know what you think!



CONTACT US

THE GORALKA LAW FIRM, APC
4470 Duckhorn Drive
Sacramento, CA 95834

Phone: (916) 440-8036



NOTE: The client testimonials featured in this newsletter and on our website are from actual clients of The Goralka Law Firm, APC. Their last names have been redacted to protect their privacy. These client testimonials do not guarantee your particular results.