



Florida Elder Law & Estate Planning E-Newsletter April 2017

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Message from our Attorneys

It is said that the only constant in life is change. Even that old game favorite, Monopoly, is getting a makeover!

Marvin Gardens and the electric company are staying put, but the wheelbarrow, boot and thimble are being evicted, based on a recent poll of millions of Monopoly fans worldwide. The tokens will retire to game board heaven this fall. Rubber ducky, penguin, and Tyrannosaurus Rex will take their place in the neighborhood.



Here's hoping that all of the changes in *your* life are happy ones. As your attorneys, we are here to help you prepare for whatever occurs.

We wish you a joyous Easter, Passover, whatever else you celebrate, or just a lovely April. We'll be back in May with our next e-newsletter.

All the best,

Joseph S. Karp

Genny Bernstein

Mark A. Gottlieb

Adele S. Harris

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Chad Steskal

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Free Workshops

Attend one of our free workshops and learn how to preserve your assets, protect your independence, and provide for your loved ones. Please share the schedule with your friends and neighbors, too!

[Workshop Schedule](#)

Glen Campbell: Status Report on the Rhinestone Cowboy



Acclaimed singer-songwriter Glen Campbell was diagnosed in 2011 with Alzheimer's Disease, a growing scourge that researchers continue to study in pursuit of a cure. Campbell's wife of 34 years recently spoke about how she and her husband - evidently in the last phase of his journey - are getting along.

[Read more](#)

Be Alert to Tax Scams

Tax season presents a bonanza of fresh opportunities for swindlers eager to separate you from your money, and even from your identity. The Internal Revenue Services unveils the top tax scams of 2017.

[Read more](#)

The Documents Every Parent Of a Minor Child Must Have

If you are not around, will someone you trust have the authority to make your child's health care decisions if he/she is ill? Who would you want to raise your youngster to adulthood - and who would you definitely *not* want? Busy parents of young children may find these scenarios unthinkable, but when your child's welfare is at stake, preparing for those "what ifs" is vital. Here's how.

[Learn more](#)

Medicaid Planning: Is Your Annuity An Asset? Income?

Many people - including many poorly informed financial advisors - believe that putting money into an annuity is a simple way to secure

Medicaid eligibility for long-term care benefits. Our elder law attorneys (and our wise clients) know better: When it comes to Florida Medicaid rules, nothing is simple.

[Read more](#)

New Social Security COLA Formula Proposed

Social Security beneficiaries have seen cost-of-living adjustments stall over the past few years. According to some, COLA calculations need adjustment so that seniors don't get the short end of the stick.

[Read more](#)

Evaluating Financial Aid Offers



It's the time of year when college-bound students receive financial aid offers. For tips on evaluating a school's financial aid package, check out this [article from Consumer Reports](#).

Also, be aware that once your child is 18, you no longer have certain rights with regard to him/her. If you want to be sure you can readily help your child experiencing a health crisis, or if your child needs you to take over his/her financial affairs in an emergency, certain legal documents must be in place. It's a good idea to get those documents in order before your child leaves the nest.

[Read more](#)

Joe Karp, Anita Finley on the Radio

Joseph Karp appeared on Anita Finley's March 17 radio show, just a few days after the memorial for Anita's recently deceased husband, the wonderful Bill Finley. She and Attorney Karp discussed several topics, including how the value of a well-crafted estate plan is often fully understood only after a loved one's passing.

[Listen to the March show](#)

Alzheimer's Association Education Conference April 8

The Alzheimer's Association Regional Conference will be held in Miami on April 8. Keynote speaker is Dr. Dean Hartley, the organization's science initiatives director. Caregivers and families are welcome, and professionals can earn CEU's.

[More information](#)

Margaritaville, Here We Come!



Jimmy Buffet has long sung the praises about living in a tropical paradise. Now, he and Minto homes are making it happen, establishing communities for the 55+ set "where the party never stops." The first is scheduled to open in 2018.

[Read more](#)

Lawyers Out and About

Our attorneys can be scheduled to speak at your events, and can tailor their talk to your group's specific interests. To request a presentation, call Debbie Karp at 561-472-6062 or email her [here](#).

We've spoken to many organizations thus far this year, including the Quest for Knowledge series in Palm Beach; Coral Lakes Brooklyn College Club; Huntington Pointe Finance Club; the Temple Beth El Israel Mens Club in Port St. Lucie; and the Council of New York City Retired School Supervisors and Administrators, which sent along some photos of the event. See them [here](#).

What Services Does An Elder Law Attorney Provide?

The field of elder law is still relatively new - so much so that many do not really grasp what services elder law attorneys provide. And the term "estate planning lawyer" doesn't fare much better, often leaving people scratching their heads. Here's an explanation!

[Read more](#)

Check Out That CCRC

For many of our clients, moving into a continuing care retirement community is a source of comfort and security, not only for them but for their families, too. But as with any other investment or large expenditure, due diligence is a must. Check out this article on how to evaluate a CCRC.

[Read more](#)



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