



The English-Speaking Union LEGACY SOCIETY



What will your legacy be?

"We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give."

Winston Churchill

***“In Faith and Hope the world will disagree,
but all mankind’s concern is charity.”***

Alexander Pope

Dear ESU Members, Alumni and Friends:

As we look toward our centennial, it is also time to acknowledge the part the ESU has played in enriching our lives and the lives of many thousands of immigrants, middle school, high school and college students, teachers, volunteers and members. It is our hope that you will consider including the ESU in your will as your personal legacy to continue to nurture and enhance in perpetuity the immeasurable benefits of our linguistic heritage through our educational programs.

The lasting impact of bequests—both large and small—have helped shape the character of the ESU for 94 years. The legacies of alumni, volunteers and members have funded the National Shakespeare Competition, helped launch the Middle School Debate program and sent 70 African American college students to study for a year in Great Britain.

We spend a lifetime building, preserving and managing our estate. Thus, it is only right that we make thoughtful choices about how our estate will be distributed. This booklet has been created to give you an overview of your estate planning options. This information is not intended as specific legal or financial advice. Consult your attorney or financial advisor when considering a planned gift. State laws which govern wills and contracts vary and are subject to change. In this booklet:

Pages 4-5 provide information on wills and trusts and options and language guidelines

Page 6 is a sample codicil that can be used to amend your current will

Thank you for your ongoing support and for considering including the English-Speaking Union in your estate plans and joining the Legacy Society. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide you with any further information.

With best regards,



Kari Reynolds
Director of Development
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Email: kreynolds@esuus.org



LEGACY SOCIETY FOUNDING MEMBERS



Alice J. Irby, Co-chair

Dr. E. Quinn Peeper, Co-chair

Mr. Richard T. Biernacki and Dr. David G. Henritz

Diana and Josiah Bunting III

Dr. & Mrs. James P. Fadely

Patricia Ann Haggerty and William Brewer Maschmeier

Anisha McFarland & Darrell W. Hill

Ellen and Pettus LeCompte

Robert P. & Sarah M. Morse

Kari Reynolds



The English-Speaking Union

Education. Scholarship. Understanding.

INCLUDING THE ESU IN YOUR ESTATE PLANS and BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE ESU LEGACY SOCIETY

We invite you to add your name to the list of **Members of the ESU Legacy Society**. The Society exists to acknowledge those loyal members who have had the foresight and dedication to include the ESU in their estate plans.

By honoring ESU Legacy Society members, we hope other members will be inspired to follow their example. Enrolling in this honorary society is simply a matter of advising the ESU that you have included it in your will, no matter the size of your bequest. We also welcome your planned gifts, such as gifts of life insurance or retirement plan funds.

ESU LEGACY SOCIETY members will enjoy:

- **special recognition in our newsletter (or the option to be anonymous)**
- **invitations to the ESU events**
- **advanced notice of ESU travel opportunities**
- **an alliance with others who share your vision for a better future**
- **the opportunity to direct their bequest to programs or general support**

A bequest simply is a statement in your estate plans that expresses your wish to give all or part of your assets to a loved one or charity, such as The English-Speaking Union, upon your death.

A gift to The English Speaking Union of the United States, in your will or revocable trust enables you to support our ongoing mission to celebrate English as a shared language to foster global understanding and good will by providing educational and cultural opportunities for students, teachers and members. A bequest:

- **is easy to arrange**
- **will not alter your current lifestyle in any way**
- **can be easily modified to address your changing needs**

***“He who waits to do a great deal of good at once,
will never do anything.”***

Samuel Johnson

SAMPLE GIFT LANGUAGE FOR YOUR WILL OR REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST

Residuary Gift Language:

A residuary bequest comes to us after your estate expenses and specific bequests are paid:

*I give and devise to **The English Speaking Union of the United States, located at 144 East 39th Street, New York, NY 10016**, all (or state a percentage) of the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate, both real and personal, to be used for its general support (or for the support of a specific named fund or program).**

Specific Gift Language:

Naming the English Speaking Union as a beneficiary of a specific amount from your estate is easy:

*I give and devise to **The English Speaking Union of the United States, located at 144 East 39th Street, New York, NY 10016**, the sum of \$ _____ (or asset) to be used for its general support (or for the support of a specific fund or program).**

Contingent Gift Language:

The English Speaking Union of the United States, or its affiliates can be named as a contingent beneficiary in your will or personal trust if one or more of your specific bequests cannot be fulfilled:

*If (insert name) is not living at the time of my demise, I give and devise to **The English Speaking Union of the United States, located at 144 East 39th Street, New York, NY 10016**, the sum of \$ _____ (or all or a percentage of the residue of my estate) to be used for its general support (or for the support of a specific fund or program).**

*Over a long period of time, ESU programs or activities may change to such an extent that we cannot use your bequest under your original restriction. In addition, local branches may cease operations. Adding the following provision allows us to honor your original intent as closely as possible:

If The English-Speaking Union of the United States, in its sole judgment, determines that the original intent is no longer feasible, The English-Speaking Union of the United States may use my gift and the income there from for such related purposes as, in its sole judgment, will most nearly fulfill the original intent.

***“It is religion to be thus forsworn, for charity itself fulfills
the law and who can never love from charity?”***

William Shakespeare

RETIREMENT PLAN BENEFICIARY LANGUAGE:

You may name the ESU as a beneficiary of your IRA or other qualified retirement benefits. Donors should consult with their tax advisor regarding the tax benefits of such gifts.

Naming the ESU as the beneficiary of a qualified retirement plan asset such as a 401(k), 403(b), IRA, Keogh or profit-sharing pension plan will accomplish a charitable goal while realizing significant savings of both estate and income taxes. It can be costly to pass such assets on to heirs because of heavy tax consequences. By naming the ESU as a beneficiary of a retirement plan, the donor maintains complete control over the asset while living, but at the donor's death the plan asset passes to support the ESU at the same time generating savings of both estate and income taxes.

Making a charitable gift from your retirement plan is easy and should not cost you any attorney fees. Simply request a change-of-beneficiary form from your plan administrator. When you have finished, please return the form to your plan administrator and notify The English Speaking Union of the United States.

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For more information, please contact:

Kari Reynolds, Director of Development at 212-818-1200 ext. 218 or kreynolds@esuus.org.

***“The desire of power in excess caused the angels to fall;
the desire of knowledge in excess caused man to fall;
but in charity there is no excess,
neither can angel or man come in danger by it.”***

Francis Bacon

SAMPLE CODICIL (REVISION OF WILL)

[**date**]

I, [**name**], a resident of the County of [**county**], State of [**state**], declare that this is the codicil to my last will and testament, which is dated [**date original signed**].

I add or change said last will in the following manner:

[List all specific changes or additions to the original will. Reference each section number of the will and the specific language you will be affecting. This is where you could include a bequest to support The English-Speaking Union of the United States. See our suggested bequest language that can assist you.]

Otherwise, I hereby confirm and republish my will dated [**date original signed**], in all respects other than those herein mentioned.

I subscribe my name to this codicil this [**day, e.g. 1st**] day of [**month**], [**year**], at [**full address where signed**], in the presence of [**full name of first witness to codicil**], [**full name of second witness to codicil**], and [**full name of third witness to codicil**], attesting witnesses, who subscribe their names here in my presence.

Maker

ATTEST

On the date last above written, [**name**], known by us to be the person whose signature appears at the end of this codicil, declared to us, [**full name of first witness to codicil**], [**full name of second witness to codicil**], and [**full name of third witness to codicil**], the undersigned, that the foregoing instrument, consisting of [**number of pages to codicil**] page(s) was the codicil to the will dated [**date original signed**]; who then signed the codicil in our presence, and now in the presence of each other, we now sign our names as witnesses.

Witness signature

Witness signature

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

PLEASE NOTE: Over a long period of time, ESU programs or departments may change to such an extent that we cannot use your bequest under your original restriction. In addition, local branches may cease operations. Adding the following provision allows us to honor your original intent as closely as possible:

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“Be great in act, as you have been in thought.”

William Shakespeare

Sixty percent of Americans die **without a valid will**. That usually means State laws take over and distribute their probate estates according to generic formulas *that have nothing to do with the decedent's wishes*. **Don't let that happen to you.**



*“All things are perceived in the light of charity,
and hence under the aspect of beauty: for beauty is simply Reality seen with the eyes of love.”*

Evelyn Underhill

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