1. **Removing the Roth IRA Contribution Limit Roadblock with 401(k) Dollars.**Generating after-tax income can be key to developing a well-balanced retirement income plan—but for clients who have delayed saving or wish to accumulate a substantial Roth nest egg, the annual contribution limits for retirement savings can present a formidable roadblock.  Fortunately, back-door routes to funding a Roth IRA have developed to allow clients to grow these accounts much more quickly.  One of these routes cuts right through one of the most commonly available retirement planning tools around—the traditional, employer-sponsored 401(k)—but it’s important that the client be apprised of several important consequences of this particular savings technique before taking any action.
2. **IRA Distribution Did Not Modify a Series of Substantially Equal Periodic Payments.**Running afoul of the IRA distribution rules can subject your clients to hefty penalty taxes--and the IRS frequently issues new rulings that determine whether a taxpayer remains compliant.  The IRS has released a private letter ruling on whether a series of substantially equal periodic payments was modified.
3. **Annuity Purchased with IRA Funds is Exempt from Bankruptcy Estate.**The Eighth Circuit upheld a bankruptcy appellate panel decision that an annuity purchased with funds rolled over from a taxpayer’s traditional IRA was exempt from the bankruptcy estate because the annuity complied with the IRC Section 408 requirements for qualified individual retirement annuities.
4. **Why Delay?--QLACs Change the Game in Social Security Timing.**The QLAC has finally become a realistic planning tool that can provide clients with guaranteed income late in life--but the introduction of this new vehicle can also reshape a client's entire retirement income planning approach, including even the most basic Social Security timing strategies.