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Byrd & Byrd Newsletter

July 2010



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Dear Jacqueline D.,

WELCOME to the latest edition of the Byrd & Byrd email newsletter! We hope that you enjoy this newsletter and find helpful information along with the latest news from Byrd & Byrd.

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Thanks so much and Happy Reading!

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Review of Bowie Fest 2010

Attorney Spotlight

A Wonderful Event and a Lucky Day for One Bowie Resident

Although June 5, 2010 was a hot day outside, Byrd & Byrd was cool and comfortable inside the Bowie Ice Arena during Bowie's annual BowieFest. Attorney Tim Leahy managed the Byrd & Byrd booth. Several dozen Bowieites stopped by for some free goods and short legal answers. As you can tell from this little photo of Tim with the Tooth Fairy, Byrd & Byrd had a magical time meeting and greeting all those who stopped by. So if you were one of the many that came by



Tim Leahy with the Tooth Fairy

the booth, we thank you and hope we were able to provide for any needs or questions you may have had. If you picked up some free pens, magnets, or medicine organizers, be sure to keep those close at hand so you can give us a call if you ever need anything.

Byrd & Byrd would also like to congratulate Kathy Lapinski, the winner of our "Uniquely Bowie Gift Basket"! Over 65 individuals submitted their names in our drawing in hopes that they might win the prize, but Kathy Lapinski was the lucky winner. She received various gifts, including a Byrd & Byrd gift certificate, various restaurant gift cards, a Byrd & Byrd mug, and a blanket from Bowie's historic Belair Mansion. Congratulations to our winner once again! Everyone else will just have to wait until next year for your chance to win.



Timothy P. Leahy

Timothy P. Leahy practices law in Maryland and the District of Columbia and is a member of the American, Maryland, D.C, and Prince George's County Bar associations. He received his J.D., cum laude, from the University of Baltimore Law School in May 2000, earned his M.B.A. in 1993 at the University of Maryland's Robert H. Smith School of Business, and his B.S. in Transportation & Logistics at Maryland in 1990.

Timothy brings over 10 years experience in business to his practice of the law and focuses on litigation and general practice matters. A former home improvement contractor and army reservist, he volunteers with Christmas in April and as a coach for the Bowie Boys & Girls Club. He is also a volunteer Mediator for the District Court of Maryland. Timothy moved to Bowie in 1982 and lives there with Kristen, his wife of 14

Haircare on Wheels

A Wonderful Service is Now Available



Good News! Hair stylists who will make house calls - that's one of the most frequent requests from clients here at Byrd & Byrd.

Rosemary Allender of Family Elder Care (301-262-5082) has passed along information for contacting just such a person. Her name is Michelle Wenck; phone number is 443-254-3930.

I have spoken to Michelle on the phone. She has over 20 years of experience as a hair stylist. She is licensed as a beautician, and is insured. Most importantly, however, she truly has a heart for helping seniors.

She will go to your home, and will also do haircuts and styles for the care giver who has a difficult time getting out of the house, or for others in the family who need her help.

Meet the Byrd & Byrd Supporting Staff

years, and two sons, Connor and James.

To contact Tim, email tleahy@byrdandbyrd.com

Testimonials

"Your example of love and care for the defense of those who need your assistance sets a protocol for all of us to follow. Thank you for your help for my mother."

P. S.
Crofton, MD

"I add my thanks to you and your staff for your years of consistent and patient assistance, your loyalty and support. Thank you for your generosity and kindness. We would have been lost without you."

M. Family
Bowie, MD

Senior Moments Publications

Jackie Byrd has published two books in recent years. *Senior Moments* and *Senior Moments 2*; both comprehensive and clearly written books for "Seniors and those who love them". They are based on weekly "Senior Moments" columns originally written for publication in the Bowie Blade-

In any law firm, the support staff plays a critical role in providing quality services to its clients. Byrd and Byrd is no exception; we are fortunate to have four individuals who, day in and day out, perform a wide range of duties and tasks with skill and good humor.

Mary Ann Wise

Office Manager, who has been with the firm for almost fifteen years, also serves as receptionist and personal assistant to senior partner Toby Byrd. MaryAnn is the one to contact with questions about a bill or to schedule an appointment with Toby if you need guidance on matters related to a construction law matter.

Mary Holt

Legal Assistant assigned to the Elder Law/Estate Planning attorneys; she is the contact to schedule an appointment if you need guidance on Wills, Trusts, Medicaid Planning, general Elder Law Matters and Probate.

Erin Newman

Legal Assistant assigned to attorney Timothy Leahy; she is the contact to schedule an appointment with him if you need guidance on general civil litigation matters including, but not limited to, contracts, business, personal injury, and domestic matters related to marriage, children, guardianship, probate and Wills.

Bryce Blackford

Legal Assistant who provides general support to all attorneys. He also has responsibility for serving as courier for filing of legal documents with area courthouses. He is also responsible for maintenance and organization of the Byrd &

News of Bowie, Maryland and the Crofton News-Crier of Crofton, Maryland.

A unique combination of practicality and warmth, the books offer specific and useful advice for the post-50 crowd and those who may be called upon to care for them. They are a treasure chest of indispensable tips, an exhaustive listing of available resources, and a wise and compassionate look at issues such as faith and personal courage as they relate to growing older.

Jackie Byrd draws on her own real-life experiences in addition to lessons she has learned in her relationship-based elder law practice. From that reservoir, she produces commonsense, plain English solutions to the thorniest problems facing a population rapidly growing older.

To order your copy of Senior Moments click [here](#).

For your copy of Senior Moments 2, click [here](#).

Helpful Websites for Caregivers

www.medicare.gov/caregivers
www.caregiver.com
www.naela.org
www.medicarerights.org

Byrd Newsletter. He is backup scheduling contact for the Elder Law/Estate Planning Attorneys.

www.nhpco.org
www.medicare.gov/nhcompare
www.aoa.gov
www.eldercare.gov
www.caregiver.org
www.strengthforcaring.com
www.n4a.org

There's More to Planning Than Just Wills and Trusts

Take a Sneak-Peak at Jackie's Most Recent Column

As we contemplate making plans for growing older, we generally consider legal documents and making decisions regarding who will receive the things we love. It's also important to consider funeral and burial arrangements.

Although thinking about these arrangements is difficult, it is generous to remove some of the decision making requirements from those who will be grieving our loss. When a loved one dies, grieving family members and friends are confronted with dozens of decisions about the funeral. All these decisions must be made quickly and often under great emotional duress.

The FTC (Federal Trade Commission) reports that Americans spend billions of dollars arranging more than 2 million funerals for family members and friends each year. The increasing trend toward pre-need planning - when people make funeral arrangements in advance - suggests that many consumers want to compare prices and services so that ultimately, the funeral reflects a wise and well-informed purchasing decision, as well as a meaningful one.

Many funeral providers offer various packages of goods and services that make up different kinds of funerals. You should know that when you arrange for a funeral, you have the right to buy goods and services separately. That is, you do not have to accept a package that may include items you do not want.

The "Funeral Rule", enforced by the FTC, makes it possible for you to choose only those goods and services you want or

Recommended Reading List

"The 36 Hour Day: A Family Guide to Caring for Persons with Alzheimer Disease, Related Dementing Illnesses, and Memory Loss in Later Life" by Nancy L. Mace, M.A. and Peter V. Rabins, M.D.

"Another Country, Navigating the Emotional Terrain of our Elders" by Mary Pipher, PhD.

"Are Your Parents Driving You Crazy?" by Joseph A Ilardo, PhD., LCSW and Carole R. Rothman, PhD.

"Caring for Aging Loved Ones" by Focus on the Family

"Chicken Soup for the Caregiver's Soul" by Rosalynn Carter

"Coach Broyles' Playbook for Alzheimer's Caregivers: A Practical Tips Guide" by Coach Frank Broyles

"Coping with your Difficult Older Parent: A Guide for Stressed-Out Children" by Grace Lebow and Barbara Kane with Irwin Lebow

"The Forgetting-Alzheimer's: Portrait of

need and to pay only for those you select, whether you are making arrangements after a death occurs or in advance. The Rule allows you to compare prices among funeral homes, and makes it possible for you to select the funeral arrangements you want at the home you use.

In Maryland, the Office of Cemetery Oversight, under the state Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulations, is the agency responsible for enforcing these rules. They determine and enforce the ethical standards related to the operation of cemeteries and the providing of burial goods and services within the State, in order to protect the citizens of Maryland from unfair and unscrupulous practices. Their toll-free number is 888-218-5925.

Additional information regarding this topic is plentiful on the internet or by mail from a variety of sources. The FTC has two particularly helpful guides, *Funerals: A Consumer Guide*, and *Paying Final Respects: Your Rights When Buying Funeral Goods and Services*. Web addresses directly to these pamphlets are very long. I suggest going to www.ftc.gov and entering the word "Funerals" into the search box in the top right-hand corner. These particular booklets are also available by request from the FTC by calling 877-382-4357. Both publications include other good sources of information about today's topic.

To read more of Jackie's columns, click [here](#).

Upcoming Speaking Engagements

Planning for a Longer Life A Discussion of the Medical, Legal and Financial Issues You May Confront

Jackie will be speaking about the "Must Have" Legal Documents at the Crofton Library alongside Mary Fridley of Gero-Resources & Janet McCabe of Morgan Stanley Smith Barney. The topic of the

an Epidemic" by David Shenk

"Mothering Mother" by Carol D. O'Dell

"They're Your Parents, Too! How Siblings Can Survive Their Parents' Aging Without Driving Each Other Crazy" by Francine Russo

night is being prepared for the future and learning how to make the appropriate plans.

Date: Tuesday, July 27th
Time: 7pm
Location: Crofton Library
1681 Riedel Road
Crofton, MD 21114

About Our Law Firm

The Law Firm of Byrd & Byrd, LLC provides services in Elder Law and Construction Law, a rare combination that reflects the passion and life experience of its partners. The firm is also a general practice firm that manages issues of personal injury, family law, personal injury, wrongful death and medical malpractice.

Known for building strong long-term relationships with our clients, the firm's attorneys excel at making complicated legal issues easier to understand. Whether assisting a contractor, subcontractor, builder or property owner with contract or construction litigation, or helping an elderly client find appropriate housing, apply for Medicaid eligibility, or execute powers of attorney, the firm offers wise and experienced counsel and guidance.

Mission Statement

Byrd & Byrd, LLC is dedicated to protecting and serving senior citizens and those who love them. Our key objective is to give our clients the gift of information, so that with their knowledge, they can achieve all the benefits that the law guarantees. We will always perform our mission in strict accordance to the law and the highest possible moral and ethical standards

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fans of the law firm and join in the discussion on our Wall. It's a great way to stay connected and up-to-date on the most recent events at Byrd & Byrd.

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