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PRESS RELEASE
September 25, 2007

Class Action Lawsuit Seeks End to Misleading Legal Document Preparation and Unlicensed Legal Advice by "We the People"

First in Series of Actions to Stop Growing Industry Targeting Seniors

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – A Class Action suit was filed September 20th in Alameda County seeking to put an end to the growing practice of misleading legal document preparation and unlicensed legal advice services that target senior citizens. Stebner & Associates and The Arn Law Firm have filed the first of what promises to be many legal actions hitting back at companies that lure seniors into purchasing "reduced fee legal advice" at document preparation centers. Seniors with estate plans created by document centers can end up with estate nightmares for spouses and heirs.

The law suit is filed against We the People, a nationwide company that provides document preparation services. The suit alleges the company routinely allows untrained and unlicensed employees to practice law. The key causes of action alleged are: Unauthorized Practice of Law, Assisting in the Unauthorized Practice of Law, Fraud, and Financial Elder Abuse.

The Class Action is filed on behalf of all persons who were 65 or older when they paid for legal advice and purchased a living trust, will, quitclaim deed or other legal document from a "We the People" franchise. The class is estimated to include thousands of seniors. We the People has offices throughout California.

"We the People has found a very lucrative niche in the California market convincing seniors that legal services will be provided and receive legal documents and services at a fraction of the price a licensed attorney would charge. Because the charges for the documents are below the amount required to get a Plaintiff into Superior Court, elders have until now been unable to find financial attorneys that would take up their cause. The Class Action is a tool to allow seniors to show the damages they suffered and for the courts to fashion a remedy that will protect them from being damaged in the future." Said Kathryn Stebner, one of the attorneys representing the Plaintiffs.

How Are Seniors Harmed?

"Trust, wills and legal documents leave no room for error. After a senior has died, defective or other legal instruments create a nightmare for the would-be heirs and beneficiaries. If done improperly, an elder's estate may end up having to be unraveled in Superior Court's Probate Division, which is extremely expensive and a waste of judicial resources," Stebner said.

California has laws to protect its elder citizens from the unauthorized practice of law. Stebner & Associates and The Arn Law Firm are taking on the challenge to use these laws not only for justice for those seniors who have been wronged, but to protect those who would be harmed.

future if this practice were to go unchallenged.

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