

Client's Bill of Rights

Lawyers will tell you that it is impossible to offer a guarantee in the legal business, but we disagree. We say that law firm clients should settle for nothing less than a guarantee.

Remember, your attorney works for you not the other way around.

At Sherrod & Bernard we believe we can guarantee our clients quality service with personal attention. We believe that, as our client, you are entitled to have the:

- 1) Right to loyalty to you and your cause.
- 2) Right to be updated regularly and in a timely manner as to the progress of your case.
- 3) Right to our respect.
- 4) Right to expect competence from our firm and all who work here.
- 5) Right to know the truth about your case.
- 6) Right to prompt attention from our staff.
- 7) Right to have your legal rights and options explained in simple terms without a lot of legal mumbo jumbo.
- 8) Right to a fair written fee agreement with our firm.
- 9) Right to a fair fee for the services we provide.
- 10) Right to make the final decisions in your case.

REFERRALS

We want you to think of us as your law firm. If you have a legal matter that needs attention, please let us know. If we cannot handle the matter, we will refer you to a firm that can.



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MAKING A DIFFERENCE By: Katie Alford



There are few things in this world as touching as a child's expression on Christmas morning. The look of awe and wonder when they first lay eyes on the surprises waiting for them under the Christmas tree can warm the heart of even the biggest Scrooge. However, countless children wake up on Christmas morning to find that there are no presents under the tree.

The thought of child without a present on Christmas inspired Sgt. Traci Sullivan, of the Douglas County Sheriff's Department, to create an adopt-a-family style program for local needy families and children. She involved her fellow officers at the Sheriff's Department, as well as, the members of the community by collecting donations from individuals and businesses to provide for these needy families during the holiday season.

Sgt. Sullivan's program began in 2006, and has continually grown ever since. Currently the program provides for around 100 children each year. Local business owners and even large corporations have all joined the crusade to spread Christmas joy. The program came to be known as "Making a Difference," and it is aptly named because that is exactly what Sgt. Sullivan is doing for her community. Numerous families, and especially children, in our area would have nothing during Christmas if it were not for this wonderful program.

The partners and employees of Sherrod & Bernard have all been very touched by Sgt. Sullivan's obvious love of community and desire to spread Christmas joy to needy families. This year S&B was extremely blessed to have the opportunity to adopt a local deserving family that consists of four girls, ages 18 months to 14 years who are being raised by their grandmother in a local mobile home park. Despite her best efforts, the grandmother was unable to provide the items on the girls' Christmas lists, and S&B was more than happy to step in and assist this hardworking grandmother.

The ladies on staff at S&B made it their mission to find as many items on the girls' lists as possible. After buying clothes, jackets, shoes, nail polish, perfume, DVDs, toys, etc., the ladies felt that they had accomplished their mission and were ecstatic to present these items to Sgt. Sullivan for distribution. Participating in the "Making a Difference" program has been an enormous blessing to everyone at S&B. Knowing that there will be four more girls with smiles on their faces on Christmas morning reminds everyone of the true spirit of Christmas.

Childhood memories of Christmas morning can last a lifetime, and every child deserves to have a present on Christmas morning. We, as a community, have the ability to band together to provide as many children as possible with joy on Christmas morning. If you would like to participate in the "Making a Difference" program please contact **Sgt. Traci Sullivan** at the Douglas County Sheriff's Department at 770- 942-2121.

In addition, needy families exist in our community all throughout the year. Therefore, Sgt. Sullivan continually accepts donations of new and very gently used clothes, jackets, toys, shoes, etc. Contact her at any time to make a donation.

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S&B GIVES BACK

Sherrod & Bernard proudly contributed to the following causes:

- Douglas County High School Football Program
- American Heart Association
- Douglas County Chamber Foundation
- Alexander Dug Out Club
- Susan G. Komen 3-Day Walk
- M.A.D.D. – Georgia
- The University System of Georgia Foundation, Inc.
- Bremen Junior Woman's Club
- Beulah Baptist Church Fund
- Community Character Coalition
- Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County, Inc.
- West Atlanta/Douglas Choral Society, Inc.
- Kiwanis Club of Douglas County
- Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome Foundation
- The Bedford School



SEASON'S GREETINGS

During the holiday season, and throughout the year, we at Sherrod & Bernard remain appreciative of the special people in our personal and professional lives.

This year we have been especially grateful as we celebrated our 20th anniversary and reflected on the many people throughout our community who have provided us with generous support during the past two decades.

Without the support of our colleagues, clients, friends, and family members, our firm's success would not have been possible, and we look forward to serving the needs of our community for many years to come.

From all of us at Sherrod & Bernard, we say "Thank You" for your continued support, and we wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
The Sherrod & Bernard Family
John, Ken, Stephanie,
Regina, Susan, Hannah,
Katie & Brianna



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Call or visit
www.sherrodandbernard.com
and enter your questions.
You will get confidential
answers from an attorney
with no obligation.



Thank you for the referrals...

A referral from a former client or friend is the greatest compliment our firm can receive. We are grateful for every referral – below is a list of the people who recently referred a friend or family member to our firm. We would like to publicly thank each and every one of them by listing them in our newsletter. Again, we say, "Thank You!" We at Sherrod & Bernard appreciate all our referring friends, even those inadvertently omitted. This list was generated solely from clients reporting how they found our firm. Thank you for your confidence in our legal team.

Daniel Beck	Kevin Head	Blair Harrington	Jennifer Vasil	Joy Leake	Tracy Whitehead
Paul Zachos	Eric Ziegler	Leslie Walker	Gary Woodall	Christie Hicks	Leanne Roberts
Michael Tackett	Fred Smith Bridges	Landon Haynes	Larinda Carnes	Michelle Empie	Lawson Ackies
Scott Kimbrough	Rod Sisson	Terry Garmon	Steve Wilson	Kasey Wright	Carter Bradley
Charles Kidd	Ginny Dunn	Heather Camp	Sheila Duncan	Sherri Kelley	Shawn Horan
Sherry McKinley	Adam Bertocchi	Mary Ann Parker	Lori Brasington	Tom Worthan	Scherry Varnadoe
Martha Whitlock	Ray Brady	Dusty Bollen	Andy Ledbetter	Phil Miller	Vick Hill
Shawn Horan	Melinda Moody	Cade Parian	Courtney Hayes	Brenda Head	Allen DeNyse
Sean Dukes	Jonl Steinke	Randy Daniel	Ann Whitlock	Ashley Bedosky	Jean Baker

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

By: *Stephanie Regas*



"Christmas is not a time or a season but a state of mind. To cherish peace and good will, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas."
- Calvin Coolidge





Above: S&B ladies present Sgt. Sullivan with "Making a Difference" presents.

Below: John & Ken share a laugh at the anniversary reception.



TWENTY YEARS OF SUCCESS

Sherrod & Bernard was very honored to host our twentieth anniversary reception on October 11, 2012. We celebrated our years of success with many politicians, judges, attorneys, clients, and various other members of our great community. Our firm is extremely grateful for the outpouring of support we received.



TIPS FOR MAKING YOUR HOME GRINCHPROOF

By: Katie Alford



When our hearts are filled with Christmas cheer, it is hard to imagine that there are grinch-like creatures lurking among us who want to crush our Christmas spirit and take advantage of innocent families. Unfortunately, for us, real life grinch-like creatures are not nearly as recognizable as the distinctive green grinch in a Santa hat who inspired the children's story. Most blend in with the bustling crowds and then prey on others when least expected. How do we protect ourselves from these up-to-no-good grinch-like creatures? The Better Business Bureau and many law enforcement agencies recommend the following proactive tips to help homeowners keep themselves and their families safe during the busy holiday season:

- Never keep valuable presents, or large piles of presents, in a place that is visible through an uncovered window or open door;
- Always lock your doors and windows - even when you are home;
- Leave a radio or TV on, while out shopping or visiting family, to make your home look and sound occupied;
- Set automatic timers for the interior and exterior lights of your home, when traveling out of town; also, have a friend or neighbor collect your mail and newspapers;
- Be leery of door-to-door solicitations. Most reputable charities do not rely on this type of solicitation for donations; and
- Only open the door if you are certain of who is on the other side - ask for ID if you are skeptical.

*Information in this article was derived from the Better Business Bureau's website at <http://atlanta.bbb.org/article/protecting-your-home-from-criminals-during-the-holiday-season-38641>

CANDID CONVERSATION WITH FOUNDING PARTNERS

By: Katie Alford

On October 15, 2012, our firm celebrated its 20-year anniversary. To mark the occasion, I sat down with John and Ken to reminisce about their rich history as law partners.

Of all the thousands of cases that Sherrod and Bernard has handled over the years, is there any one case in particular that stands out?

JWS: For me it is not the biggest case or the hardest trial. Instead, it would center around a special personality. The late J.B. Hembree comes to mind. For sixteen years, I was fortunate enough to represent him after he was catastrophically injured on the job. Despite his horrible injuries, I never remember seeing J.B. without a smile.

KRB: I think it is all about real people with real problems. It would be difficult for me to name one specific client because I have enjoyed forming a professional relationship with each and every one of my clients, most of whom have come back for help with new issues or have referred friends and family.

Are there any fond courtroom moments that you would like to share?

KRB: Right after we started the firm, John and I tried a case together involving a landline dispute. The line just happened to be the Georgia/Alabama border.

JWS: If I remember, we were trying to move the Stateline.

Were you able to move it?

KRB: Let's just say that no one really knows where it is, but our client was pleased with the jury's decision.

With all of the trials and hearings over twenty years, a landline case stands out?

JWS: You never get over those trial moments where you hear "Not Guilty" or "We find in favor of the Plaintiff," that case was unique.

KRB: It's hard to make property law interesting, but I think we did a pretty good job at it. We still hear from the families involved, even to this day.

What has been the biggest change in the practice of law over the past twenty years?

KRB: Without question - technology. We started this firm with one IBM computer running DOS and a manual typewriter. Both of which were donated.

JWS: Today, Ken and I both have three computers each.

KRB: The good thing about being on the cutting edge of technology, is that you can work from anywhere and stay on top of your case load. The downside is, well...

Tell us about a special moment you have both shared together away from the law office.

JWS: It would be too easy to say a wedding or childbirth, so I will go with Braves versus Pirates, 1992.

KRB: Sid Bream slides into home sending the Braves to the NLCS. John and I were sitting in the outfield as Sid rounded third and when we finished jumping for joy, we were behind the dugout and I got Bream's sweatband.

JWS: Don't forget 1996 Olympic Gold Medal soccer game. I'll never forget

Ken cheering the entire first half for Nicaragua. The problem was, the correct team was Nigeria.

KRB: Soccer was never my sport.

What do you attribute your successful practice to?

KRB: Preparation. Our firm strives to be overly prepared for every case we handle - big or small.

JWS: I totally agree. As Coach Bear Bryant said, "It's not the will to win that matters - everyone has that. It's the will to prepare to win that matters."

KRB: Implicit in preparation is the outstanding support team that we have at our firm. We are fortunate to have excellent people dedicated to serving our clients.

Will there be a forty-year anniversary?

KRB: Of course. When you have nine-year-old triplet daughters, and a fourteen year old son...

JWS: If I'm here at age seventy, send me home.

KRB: He will be here. If I sent him home he would only call and pester me about what needed to be done at the office. The thing about being a lawyer, it is a calling.

JWS: Stay tuned...



THEN & NOW: 1992 - 2012



RECENT NEWS & ACTIVITIES

- Board of Regent's member, Ken Bernard, was selected to serve as the Commencement Speaker for Columbus State University's fall 2012 commencement, as well as, Georgia Gwinnett College's winter 2012 commencement.
- John Sherrod was recently inducted as a new member of the Lawyers Club of Atlanta.
- S&B is proud to continue supporting tennis in the West Georgia area by sponsoring the Advanced Tennis Gardens in Villa Rica.
- Jack Taylor Bernard was nominated by faculty to serve on the Honor Guard for Woodward Academy.
- John Sherrod is excited to announce that his daughters, Sydney & Lindsey, have started their own custom jewelry line, which can be viewed at www.facebook.com/sherrosisters.
- Ken & Carolyne Bernard recently attended Ken's 30th high school reunion for the Lithia Springs High School class of 1982.
- Lindsey Sherrod will be starting college in the fall of 2013 & she is a recent recipient of an academic scholarship to Mercer University.
- Ken Bernard joined the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia & was selected to serve on the Audit Committee & Judicial Evaluation Committee for the State Bar.
- S&B recently concluded litigation against the Georgia DOT & a paving contractor that involved a mismarked highway and resulted in two wrongful deaths.
- The Bernard triplets recently celebrated their 9th birthday.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Brianna Gallardo



In September, S&B welcomed new staff member, Brianna Gallardo, as our receptionist. Under this title, she plays a vital role in our support staff by providing the first impression people have of our firm. We adhere to the old adage of, "You never get a second chance to make a first impression," and with Brianna at our front desk, we know that the first impression of S&B will always be a positive one.

Brianna graduated in 2009 from Alexander High School in Douglasville where she was an honor student and scholar athlete. Currently, she attends the University of West Georgia where she is majoring in Philosophy with an emphasis in Pre-Law and minoring in both Nursing and Spanish. She is an active member of Phi Mu sorority and participates in her community by volunteering at a hospital and vet clinic, as well as, previously volunteering as a Mock Trial Coordinator for Alexander High School. Brianna has worked in the retail and food service industries for many years, which has provided her with extensive experience in customer service and wonderful people skills. In her spare time, she enjoys shopping, making crafts, decorating, and especially playing with her boxer, Bronson.

Brianna is a very bright, talented, and energetic person, and S&B is proud to welcome her to our team. We look forward to working with her for a long time to come.