

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.



Sherrod+Bernard, P.C.
Attorneys at Law
P.O. Box 1154 | 8470 Price Avenue
Douglasville, GA 30133



SHERROD+BERNARD A NEWSLETTER FROM THE LAW OFFICE OF SHERROD + BERNARD
REPUTATION. RESPECT. RESULTS. SM

December 2013 • Volume VII • Issue 14

Inside this Issue:

Pet Holiday Safety.....	2
S&B Teams with Sheriff.....	2
Season's Greetings.....	3
Visit to Rome.....	3
Recent News.....	4
Recipe of the Month.....	4
S&B Gives Back.....	4

I Believe in Santa Claus

By: Ken Bernard

In the movie "The Polar Express", a young boy learns the mystery of the joy of Christmas. Through his journey on the mythical train, the doubting child travels to the North Pole and Santa's home. During the journey, he learns through self-discovery that the wonder of life never ends for believers. In the end, the ringing bells, which he could not hear before, are suddenly heard, and the boy exclaims: "I Believe!"

I also believe. Yes, I believe in Santa Claus. You may ask why someone my age believes in anything as mysterious, debated, doubted, and commercialized as Santa? But, I ask, why not? For many, their adverse disposition was formed long ago because it was much easier to question, doubt, speculate, and deny Santa. For me, it's now easier to believe in the bearded, jolly ole fellow. In fact, it is easier for me to believe today as it was 40 plus years ago when childhood friends somehow were denied the opportunity to "Believe" for whatever reason. Faith in anything these days is difficult, but you see, I have confidence in the underpinnings of what Claus represents, which are imbedded in what Christmas is really all about. Santa is a nice after-thought, and it's comforting to know Saint Nick signifies something jollier and happier than himself. The idea of happiness, giving, appreciating, and loving one another is something just about every religion can agree on. We need more of it, not less.

What is profound in any version of the historical beginnings of Mr. Claus and what is pure is the underlying, non-commercial, but real concept of humility, giving, caring, and selflessness. Regardless of background, religion, belief system, or other boundaries, we all have the capacity to be compassionate and caring. Unfortunately, the news headlines create a hardness in each of us which overcomes our innate ability to feel for others. Santa, however, represents something we all would love to be. Father Weiser wrote that we should all "keep the Santa tale in its simple, appealing form and shun the corruptions introduced by commercial managers...."

A mother tried to explain to her children that the focus of Christmas is Jesus, not Santa. Her kids noticed that Santa Claus was seen in every department store and somehow was the center of attention. The children found it highly amusing that this delivery servant of God should try to make himself the center of the celebration. "He is a little dumb, isn't he?" said the girl, "but Jesus likes him and we like him, too." (*Religious Customs*, by Fr. Weiser, S.J.).

The best description of why it's ok to believe I have heard lately is: "Santa does not give the presents, he only delivers what the Lord sends." As a father, I now appreciate more than ever what my mother taught me: "I Believe!"



P.O. Box 1154
8470 Price Avenue
Douglasville, GA 30133

RECENT NEWS



John, Patty and Ken (pictured) along with other family were guests in the Georgia Crown Distributing sky box for a recent UGA win.



JT Bernard recently participated in Georgia Tech's High School Baseball Prospects Camp. He also was recently selected to play on The Atlanta Blue Jays 16U travel baseball team summer 2014. JT is a sophomore at Woodward Academy.



John Sherrod (Class of 87, Law) attended a Mercer University Bears football game with daughter, Lindsey, a freshman.



Ken Bernard has completed his third term as Chairman of the University System of Georgia Foundation, Inc. and his first seven year term on the University System of Georgia Board of Regents.

S&B GIVES BACK

Sherrod & Bernard proudly contributed to the following causes:

- Alexander Dugout Club
- The Bedford School's Bedford Dasher 5K Run/Walk
- CDT Charities, LLC
- Community Character Coalition of Douglas County
- The Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County
- Douglas County High School Theatre
- Douglas County Rotary Foundation
- Douglas County Senior Services
- Douglasville Gymnastics & Cheerleading Cheer Stars Team Fund
- First Baptist Church of Douglasville Building Fund
- Kiwanis Club of Douglas County Foundation, Inc. "Kids Christmas Special"
- Lithia Springs High School
- Saint Jude Hospital

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Old Fashioned Cocoa

By: Susan Joyce

Ingredients:

- 3 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/4 cup sugar • 4 cups milk • 1/4 teaspoon vanilla
- miniature marshmallows

Preparation:

Blend cocoa and sugar in a small bowl. In a medium saucepan, heat milk to scalding. Mix about 1/3 cup of the hot milk into the cocoa-sugar mixture, then pour cocoa mixture into hot milk in the saucepan; stir until well blended. Stir in vanilla. Serve with mini marshmallows.

Serves 4



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.

Jean Baker	Steve Crawford	Stephen Garner	Leanne Roberts	Lance Cooper	Charlene Popham
Aaron Belcher, Jr.	Randy Daniel	Sherri Kelley	Randy Edwards	Bryan Howard	Cade Parian
John Bleakley	Gina Davis	Scott Kimbrough	Charles Morris	Sonny Price	Renae Smith
Carter Bradley	Shane Davis	Donna Lawrence	Terry Osborne	Mary Purnell	Valerie Vie
Larry Cleveland	Butch Dix	Ed Looper	Tom Parmer	Rod Sisson	Tracy Whitehead
Jay Collins	Amanda Edwards	Brad McFall	Kathy Patman	Bonnie Smith	Martha Whitlock
Teresa Crumbley	Kevin Head	Mike Money	Shirley Popham	Frank Smith	Chelley Williams
			Hannah Smith	Steven Wilson	

FREE CONSULTATION

TOLL FREE: 877-798-8979
LOCAL: 770-920-8350

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

Holly, Jolly and Oh-So-Safe!

Of course you want to include your furry companions in the festivities, pet parents, but as you celebrate this holiday season, try to keep your pet's eating and exercise habits as close to their normal routine as possible. And be sure to steer them clear of the following unhealthy treats, toxic plants and dangerous decorations:

1. Christmas Tree

Securely anchor your Christmas tree so it doesn't tip and fall, causing possible injury to your pet. This will also prevent the tree water—which may contain fertilizers that can cause stomach upset—from spilling. Stagnant tree water is a breeding ground for bacteria and your pet could end up with nausea or diarrhea should he imbibe.

2. Tinsel-less Town

Kitties love this sparkly, light-catching “toy” that's easy to bat around and carry in their mouths. But a nibble can lead to a swallow, which can lead to an obstructed digestive tract, severe vomiting, dehydration and possible surgery. It's best to brighten your boughs with something other than tinsel.

3. No Feasting for the Furrries

By now you know not to feed your pets chocolate and anything sweetened with xylitol, but do you know the lengths to which an enterprising fur kid will go to chomp on something yummy? Make sure to keep your pets away from the table and unattended plates of food, and be sure to secure the lids on garbage cans.

4. Toy Joy

Looking to stuff your pet's stockings? Choose gifts that are safe.

- a. Dogs have been known to tear their toys apart and swallowing the pieces, which can then become lodged in the esophagus, stomach or intestines. Stick with chew toys that are basically indestructible, Kongs that can be stuffed with healthy foods or chew treats that are designed to be safely digestible.
- b. Long, stringy things are a feline's dream, but the most risky toys for cats involve ribbon, yarn and loose little parts that can get stuck in the intestines, often necessitating surgery. Surprise kitty with a new ball that's too big to swallow, a stuffed catnip toy or the interactive cat dancer—and tons of play sessions together.

5. Forget the Mistletoe & Holly

Holly, when ingested, can cause pets to suffer nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Mistletoe can cause gastrointestinal upset and cardiovascular problems, and many varieties of lilies, can cause kidney failure in cats if ingested. Opt for just-as-jolly artificial plants made from silk or plastic, or choose a pet-safe bouquet.

6. Leave the Leftovers

Fatty, spicy and no-no human foods, as well as bones, should not be fed to your furry friends. Pets can join the festivities in other fun ways that won't lead to costly medical bills.

7. Wired Up

Keep wires, batteries and glass or plastic ornaments out of paws' reach. A wire can deliver a potentially lethal electrical shock and a punctured battery can cause burns to the mouth and esophagus, while shards of breakable ornaments can damage your pet's mouth.

Source – The ASPCA

S&B Teams Up With Sheriff for Toy Donation

For the second year, Sherrod & Bernard teamed up with the Douglas County Sheriff's Department to make a local family's Christmas a little brighter. Sherrod & Bernard's lawyers and employees donated time and funds to purchase toys for three children, ages 6, 7 and 10. The toys were then wrapped and taken to the Sheriff's office for delivery.

This program, spearheaded by Lt. Traci Sullivan, helps local families that might not have the financial ability to provide gifts to their children. “Aside from having fun going shopping for the children, it makes all of us at the law firm feel special to know that a less fortunate child was able to unwrap a present on Christmas morning,” said Sherrod & Bernard office manager, Susan Joyce. There is no joy like giving – the true meaning of the season.



My Visit to the Legal Profession's Birthplace

By: John Sherrod

In a break from all of the pasta and vino rosso, I toured the Forum in downtown Rome, Italy on a recent vacation. These ancient ruins were the exact place where Julius Caesar strolled about before that fateful day in March of 44BC. As I attempted to absorb all the ancient history before me, I was most impressed by an area consisting of about 20 marble stones that once made up the Basilica Aemilia – perhaps the very place that the legal profession originated. I marveled at this sacred location where lawyers began doing their thing.

The Basilica Aemilia is one of several basilicas located on the Forum Romanum. The Forum Romanum was the heart of the city of Rome. A basilica was a hall of justice and public hall. The Basilica Aemilia was originally constructed in 179 BC by the censors Marcus Aemilius Lepidus and Marcus Fulvius Nobilior. The Basilica has been repaired and rebuilt several times throughout its history. However, the layout has remained consistent. The long rectangle layout is also the footprint that medieval Christians used for places of worship and that set up is what we still use today in our churches. This design allowed for more worshipers than the ancient temples provided.

The current understanding of the legal profession and the role of a lawyer, first truly developed within the Ancient Roman Empire. The development of the legal profession was aided during the first century AD, when a law which banned the payment of legal fees was abolished. This led to legal professionals receiving professional status. Eventually, by the late fourth century, there was a focus on the study and practice of law. In fact, legal professionals were required to be admitted to a bar before being able to appear before a court.

In Ancient Rome, the role of the attorney, titled “juris consulti” was similar to the roles attorneys play today. They were responsible for drafting legal documents, such as wills and contracts. Further, they were often found to aid in legal problem solving with public officials. Finally, many individuals, from advocates to citizens would approach attorneys for legal opinions and advice.

The legal system of Ancient Rome was influential in the founding of the English system, which is the basis of the American legal system. Of particular importance is the Justinian compilation of law. This compilation consisted of the Code, the Digest and the Institutes. The Code provided the actual law of the land, while the Digest and Institute were used more for legal education and training. Though most of the compilation was destroyed, parts of manuscripts were found, studied and recreated and titled corpus iuris civilis (“body of civil law”). This provided much of the foundation for Western legal systems. In particular, Ancient Roman law gave us important basic legal principles, such as requiring public knowledge of the law and judicial procedures and the idea that the law evolves based on precedent and changing conditions.

While being nothing more than a tourist, it suddenly occurred to me that I come from a long lineage of lawyers and am very proud to be a member of this profession. I highly recommend a visit to the Forum if you ever get the opportunity. Not only does it make for a great place to walk off all the carbs from good Italian cooking, but you are certain to be moved by the history surrounding you. Ciao!



Seasons 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, Emily
Regina, Susan, Hannah, Elyse

