



# Byrd & Byrd, LLC

October, 2010



**Byrd & Byrd, LLC**  
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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. Happy Reading!



Click the logo to visit our website

## Byrd & Byrd, LLC Voted "Best Attorney" in Bowie



Click the Photo to View Bowie Blade-News Website

Byrd & Byrd, LLC was voted "Best Attorney" in the First Annual Bowie Blade-News "Reader's Choice Awards". Votes flooded in from all over Bowie, and Byrd & Byrd, LLC came out on top! Thank you so much for your votes!

In the October 28th edition of the Bowie Blade-News, there will be a publication listing all the "Best of the Best" from around the city of Bowie. From the Best Fitness Club to the Best Massage, pick up your copy of the Bowie Blade on October 28th and find out what your neighbors voted as the Best in Bowie! And feel free to call us at 301-464-7448 for an appointment with the "Best Attorneys" in Bowie, specializing in Elder, Construction, and Family Law.

### In This Issue

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### Attorney Profile



Toby N. Byrd

Toby received his JD Summa Cum Laude from the District of Columbia School of Law, where he

## The New Cell Phone Law

As you no doubt know by now, Maryland has joined other states in passing a new Maryland Cell Phone Law. The law became effective this month, and prohibits all Maryland drivers from using a cell phone without a hand free device while operating a motor vehicle in motion on a street or highway. Sounds like if you're very quick, you might get in a hurried chat at red lights!



As you would expect, there are exceptions for calls placed to and from 911, ambulance, hospital, fire or law enforcement agencies.

The new law is beginning exactly like the seat belt laws began years ago. Talking on your cell phone as described above is a secondary offense, meaning you have to get pulled over for something else first - such as speeding or running a stop sign - before you can be ticketed for the cell phone violation.

Fine for a first offense is \$40. Subsequent offenses will be fined at \$100.

The National Safety Council estimates that cell phone use is responsible for 1.6 million car crashes each year - about 28 percent of all crashes nationally. There's discussion about whether the lack of safety is actually caused by holding the phone in your hand, or whether it is caused by the distraction of talking and thinking about other things while driving. If it is the latter, then the new laws may not be the answer to accidents caused by cell phone usage. It will be interesting to watch how accident statistics change.

## Opportunity to Attend Conference on Dementia and Caregiving

If you are interested in learning more about senior caregiving, dementia, or general information for dealing with the future, then the following conference may be just what you need. Sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association, this educational event gives families, caregivers, and individuals dealing with Alzheimer's and other dementia information, networking opportunities and hope through knowledge. The following conference is a full-day event and is hosted at a convenient location in Waldorf, MD. For specifics on the following conference, please visit the [Alzheimer's Association website](#).

### Southern Maryland Dementia Care Conference

Wednesday, November 3, 2010  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Greater Waldorf Jaycee Center  
3900 Crain Highway  
Waldorf, MD 20601  
Registration: \$25

Respite care will be available during the conference for \$10 per person.

was on the Law Review and graduated second in his class. He was admitted to the bar in 1992. Prior to law school, Toby did undergraduate work at North Texas State University in Denton, Texas and at the University of Maryland in College Park, where he received a BS in Civil Engineering in 1971.

Toby has lived in Bowie since 1968, and has been active in church and community activities for more than forty years. He is Chairman of the Board of Grace Christian School, past president of the Westview Homeowner's Association, on the Board of Deacons at Grace Baptist, and enjoys occasionally performing in church or community choirs and productions. His favorite things include spending time with his five grand-children. A 6th guy is expected any day!

Toby is a general law practitioner, but particularly excels in areas of construction and contract law. He is interested in small business formation, and business law. He is a member of the Prince George's County and the Maryland State Bar Associations.

To contact Toby, email [tbyrd@byrdandbyrd.com](mailto:tbyrd@byrdandbyrd.com)

### Testimonials

"Five years ago, I had the good sense, if I do say so myself, to take your advice. It certainly makes

For more information, contact Linda Gottfried at 301.934.5856 or [Linda.Gottfried@alz.org](mailto:Linda.Gottfried@alz.org)

## **Estate Planning Devices Can Be Tricky**

### **A Sneak Peek at Jackie's Most Current *Senior Moments* Column**

Recent circumstances have caused much thinking about whether column readers, friends and clients understand which estate planning devices trump which other estate planning devices. When you die, if your will leaves your house to Mary Jane and your Deed is held in joint tenancy with right of survivorship with Robert, who gets the house?

Many of us retain a romantic picture of the family lawyer calling the entire family into his office and reading aloud the Last Will and Testament of the family's rich uncle. However, that picture is from the movies - the old movies. Today, there is wide use of probate avoiders such as joint accounts, beneficiary designations and payable on death titling. These devices will over-ride the provisions of a trust or a will.

Specialized retirement accounts, joint bank accounts, and waivers of spousal rights are also important devices to understand when planning for your estate.

To learn about these devices and read the column in its entirety, click [here](#).



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**



### **A Celebration of Life**

**What:** Free Cocktail reception with a panel of experts to discuss Elder Law, Medicaid and Medicare, Long Term Care Insurance, and Veteran Benefits. Jackie Byrd will be on this panel.

**Date:** Tuesday, October 19, 2010

**Time:** 5:30-7pm

**Location:** Kris Leigh Assisted Living  
831 Ritchie Highway  
Severna Park, Maryland 21146

**Reserve your place today by calling (410) 975-9919.**

**If you are interested in having an Attorney from Byrd & Byrd speak to your organization, or at a special event, please contact us at 301-464-7448.**

### **About Our 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.

me appreciate what a firm like Byrd & Byrd does for its elder law clients. I've never forgotten what you did for us. Thank you for your help."

-Don Duff  
Olney, MD

"I sure appreciate your column. It's probably my favorite part of the Blade"

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

**Click Below to  
Purchase Your Copy  
Today**

[Senior Moments](#)  
[Senior Moments 2](#)

### [Our 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

### Contact Information

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Try it FREE today.

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