

# LEGACY SOCIETY

*Your Generosity Can Propel ELI's Future by Joining ELI's Legacy Society.*



## What is the Legacy Society?

Members of the ELI Legacy Society have included the Environmental Law Institute as a beneficiary in their will, trust, or other estate planning documents. Through this important step, you can ensure future generations will be able to enjoy a healthy environment, prosperous economies, and vibrant communities founded on the rule of law.

## What are the benefits of planned giving?

Through planned giving, you can...

- ➔ Make gifts larger than an immediate and outright contribution
- ➔ Retain control and use of your assets you plan to donate
- ➔ Receive tax benefits throughout your lifetime, based upon your avenue of giving
- ➔ Reduce income taxes, and reduce or eliminate estate taxes

## How can I give?

### BEQUESTS

For many reasons, bequests are the most popular way of making a planned gift to ELI, and it's easily done with our Suggested Bequest Language Form. Many execute bequests by naming the Environmental Law Institute as a beneficiary of a will, living trust, retirement plan, or insurance policy. They're easy to make, affordable, and yield many advantages:

- ➔ Control your assets during your lifetime, and have the flexibility to make changes to gifts should circumstances change
- ➔ Can be made contingent upon specific bequests to family members, so family comes first in the disposal of estate assets
- ➔ Reduce or even eliminate estate taxes.

### LIFE-INCOME GIFTS

With the following life-income gifts, establish a lifetime income for yourself and your family, along with an income tax deduction. Depending on your assets, current tax situation, and estate plans, a



charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust may work best for you. We invite you to consult with your attorney or other tax advisor to see what may be the best fit for you.

## What can I give?

**Cash** is the easiest way to give but may not be the best option to take full advantage of planned giving's tax savings and other benefits.

Through a **stock or mutual fund**, or any other appreciated securities, you can donate the assets if they have grown in value and you have owned them for more than one year. This way, you are able to receive an income tax deduction for the full current market value, avoiding the capital gains tax if you sold the asset.

A testamentary gift, like an **IRA or retirement plan asset**, allows for ELI to receive the funds at full-value, and through leaving these funds in your estate, you can save by significantly reducing income taxes.

**Real estate**, like your home, vacation property, commercial building, or acreage, can yield tax benefits. Should you choose to donate the property outright, you can receive lifetime income in return. You can also donate your property while retaining the right to live there, benefiting from an income tax charitable deduction and avoiding or reducing capital gains tax.



**Notify us of your gift!**

**Please contact Melodie DeMulling,  
Vice President of Development and  
Membership by phone 202.939.3808 or  
email [demulling@eli.org](mailto:demulling@eli.org).**

*Please note: the information provided above is not to be construed as legal or tax advice, and you are strongly advised to consult with your attorney or other tax advisor to ensure compliance with federal and state laws for your own legal and tax situation. Furthermore, the above information is intended to be general and educational in nature as ELI does not provide legal or tax advice. Rules and regulations regarding the income, estate and/or inheritance tax deductibility of donations for charitable purposes vary from state to state and may therefore affect the applicability, accuracy or completeness of the information above.*

*The Environmental Law Institute is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt, charitable organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to the Environmental Law Institute are deductible for federal income, gift and estate tax purposes to the maximum extent permitted by law. ELI's tax identification number is 52-0901863. **For state disclosure information, please visit [eli.org/state-disclosure-information](http://eli.org/state-disclosure-information).***