



## The Next Right Thing

*Contributed by Meagan L. Sekscinski, Client Services Director*

Do you have children in your life that are like my little girl? Addison can watch a Disney movie multiple times without tiring of it. My husband wonders if she has a screw loose, but I can remember doing the same as a kid. During our family's eighty-seventh viewing of "Frozen II" I caught myself actually watching the movie. Uncommon since one ear is usually listening for a kitchen timer or I'm busy folding all four loads of laundry while only half watching. But during this particular movie night I just watched. In no time I was caught up in the magic of Disney's storytelling.

**THE EMOTIONAL CONVERSATIONS  
HAD ACROSS OUR CONFERENCE ROOM  
TABLES EVERYDAY ARE SO OFTEN  
TIED TO MEMORIES**

The story follows the main characters of the first film as they adventure to learn the history of their kingdom and discover the origin of Elsa's magical powers. Not unlike other times I've caught bits and pieces of this story, I found myself thinking about my work family and finding parallels in our stories. The Disney storytellers have masterfully reintroduced the main characters with noticeable maturity; the characters don't seem quite the same as they did in the first story line, similar to how our team has transformed in recent years.

**"You're older and thus all knowing."** Do you remember daydreaming about growing up and feeling certain that you'd have it all figured out one

day? No? Just me? Olaf makes this claim to Anna, begging his older friend for the wisdom to calm his anxiety and face the uncertain future, and it's funny, of course, because we all know that no one ever gets it all figured out. Not age, wisdom, or experience will provide us with a crystal ball to know what our future holds. Anna explains to Olaf that she chooses to "rely on certain certainties" like the love she has for and from her family and friends. Our team has faced reason after reason to grab tight to what is constant and persevere through the unknown. I think we've proven to have a good grip.

**"Is something coming? I'm not sure I want things to change at all."** Elsa and Anna seem blissfully happy as this story begins, but pretty quickly they realize they are approaching a crossroad and must choose whether to stay safe and comfortable where they are, or venture into unknown territory. The insightfulness of the characters reminds me of the bravery of our team. Although we all appreciate seasons of predictability, our team never lets that get in the way of taking the plunge into a new project. Sometimes that means braving the microphone and creating a podcast, Off the Clock. Or moving into a new and permanent office space. Sometimes circumstances push our

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*Continued from previous page...*

team into launching a virtual service line to be able to serve families outside the office. It's not that we love change, but I'm so proud of how well this team weathers it.

**“Water has memory. The water that makes up you and me, has passed through at least four humans, or animals, before us.”** On the outside chance that there is any truth to Olaf's claim, I don't have the guts to fact check this. Or any of Olaf's trivia from “Frozen II”. The idea that water has memory is a constant theme though and is woven into every inch of the story to suggest that it can tell the characters about where they came from. I admire the respect that my teammates have for our clients, and for their stories. The emotional conversations had across our conference room tables everyday are so often tied to memories; memories of our clients' loved ones or the years that their children were small; memories of our clients' careers and travels; memories of our clients' regrets. Each story is precious and I'm thankful to be surrounded by professionals that possess the unteachable quality of lending a curious ear.

**“That's it! Lieutenant Mattias! Library, second portrait on the left. You are our father's official guard.”** Even after being locked in the Enchanted Forest for 34 years, Lieutenant Mattias' integrity remains intact and he jumps at the opportunity to stand for Arendelle's new leaders. Daily I see the actions of my co-workers spell their understanding of how much our clients' trust matters. They understand the importance of our work, the sensitivity of the subject matter and how much energy it takes some of the families we serve to commit to the types of planning we offer.

**“What do you need?”** There's a scene near the climax of the story where Kristophe and Sven swoop

in to save Anna and this is the only question Kristophe asks. When she answers, despite not knowing her reasons but sensing her urgency, he follows her request. This may be the area of professional growth where our team has most closely approached perfection. Our processes are designed to depend on different team members at specific stages of each client's matter. Depend. That trust in our current environment is really easy to give. Our team has learned to rely on, respect and depend on one another. It is common for us to not have all the information, but there aren't hiccups if we don't because we feel confident in one another. It's a rare gift to have that surety at work.

**“Do the next right thing.”** It only feels right if you sing Anna's well-known line. She's right, though, and the lesson she offers makes an easy parallel with our workplace. Despite the glowing and sincere things I could say about our firm, our knowledge and experience, our leadership and our team we still walk through moments or sometimes seasons of uncertainty. The ladies that surround me don't need a Disney princess filter—they shine so brightly in every season and without question they can be counted on to take a step and do the next right thing in all circumstances.

Disney tugs the wonder from me. The parts of me that still want to play and use my imagination, and get wrapped up in princess adventures. Or believe in magic. I have to admit feeling a glowing sense of amazement for the professionals that I work beside. There is magic in the hearts of each member of our team and it's the number one reason that we can reflect on our transitions—just like this long and unpredictable last year—and smile. I'd walk with them through anything. Even an Enchanted Forest.

## TIME OUT — STAFF PROFILE

*Taylor M. Tallarico*  
*Deed Preparation Coordinator*

**ON THE CLOCK:** Taylor joined the PWW full-time in December of 2019 after completing an internship the previous fall. She currently holds the role of Deed Preparation Coordinator and is the first person you will meet when you enter our Lewes office. Taylor is a 2017 Sussex Technical High School graduate and completed her associate's degree from Delaware Technical Community College in December of 2019. By the end of the upcoming summer, she plans to have completed her bachelor's degree at Wilmington University. Her dedication to her personal goals and education provide the foundation for her responsibilities at the firm.



**OFF THE CLOCK:** When not serving our clients, you can find her spending time with her fur babies; Bailey and Bosco, who are her pit-mix rescues. She recently purchased her first home in Seaford and plans to start renovations early this year. Last but not least, Taylor enjoys spending time with family, friends and seeing new places!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 12\*** Three Part Lunch & Learn Series  
 12:00 - 1:00 pm  
 Jan via GoToWebinar  
*\*Also on January 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>*
- 4** CARES Member Exclusive Off the Clock  
 1:00 - 2:30 pm  
 Feb via GoToWebinar
- 18** Caring for Seniors at Home While Still Protecting Assets  
 5:30 - 7:00 pm  
 Feb via GoToWebinar
- 26\*** Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Course Available  
 9:00 - 10:15 am  
 Feb via Zoom  
*\*Also on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>*
- 15** Elder Law Workshop: Bob & Betty  
 5:30 - 7:00 pm  
 Mar 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](mailto:MLS@pwwlaw.com).*

## LEGAL MUMBO JUMBO

*Legal Language in Layman's Terms*

### FEDERAL ESTATE TAX

A tax imposed on the value of a person's assets at their death. These assets may include cash, securities, real estate, insurance, trusts, annuities, business interests and other assets. In 2021, this tax is only applicable if the total of gross assets is over \$11.70 million at death.

### *A note from the attorneys...*

Like a lot of you, we like to travel. So, you might think 2020 cramped our style. Well, we made the best of it and met new clients in places like New York, California and even Tokyo. This year we've decided that we are going to go virtually everywhere. You'll see us online more and in new and different places than before. We hope you'll visit!



# OFF THE CLOCK

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



STAYTON & DICKENS  
Certified Public Accountants

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Georgetown, DE 19947

This newsletter is intended for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. For legal advice, consult a licensed attorney. The examples used are simplified for ease of understanding and illustration of general concepts.

## BELLA'S BRIEF

*The Office from a Dog's Perspective*



You may have surmised by now that in the wild, I'd be pack leader. I'm clearly an alpha and like the hierarchy that exists to establish structure and standards of social decorum. Dogs don't complicate this arrangement, so leadership is established very quickly. Alphas, especially female alphas, can get a bad rap for their dominant traits but after witnessing the election last year, life in a pack seems civilized. Many alphas have a passive side, it's just on their terms which brings me to the modern-day me. A baby's cry will have me cooing comfort in a heartbeat. I'll take the floor so he can have the lap, and for the peace of

everyone, I'll eat after he has a full tummy. Welcome to the family little Croix. You have a friend in me.

*xoxo Bella* 

## INTRODUCING CROIX JORDAN COOPER



We're proud to introduce another new member of our PWW family, Croix Jordan Cooper, born on December 1<sup>st</sup> to parents Connor and Mindi Cooper.



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