



BYRD & BYRD LLC
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

March 2016 Newsletter

Welcome to the latest edition of the Byrd & Byrd email newsletter. We hope that you enjoy this newsletter and find helpful information along the way. Happy Reading. If you want more information about Byrd & Byrd, please visit our website by clicking the link below:

[Visit Our Website](#)

Introducing Of Counsel Attorney Ron M. Landsman

In case you missed our email blast announcement, Byrd & Byrd, LLC and Ron M. Landsman, P.A. are pleased to announce that Ron M. Landsman, founding member and fellow of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) has become of counsel to Byrd & Byrd, LLC effective March 1, 2016.

[Click Here](#) to learn more about Ron M. Landsman.



Durable Health Care Powers of Attorney and Advance Directive/Living Wills: How Can You Choose the Right Agent?

by Jessica Estes

Given that March has a number of health awareness events, I thought it appropriate to focus this article on Durable Health Care Powers of Attorney and Advance Directives/Living Wills. Every person aged eighteen or older, should have a durable power of attorney for health care. This document authorizes a named agent to make medical decisions for you if you are unable to make those decisions yourself. You can name a spouse, family member, friend, or other individual. When deciding who to select as your agent, you should consider the following:

To read what Jessica has to say, [click here](#).

SENIOR MOMENTS IS BACK!

Please tell your friends and neighbors that the "Senior Moments" column, published for more than 15 years in the Bowie Blade-News is now being published in the B&B newsletter monthly as Senior Moments Redux. See this month's column below. Forward this to a friend who may want to subscribe to our newsletter. Thanks!

 [Forward to a Friend](#)

Senior Moments Redux - Our New Battle Cry

From years of talking to friends and acquaintances, I have a boatload of anecdotal evidence that age 55 sneaks up on you! This is true even though five years earlier, folks received their AARP card - age 50. That card often serves as an occasion for jokes and laughter. "I'm finally over the hill!"; "Wow - feeling old. I got my AARP letter!" That milestone is seldom an occasion for serious reflection.

Blink twice and there are, amazingly, 55 candles on your cake! At 55, most folks are healthy, vibrant, and most are still working full time. They are enjoying the first vestiges of freedom from the all-consuming responsibility of raising a family. They are planning a few long week-ends away by themselves - a luxury not experienced for many since honeymoon days.

At 55, we are still trying to be "cool" and claim to understand the TV commercials, the music and the movies. At 55, we are au courant. Usually, if our health is good, this is a lovely time of life. Typically, age fifty to fifty-five is not a time for serious and contemplative reflection about what the next stages of our lives will look like.

However, unexpected challenges of life sneak up on us when we are not prepared - just as turning around and finding that we are fifty-five years old!!

Thus, B&B's new battle cry: (drum roll, please) 5@55!

[To read Jackie's column in its entirety, click here.](#)

Beware of IRS Scams

We are now in the heart of tax season - and, unfortunately, so are the scammers. Our office has received several calls from very concerned clients saying that they have been told they owe the IRS money immediately. Please do not fall victim to an IRS scam. A local news station has issued the top 3 warning signs to look out for if you think you may be targeted for an IRS scam. [Read this article](#) to find out the warning signs.

As a general rule, the IRS does not call you immediately when there is a possible problem. The IRS issues written notices with very specific deadlines requiring your action. The IRS will issue additional written notices if you fail to comply in a timely manner. In the rare event that the IRS does call you, their representative will immediately state their name and their CAF number

(Centralized Authorization File). If the "IRS representative" does not provide this information, you are dealing with a scammer.

Be careful out there. If you have any questions on whether you may be experiencing a tax scam, please call our office.

Jessica's New Article in "Outlook by the Bay"

"How IRA Distributions Can Affect the Taxability of Social Security Income" - check out what Jessica has to say in her latest article that was published in the [Early Spring 2016 edition of Outlook by the Bay](#). Her article is found on page 31 of the magazine.



Medicaid Monday on April 11

On the second Monday of every month, Jessica Estes hosts a "Medicaid Monday" where she presents information to help you better understand the basic guidelines, requirements and process of Medicaid. This is a FREE informal seminar where you will be able to ask any questions you may have regarding Medicaid. Light refreshments will be provided at each event so we ask that you please RSVP as space is

limited. The next Medicaid Monday is April 11th from 5:30pm - 7pm. [RSVP by clicking here](#) or by calling (301) 464-7448.

YouTube Video of the Month

Ever wonder if there is a service available to safely store your most personal information? Or if there was a way to have access to your emergency information whenever you needed it? Well, here at Byrd & Byrd, we offer a service through Docubank that can do just that. Check out the video below for more information. And you can visit our website to see what Byrd & Byrd offers through Docubank. (<http://www.byrdandbyrd.com/resources/docubank/>). If you have your documents prepared at Byrd & Byrd and enroll in Docubank, we pay for the first year of your Docubank subscription.



Testimonial of the Month

"Thank you for all of your assistance with the probate process. You and your colleagues were very supportive during his difficult time and your professionalism was greatly appreciated."

- The Hill Family

STAY CONNECTED:



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