



Scared to Death

Contributed by Sherri J. Holder, Firm Manager

Nothing is said to be certain, but death and taxes... Boy, isn't that the truth? For most of us, the past 12 months have been a reality check on just how uncertain tomorrow is. While that can be a paralyzing thought, it can also be a motivator to do things you have been procrastinating, to live a fuller, happier existence by just being present, or preparing, one day at a time, for death.

Late in 2019, I wrote and gave my first eulogy for a man I love dearly (not past tense). I think it's true to say that my father was afraid to die. For that reason,

**WE CAN LOOK AT OBJECTIVE FEARS
AS WORST-CASE SCENARIOS
AND PROVIDE GUIDANCE**

we didn't talk about, or plan for it. That resulted in painful moments at the funeral home trying to make decisions about the music he might have wanted and what his obituary should say. To be honest, I'd thought about his death many times before it happened. Musing about this topic may seem morbid, but I think it's more of a manifestation of my own level of death anxiety. I worried about losing him. I worried about being able to give him the tribute his life deserved. I worried about the death process and his suffering. Finally, I worried about how any extent of fear regarding death influences how we live.

So, not for the first time, I thought about what my

own eulogy or obituary would say. I mean I really thought about it. In doing so, I discovered that to die properly I had to live the story I want to be told. Here's why that's a scary proposition: We write our legacy by what we do each day, not by what we say.

In many cases that requires shedding or pushing through our fears. Often, when we meet with clients, they are anxious about the process of planning for end of life. We start by asking them to concentrate on their goals. This shift in focus from end of life to preparedness and successfully achieving goals sets us on a different trajectory. On this new course, we can look at objective fears as worst-case scenarios and provide guidance to stave off unnecessary risks. We look for opportunities to educate our clients and breakdown planning strategies to champion bigger goals, mitigating fears before they have any chance to manifest.

The fear we've experienced over the past year has overshadowed so many things in our daily lives. It hasn't been easy. Yet, we've all heard story after story of people choosing to live more generously or with new purpose. In 2020, more than 3.1 million Americans died. One day you and I will be included in a statistic just like that, there is no avoiding it. What can be avoided is leaving your legacy to chance.

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BELLA'S BRIEF

The Office from a Dog's Perspective



I *woke* to a dish of **Green Eggs and Ham**. An exciting start to my day until I understood the meaning behind the scam.

Piled on the counter sat books from the kids' early years. A purge was in process and it was causing a blend of frustration and tears.

"Where are we?" I asked, "**Mulberry Street**." The reply was swift, "Quiet, now. You just eat."

I didn't understand the short retort, I'm not a starless **Sneetch** after all. And that's when I knew my mistake, the **Sneetches** were all the same, as I now recall.

This was my moment to wade into the debate. But still **A Fish Out of Water**, I parse my words as not to cancel a positive fate.

The last seed I wanted to plant is **What Pet Should I Get?** next. This whole situation was quite complex.

So, I clear my throat and give myself a quick pep talk, **Go, Dog, Go**. When you **Go Beyond Zebra**, there's no limit to how much you'll know.

Thing One: "We aren't the same, you and me, and that's okay. My hair won't lay flat even on a good day."

But I won't be offended if you paint me comically. My sense of humor is the characteristic that's always set me free.

You can't make me less than because I'm a she.

No, that power is mine and I'll be whom I was meant to be.

Thing Two: "We are the same, you and me, and here's the first clue: We both have eyes to read in **red**, to read in **blue**, we can even read in **pickle color** too."

But we can't read with our eyes shut! Open them wide because **today is your day**, no it's and's or but's.

When we look at history it may **stink, stank, stunk**. Disseminating it will not get us out of a perpetual funk.

So before we remove everything from our past let's think it through. Some of the icky sticky stuff serves as our glue.

Change is more subtle than a matter of fact. Forcing up to be down and down to be up is like a real-life version of **Cat in the Hat**.

Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot. Nothing is going to get better it's not.

Let's overcome hate, judgement, and desire to whine. Grab your classics and open their spines.

Read once, read twice, read another time. You'll find what you are looking for, if you are looking for lessons that rhyme.

Now **left foot, left foot, right foot right**. Our futures are rather bright.

You have brains in your head, you are the star of this show. "**Oh the Places You'll Go!**"

xoxo Bella 

TIME OUT — STAFF PROFILE

Hanna M. Gorski, Legal Assistant

ON THE CLOCK: Hanna, born and raised in Sussex County, takes pride in the small town that she gets to serve as a Legal Assistant. She has grown up in the realm of family businesses, so she was more than ecstatic to join the warm and welcoming culture at PWW in December of 2020. Hanna recently graduated from Sussex Technical High School in 2020 and is currently working on her associate degree in marketing at Delaware Technical Community College. In addition to working at the firm, Hanna also operates her own online clothing boutique called *1979 Boutique*. Hanna's love for her family and serving others gives her a foundation to build upon here at PWW.



OFF THE CLOCK: When not serving our clients, you can find Hanna riding four wheelers around her small farm where she has goats and chickens. She enjoys spending quality time with her family and fur babies and is an active volunteer at her church. Hanna is always up for an adventure and is excited to begin this new adventure with Procino-Wells & Woodland.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 14
Apr | Dispelling Medicaid Myths
5:30 - 7:00 pm
via GoToWebinar |
| 27
Apr | Charitable Planned Giving & Estate Planning Tips
12:00 - 12:45 pm
via GoToWebinar |
| 19
May | How to Incorporate Digital Assets in your Estate Plan
12:00 - 12:45 pm
via GoToWebinar |
| 24
May | Legal Considerations After a Diagnosis
5:00 - 6:30 pm
via GoToWebinar |
| 10
Jun | What Other Attorneys Say
12:00 - 12:45 pm
via GoToWebinar |

*Advance registration is required for all events.
For more details or to register for one or more of these events,
please visit our website or contact Meagan at MLS@pwwlaw.com.*

LEGAL MUMBO JUMBO

Legal Language in Layman's Terms

INHERITANCE TAX

A tax imposed by certain states based on assets inherited from a deceased person's estate. Factors that determine the rate include: state of the inheritor's residence, value of the inherited assets and the relationship to the decedent. Maryland is one of only six states that has inheritance tax.

A note from the attorneys...

The early Easter holiday has us longing for the return of family traditions. Collecting colored eggs in a basket that sits on the shelf all year long is comforting because of its predictable and practical use. That's what tradition is really, an invisible blanket of comfort. We hope you will be able to restore, or maybe begin a new tradition this year. Be well and stay safe.



**PROCINO-WELLS
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Planning today to protect your family's tomorrow.

OFF THE CLOCK

We would like to thank our featured referrer of the month:



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www.silverlininghealthcare.com

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