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Let's Transform Our Lives Together

Here's To New Adventures

I am arriving at a new exciting time in my life and career. A Transition period, a new day, a time for new goals. Both of my wonderful sons have graduated from highschool. Our Firm appears to be arriving at a fantastic phase that feels like a new beginning, an opportunity to provide our services in a better more, efficient way. This new beginning feels like a great shift that will build on past successes and challenges. In short, it feels like we are headed to an exciting new chapter. Twenty-five years into my law practice and career, I guess I never envisioned "exciting new chapters." And yet, here I happily sit.

For the first time since I began this firm fifteen years ago, I think I have the perspective and the time to assess that perspective on the broad goals of my firm, what we want to accomplish, and how we can provide the best service possible. I find myself feeling truly fortunate that I get to do what I do for a living. During many crazy, busy days in

the past, sometimes, there never seemed to be anytime to slow down and consider these types of thoughts.

I and invite you, precious readers, to participate here. Let's improve our world, this world, together. I always invite insight, ideas, and suggestions. Let's do this together.

So, where to from here for me? What can I identify to begin this journey? Can I serve as an attorney as well as I possibly can? Can my firm actually be the best firm ever organized? Who knows, maybe? I do know I can try.

So, how? And, at some point, perhaps answer the question: Why? Some of my specifics:

Integrate my life into my career more. Be more aware that my career is an extension of my God given mission in life. For the past 24 years, I have had a major focus and project outside of the office: Raise two good children. And of course that project continues.

The time commitment, obviously, is not what it was when the boys were younger. I now have the opportunity to more fully focus on my work as an attorney, on the requirement that I fully do everything I can to make sure every person that walks into our office receives 1000% of what they need from our time together.

Understand that my practice can, if I choose, be a mission unto itself, as important as my commitment to raise my children, as important as the work I do at my church, etc. Not trying to get ahead of myself but, done correctly, my everyday work can profoundly affect the lives of others. In my practice, we discuss and address very important personal and family issues. Getting proper estate planning, making and putting in place major life decisions, is at the core of organizing one's entire life.

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Inspirational:

Believe you
can and
you're half
way there.

-Theodore
Roosevelt

Let's Transform Our Lives Together - continued from page 1:

Learn from my practice and my clients. I want to be more open to an open dialogue with those with whom I come in contact with in my practice: co-workers, clients, fellow attorneys. This world has much to teach, and I certainly have much to learn.

Enough for now. Give up feedback if you like. I hope to continue this dialogue next month and for months to come. – Attorney Mark Easley



Let's Remember: The Beverly Hillbillies

Forgotten by some, the hit
CBS show the Beverly
Hillbillies certainly deserves
an occasional review.

For starters, it was one of CBS's and television's highest rated shows throughout the 1960s. The show consistently won its time slot and was a top ten rated show for many years during its 9 year run. The show centered around the juxtaposition of the rural Clampett family moving to the urban, wealthy and sophisticated Beverly Hills/California area. Though the show often hilariously played on the simple ways of the Clampett clan, the show also consistently portrayed the family (particularly the patriarch Jed) as much, much more savvy than he was given credit for, and often more savvy than the "big city" characters he was dealing with.

Though reviewed poorly by critics, the show became a cultural phenomenon. It was consistently well written by a team of writers that went on to long distinguished careers. The show's central attraction, perhaps, was the creation of an incredibly distinctive set of hilarious characters. Jethro Bodine, Granny, Ellie Mae, Jed, Milburn Drysdale, Jane

Hathaway, etc. all left a huge indelible mark on the cultural and entertainment landscape of the 1960s.

The show was part of the CBS Network's "Rural" lineup. Throughout the 1960s, no doubt in response to the decade's cultural and political turmoil, CBS introduced several shows that were based around town settings and themes. The Beverly Hillbillies, Petticoat Junction, Green Acres, The Andy Griffith Show, and Mayberry RFD were all CBS shows that built around this broad theme.

While almost all the shows were ratings hits, eventually the Rural lineup proved problematic for the network. Advertisers perceived that the viewers of the show were not the big spending, urban, high income consumers they were trying to reach. By the late 60s, CBS believed they had a perception problem on their hands, thinking they were being viewed as the network of the unsophisticated. . In the early 1970s, all of their rural shows were cancelled.

In the case of the Beverly Hillbillies, the show's cancellation was not based in any way on ratings. The show was a consistent ratings winner throughout its run. Additionally, there was no perceptible dip in the quality of the show in the later years of its run. CBS had simply moved on to a more urban brand of comedy programming (i.e. the Mary Tyler Moore Show, the Bob Newhart Show), and the Beverly Hillbillies just didn't fit that mold.

But . . . The Beverly Hillbillies was hilarious, and the show developed unforgettable comedic characters. If you have some spare time, take a few moments to revisit a few episodes, spend a little time with Jed, Granny, Jethro, and the rest of the hillbillies crew!





Assets: Avoiding Probate

Probate is the court-supervised process of settling a deceased person's personal and financial affairs. During probate, an appointed representative will collect the decedent's assets, pay any bills, and distribute property to chosen beneficiaries. Depending upon your situation, it may make more sense to have the property pass directly to heirs or beneficiaries, bypassing the probate process and court involvement. You should consider retaining the services of an experienced estate planning attorney, however, to ensure that you do not make any costly mistakes in your attempt to avoid

the probate process. The most reliable method of avoiding probate is to use a Revocable Living Trust instead of a Will as the centerpiece of your Estate Plan. It is a common misconception that a Will avoids probate; this is not true. A Revocable Living Trust contains very similar language to a Will, distributing property to your chosen beneficiaries. However, unlike a Will, assets held by a Trust can be distributed to the chosen beneficiaries without the cost, delay, and public notice of the probate process. Other methods of avoiding probate

include placing a Transfer On Death (TOD) designation on accounts and investment vehicles, executing a Beneficiary Deed for real property, etc. Joint ownership can also be employed, but not without other collateral and undesirable risks.



Under any plan to distribute assets at death, using the probate process or not, it is best to consult an experienced attorney. Your entire life savings is at stake; it is best to always make sure EVERY step is properly considered and executed.

RECIPE

QUICK & EASY CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP

- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup chopped celery
- 4 (14.5 ounce) cans chicken broth
- 1 (14.5 ounce) can vegetable broth
- 1/2 pound chopped **cooked** chicken breast
- 1 1/2 cups egg noodles
- 1 cup sliced carrots
- 1/2 teaspoon dried basil
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- salt and pepper to taste

Instructions:

In a large pot over medium heat, melt butter. Cook onion and celery in butter until just tender, 5 minutes. Pour in chicken and vegetable broths and stir in chicken, noodles, carrots, basil, oregano, salt and pepper. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer 20 minutes before serving.

Recipe by: MARYVM
allrecipes.com/cook/152017

Fun & Games

L M B T C X O S M P
 F I S E N H E W T N
 R E W T S I I N N I
 O G N N R B C L Z N
 S V O R I C I C L E
 T W U S R H I G H Y
 Z L T Q J C O C S K
 F D E L S F T C H F
 Q T N K Z K T I N D
 X E G E H T M B J R

WORD SEARCH

CHILLY
 FLURRIES
 FROST
 ICICLE
 SLED
 SNOW

DID YOU KNOW?

The Romans named January after Janus, the God of Gateways

Janus had two heads so he could look in both directions. Back at the old year and forwards to the new one at the same time.



FREE CONSULTATION

PLAN TOMORROW,
TODAY!

Our firm offers a FREE Initial Consultation. Contact us today to schedule your free consultation and we'll be happy to assist you in your long-term care planning needs!

314-918-0088

UPCOMING EVENTS

FREE LONG-TERM CARE PLANNING SEMINARS

Tuesday February 5, 2018

Brentwood Community Center

Room B

2505 S Brentwood Blvd.,

Brentwood, MO 63144

10:00AM-12:00PM

RSVP: 314-918-7777

Wednesday February 6, 2018

Brentwood Community Center

Room B

2505 S Brentwood Blvd.,

Brentwood, MO 63144

3:00PM-5:00PM

LOOK HERE!



**Learn how to plan for
long-term care,
without selling your home,
losing your retirement savings,
or leaving your family without
a dime...**

See insert for more details!



**The
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