

“If Lawyers are disbarred and Clergymen defrocked, doesn’t it follow that Electricians can be delighted; Musicians denoted, Cowboys deranged; Models deposed; Tree Surgeons debarked and Dry Cleaners depressed?”

ANON



Are St. Patrick’s Day Celebrations More “American” than Irish?

Since I am of Irish descent (Both my mother and father were Irish) I really like St. Patrick’s Day and I found a recent article by writer, Borgna Brunner very interesting. You see, it turns out that for most of the history of St. Patrick’s Day, it has been celebrated in a very low-key manner in Ireland. It was a time to attend church and have corned beef and cabbage as the traditional meal. And since St. Patrick’s Day falls during Lent, when Catholics are not supposed to eat meat on Friday, the church allowed members to eat meat on that day during Lent, even if it was on a Friday. But until the last few years in Ireland - that was mostly all they did. There was a parade in Dublin on St. Patrick’s Day but it was made up mostly of American participants – including marching bands and drum majorettes from Wichita Falls, Texas. As a contrast, the U.S. has been having parades since the first one in New York in 1762; and today many big cities in the US have full day and evening festivities. One of the reasons this has been such a contrast is that there are 30 million Americans with Irish ancestry and only 4 million Irish living in Ireland.

However, since 1995 the Irish government began a national campaign to turn St. Patrick’s Day into an authentic Irish celebration, no doubt because they were embarrassed by the fact that the US, Canada and Australia made a bigger hoopla out of the holiday than Ireland did. Finally, Ireland claimed the holiday, even changing it to St. Patrick’s festival, and expanding the duration to one week. Ireland now has about 30 parades, playing catch up to the U.S., which has about 100. While it was slow coming, the Irish government woke up to the economic benefit of expanded tourism and PR resulting from a national celebration.

What We Can Discover from the Legal Mess Surrounding the Death of Anna Nicole Smith --- So You and Your Family Won’t Have to Go through the Drama We’ve been Witnessing on TV....

You’ve probably heard some of the media coverage of the Anna Nicole Smith tragedy, which started on February 8, when she died in a Florida hotel room. Since that time until now, when I’m writing this, there have been multiple legal battles going on.

First of all, since Anna Nicole’s estate is potentially worth millions – from her deceased husband’s estate, the

father of her baby girl would be in control of a large sum of money – so there are several people claiming to be her father. And that will have to be sorted out.

But the issue that was embroiled in the court system over the last month concerned who would get to decide where Anna Nicole would be buried. This legal battle went on for weeks, all the while her body was decomposing and she couldn’t

be buried until that was decided. This has been a tangled mess and was a very unfortunate situation for everyone concerned.

According to Florida law if you don't have instructions in your will as to your burial arrangements, the next of kin gets to decide such matters. Since there was no legal spouse, the next of kin would be children. As a result of her son's death last year, her only living child was her baby daughter. Because the baby was unable to represent her interests, a guardian was appointed - since the identity of the father wasn't known at the time. After children, the next priority would be living parents, which means Anna Nicole's mother, Vergie Arthur.

On Feb 22, it was decided in the Florida courtroom that Anna Nicole would be buried in the Bahamas, next to her son, where she had been living a number of months with her attorney & companion, Howard Stern, her son (until his death) and her baby daughter. Initially, the 3 main parties in the court proceedings, Howard Stern, the mother, and Larry Birkhead, who also believes he is the baby's father, agreed that decision would stand.

However, the next day Anna Nicole's mother filed an emergency appeal, halting the move of the body to the Bahamas. Vergie's attorney contended that the baby is not

an adult and therefore, didn't have the right to decide where the body would be buried. Vergie wanted Anna Nicole (and Anna Nicole's deceased son to be moved to Texas) to be buried in Texas, where Vergie lives. Other family members are also buried there. Vergie lost this emergency appeal and Anna Nicole was finally buried in the Bahamas along side her son.

Based on the fact that Anna Nicole had already purchased burial lots in the Bahamas it appeared that her latest intent was to be buried in the Bahamas beside her son. But, unfortunately, she had not put this in her will. Another problem with her will was that it was written several years ago, before the birth of her daughter and before her son died, leaving many issues unanswered.

What we should learn from this is that when there are major changes in your life, such as marriage, divorce, births or deaths, your will should be reviewed and revised to take those things into consideration. It's also a good idea to indicate where you want to be buried, or if you want to be cremated --- so that family members don't have to fight over those issues.

After watching the chaos that resulted from Anna Nicole's death and unaddressed issues it should remind us that we have obligations to plan for our family members, to put our

wishes in writing, so that loved one's don't end up "duking it out" in court to see who gets to decide where the burial place should be. Sadly, all of this turmoil could have been avoided with adequate and proper legal planning.

If you're not sure about the adequacy of your will and planning for your family, Get help NOW! Don't delay. Call us up RIGHT NOW, while this is

fresh on your mind. Even though I don't generally handle estate planning, I do know lawyers who are experts in that area and I can get you in touch with them—so that you sleep at night, knowing important issues for your loved ones are taken care of. REMEMBER- WE WANT YOU TO CONTACT US WITH YOUR "HERE'S WHAT WE'RE THINKING ABOUT DOING QUESTIONS", NOT YOUR "GUESS WHAT WE JUST DID!" COMMENTS!

STORY OF THE MONTH

Does the Punishment Fit the Crime? --- What Do You Think?

A recent news story about an unusual situation with an example of “road rage” caught my attention. You’ve probably heard of people, who are totally stressed out in their lives, and end up “losing it” in traffic when another driver does something rude or dangerous, precipitating a fit of anger, sometimes ending in the offended driver shooting the offender. In these cases, the shooter is charged with a crime, which seems logical.

However, the case I heard about seemed to be way out of proportion – as far as the punishment fitting the crime. In Virginia, on a hot July day, a 25-year-old mother of three (whose husband is serving his third tour of duty in Iraq) was driving North on I-95 with her children and her sister who was 6 months pregnant. Jessica Hall, the mother of three, and her passengers were traveling from North Carolina to New York for a family party. Jessica was trying to keep up with her father’s truck, while her sister was having early contractions. Traffic had stalled to a crawl and another driver cut her off twice, causing her to swerve onto the shoulder. Out of anger, she flung her McDonald’s cup of remaining ice at the other car. The windows were open so the sticky ice got all over the passenger, dashboard and windshield (not the driver). The “victim” driver and passenger reported Hall’s crime.

A jury found Hall guilty of a felony, with a minimum sentence of two years in prison. The victim driver and passenger indicated that even they were astonished at the conviction. The passenger said, “I think that this is way too much of a punishment for her actions. This is just to me absolutely ridiculous. Community service would have made more sense.”

Hall spent more than a month in jail before going before the judge who was to formally impose the sentence. Hall said she never thought this would land her in jail for the first time in her life. She admitted, “I must have been wrong....but seriously, God. Lesson learned. Lesson learned is one hour in this place.”

Fortunately, however, the judge reduced the sentence to probation, requiring that she remain on good behavior for five years. She also has to pay fines and court costs for other charges, including reckless driving and assault. Hall thanked the judge and cried.

Unfortunately, this incident of “road rage” with a cup of ice is something lots of people could have happen in their lives, pointing out how “normal” people rather than just the cold, calculating, mass murderer, can find themselves in a legal mess. Because a criminal charge could send someone, including this young mother of three, off to prison for several years, it’s always critical to get the best lawyer you can in a criminal matter.

You want to know your lawyer has experience and success in criminal matters and that the lawyer you think you are hiring is the one who will be actually working on your case – not some legal intern. You should be leery of lawyers, who charge very little--- because they won’t be able to spend much time or attention on your case – which is a bad situation for your defense.

Also, keep in mind, it’s important for the client to pay his lawyer according to the agreed terms. You don’t want your lawyer spending his or her time worrying about getting paid, instead of devoting time, attention, and energy on your case. You definitely want your lawyer to be wholly and completely committed to doing everything necessary to represent your interests. And when someone tries to avoid paying his lawyer or looks for the “cheapest” lawyer—the lawyer won’t feel inclined to do more than the minimum amount of work required. In some instances, a lawyer may even withdraw from the case if he or she hasn’t been paid, leaving the client to start over and try to find another lawyer --- causing more hassle and time lost for the client.

Those are some of the reasons it’s important, particularly in a criminal case, to pay good money for a top-notch attorney, and to make sure you keep them committed by paying on time, even if you have to borrow the money from credit cards, family, friends & other sources like home equity, or maybe even sell assets. After all, (while no lawyer can guarantee an outcome) if a top-notch lawyer can help you stay out of prison, you’ll be able to work and pay back the loans. You’ll still get to enjoy your freedom, instead of living with a roommate, named “Brutus”

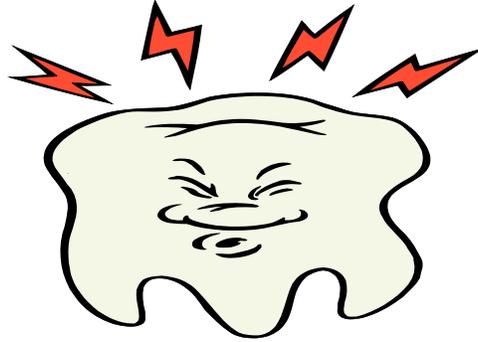
Did You Know...

Two handfuls of food are all the human stomach can comfortably hold. So the simplest advice of all is never eating more than the equivalent of two handfuls of food at any time!

Snorers have more car accidents. They are six times as likely as non-snorers to have accidents while driving!

Welcome To New Clients And Thank You For Referring!

*I love spending more of my time thinking about your case, various strategies and the best way to educate and help you with your legal matters, rather than spending my time doing TV and radio advertising to bring in new clients. That’s why I appreciate your referral of two like- quality individuals who need to talk to a lawyer. Furthermore, I will gift your two referred friends, relatives, neighbors, or peers (not current or past clients) with a \$100 Value Consultation Certificate. **Just call the office at 405-728-8223 to make the arrangements.***



Health Tip Of The Month...

(These tips are not for everybody and should not be taken as specific recommendations. Before you take any action regarding yours or anyone's health, we strongly suggest you consult a qualified physician – whether your condition is a result of a personal injury caused by someone else & requiring legal help, or due to some other reason!)

Eating for Healthy Teeth

A well balanced diet is essential for our overall health, but have you ever considered how your diet and eating pattern can affect the health and teeth of your gums? If not, take heed of the following advice:-

- To reduce the length and frequency of acid attacks it is better to eat sweet foods all at once, rather than slowly over a period of time. If you do get hungry between meals, choose unsweetened snacks like cheese, fresh fruit and vegetables.
- Try to take your drinks unsweetened – it may be difficult at first but persevere.
- Don't be misled by the words "no artificial sweeteners" on the label of foods. Sugar is a "natural sweetener".
- Control the build up of plaque by brushing regularly with a good quality soft toothbrush as recommended by your dentist and using dental floss to remove plaque from between the teeth.
- Visit your dentist regularly for a check up. He will be able to give you advice and spot any potential problem areas.

Client Quiz!

Please enter our Client Quiz. The first person who answers the quiz question correctly will receive a Free Blockbuster certificate. All you need to do is circle the correct answer below and fill out your name and contact information and either fax this to me at 405-840-9467 or mail it to Ed Geary, Attorney at Law, 5601 NW 72nd, Suite 178, Oklahoma City, OK 73132 or call in your answer to 728-8223 and leave your name, phone number and time you called.

Here's Last Month's Quiz Question and Answer!

Q. Which of these dictators, all of whom died in 2006, had an aftershave and a meteor named after him, as well as the month of January?

- A. Slobodan Milosevic
- B. Augusto Pinochet
- C. Saparmurat Niyazov

Correct Answer:

C. Saparmurat Niyazov – he died at Age 66. He was president-for-life of Turkmenistan, who ruled the country with an iron grip since it left the Soviet Union in 1990. Referred to as the "the Turkmenbashi" (Leader of All Turkmens), he established a cult of personality that went so far as to rename the days of the week and months of the year after himself and members of his family. Before his sudden death, he held all top government positions.

Now Here’s This Month’s Quiz Question

Q. What is the Gaeltacht?

Circle the correct answer below and either fax or mail it as indicated below the address blank.

- A. A seedy neighborhood in Dublin, on the wrong side of the Liffey.
- B. Rocky islands off the coast of Kerry, once inhabited by Irish monks.
- C. A contemporary Irish literary movement promoting literature in Irish (Gaelic).
- D. The Irish (Gaelic) speaking parts of Ireland, most of which are on the western coast.

Name	Phone Number
Street Address	City, State & Zip

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“3 Questions You Should Ask Before Hiring a Lawyer Plus 6 TIPS For Getting Higher Settlements in Your Personal Injury Claim and Avoid Paying for Losses that Aren’t Your Fault”

If you or someone you care about happens to be the victim of an accident through someone else’s fault you need this information. As I have pointed out in the article in this newsletter, the insurance company who represents the other person at fault is not on your side and is trying to limit the amount paid out. That’s why you need to be as informed as possible.

Call 405-728-8223 to get a copy of our FREE Report that reveals this critical information

If you would like any additional free reports, or would like some of your friends, co-workers, relatives, business acquaintances, etc. to receive a FREE subscription to this newsletter, please fill out the info on the reply form, and we'll add them to the mailing list. We'll also send them a note with their first issue telling them that you had suggested they receive the newsletter, and to contact us if they would like to stop at any time. If you enjoy this newsletter, why not share it for FREE with people you know, with no hassle for you!

**PLEASE FAX THIS FORM BACK TO US ANY TIME: 405-840-9467, OR MAIL IT BACK TO:
Ed Geary, Attorney at Law, 5601 NW 72nd, Suite 178, Oklahoma City, OK 73132)**

YES! I'd like more FREE information on the following FREE Reports Available!

*Call 405-728-8223, or Fax to 405-840-9467, 24 hrs., To Get Any Of These Free Reports!
(When leaving a message be sure to indicate which reports you want and where to send them)
Or Check Off The Ones You Want On This Form And Mail/Fax It In!*

- "Questions You Must Ask Before Hiring Any Lawyer"
- "How to Protect Your Rights if the Unexpected Happens & You are stopped or Arrested; & Avoid DUI Guidelines" Glove Box/Wallet or Purse Mini Guide (Remember to get some for your friends and loved ones –so tell us or indicate how many of these you want)
- "The TRUTH About The Financial Loss Caused By Long Term Care"
- "10 Common Estate Planning Disasters (And How to Avoid Them)"

- Please contact me to set up a consultation regarding the following legal matter: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Best time to Contact _____

- Please add a FREE subscription to your monthly newsletter for the following people. I understand you will send them a note explaining I suggested they get this FREE subscription, and that all they have to do is contact us if they wish to cancel.

1. Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

2. Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please use additional paper if necessary! Thanks, and don't forget to send in your Client Quiz answers to win a FREE Blockbuster certificate.

