



A Constant Reminder

My Life and Love Outside of Law

If you want to succeed in your career, it's important to put your head down and work until the results are inevitable. But if you want to succeed in life, you need to be present, flexible, and willing to let your guard down every once in a while. Over the years, I have met and befriended countless people through my journey in law, and I have grown a reputation as a dependable and tenacious worker for my clients and friends alike. Yet something a lot of my clients may not know about is my life beyond my legal practice. This March marks 27 years of marriage for my wife, Amy, and me. That means 27 years of relentless love and support, no matter the situation. I imagine that my life would have ended up totally different if we'd never met, and the lives of so many others would have been changed as a result, but luckily these are problems I never need worry about.

I first met Amy at a college alumni function when I was a resent graduate and she was in the early years of her undergraduate degree. At the time, I worked at First National Bank in Omaha. After dating for a year, and after coming to the realization that she still had three years to go in her nursing degree, Amy helped me hold on to the drive and confidence I needed to go back to law school and we both pursued our passions in graduate work. It was during the final year of our academic careers, that I decided she was all I wanted for the rest of my life. After going to dinner and popping the question, the wheels were set in motion for really starting our lives together and we were married on March 21, 1992 over our final spring break. Little did I know that her role as the catalyst in many of my life's most important decisions was just getting started.

After we got married and moved to Omaha in 1992, Amy took up working for the University of Nebraska Medical Center now known as Nebraska Medicine, while I began my legal



career. She remained both my rock and my muse as we had two beautiful daughters together — Samantha (Sam), now 25, and Morgan (Mo), now 22 — and began our lives as a family. The closeness and ever-constant support of my family are the driving factor in why I do what I do for my community. Anyone with a family will understand where these passions come from, always wanting to give them the world at any cost.

Taking care of my family and maintaining harmony is extremely important to me, and that has always overflowed into my practice. The majority of my clients aim to do the exact same thing. We want to be able to provide for our loved ones no matter what unforeseeable situations arise. When I sit down with my clients and discuss our goals for the future, my motivation is always to make things as easy as possible throughout the process of planning your estate and affairs. We're both on the same page, with family harmony taking the utmost priority.

If I've only learned one thing in all these wonderful years, it's that you should stick with the

ones who push you to be greater, and be greater to the ones who stick with you. Amy and my two girls have always made sure that I do for my family what I do for so many other families in my work. By having the hard conversations and utilizing the simple processes made available to me from years of experience in law, we will never have to worry about them having to go without, if anything ever happened to me. These are the gifts I want to pass on to my clients. Every person who has even one person to care about them should see to it that they are up-to-date in their plans for the unforeseen future by bringing peace of mind to the ones they care about most.



-LeRoy Peterson

An Inside Job

THE CURIOUS CASE OF THE DISAPPEARING FLAGS

Theft is a serious matter, made even more grave when the victims are fallen war heroes. Such was the situation that stumped police in Hudson, New York, in 2012.

The crime was first committed in July of the previous year. Flags had been placed around the graves of soldiers in Cedar Park Cemetery — only to go missing right around Independence Day. Veterans groups and locals were outraged and mystified by the crime. Some worried that a hate group was to blame, as the missing flags had adorned the graves of Jewish soldiers. Veterans worked to replace the flags, one by one, and right the wrong. No culprit was found, and the community moved on — until the following July, when the mystery repeated itself.

Like the year before, flags were placed on veterans' graves in honor of Independence Day, and again, they went missing sometime in the night, this time taken from the graves of African American Civil War soldiers. Cemetery caretaker and veteran Vincent Wallace was appalled, as was the rest of his community. "I just can't comprehend the mindset that would allow someone to do this," Wallace said.

Determined to find out who was to blame, police put up surveillance cameras and recorded the goings-on in the cemetery. As they watched the tapes, sure enough, they saw one of the culprits sitting atop a gravestone with an empty flagpole in front of him. It was a groundhog.

Apparently, the wooden flagpoles attract groundhogs, something other groundskeepers have experienced as well.

"I'm glad we don't have someone who has taken it upon themselves to desecrate the stones and the flags in front of them," said Hudson mayor Bill Hallenbeck. "We can all rest a little easier knowing that it was a critter and not a human defacing our flags, especially those of the veterans," added Hudson's police commissioner.

Turns out Punxsutawney Phil has some very naughty cousins — ones who aren't subject to the law.

Creating a Home Care Plan TO LIVE YOUR BEST RETIREMENT

When retirement approaches, you may be thinking about the freedom you'll enjoy after putting in your last nine-to-five. It's a culmination of years of hard work and a cause for celebration!

Before you get to celebrate, though, it's important to consider what kind of support you might need down the road. With our generation living longer than our parents, there's a possibility that we may require additional support services. You and your spouse may not know if either of you will need in-home care, but considering this possibility and the financial factors that come with it can help you better enjoy this exciting phase of your life.

In most cases, neither Medicare or Medicaid covers in-home care. There are some exceptions, like home- and community-based services that are state and locally funded and cover those who qualify through Medicaid. If you or your spouse are veterans and meet the requirements, you may be eligible for aid and attendance benefits. These benefits are paid for by the VA in addition to a veteran's monthly pension. It may cover the costs of in-home care for veterans who require the aid of another person or are housebound. Visit Benefits.va.gov to learn more.

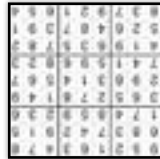
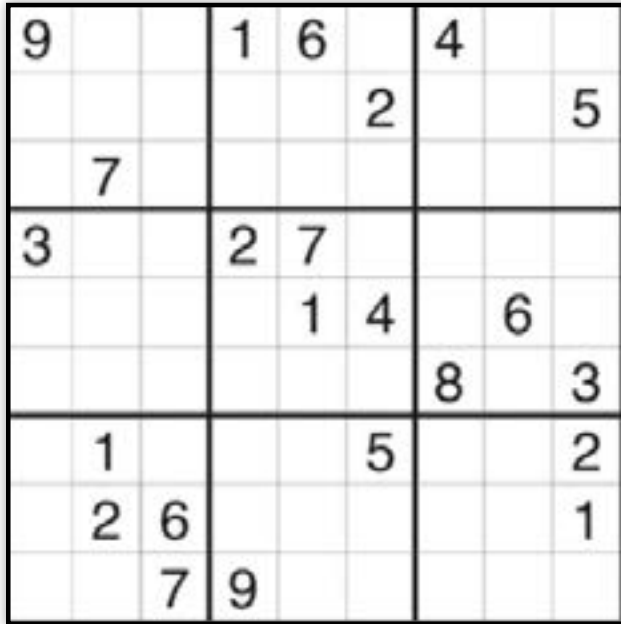
Still, you may not want to rely on qualifying for one of these services. Consider adapting your estate plan to include designated in-home care. Meet with your attorney to review your living trust and see if it addresses a caregiver.

Talk to your family members and loved ones about the possibility that you or your spouse may need this service. While a family member may offer to step into that role, consider how easily they will be able to carry it out. Even a part-time caregiver could provide you with support and make your family members feel like they are not doing it alone.

Planning for the possibility that you may need in-home care services can help make your retirement even more enjoyable. Knowing you'll have a close helping hand can ease your family's worries and even strengthen your bond.



TAKE A BREAK



On March 8, people around the world will honor International Women's Day. Adopted by the United Nations in 1975, the holiday is meant to highlight the immeasurable accomplishments of women throughout history and draw attention to the ongoing struggle for global gender equality.

International Women's Day is celebrated differently around the world. Some nations, like Nepal, give all their citizens the day off. Most countries, however, including the United States, treat it as a normal day, at least officially. Even though we don't have the day off, there are many ways for everyone to honor International Women's Day this year. Here are a few of them.

TALK ABOUT THE WOMEN WHO INSPIRE YOU

From major innovators, like Ada Lovelace, the world's first computer programmer, to megalithic literary icons, like Maya Angelou, women throughout history have shaped how we live our lives. Whether you're inspired by famous historical figures or the women in your own life, take the time to talk about that influence. Which women helped get you where you are today? What female leaders do you look up to? What are some lessons you've learned from them?

MAKE ROOM FOR CONVERSATION IN THE WORKPLACE

Many of the challenges women face globally happen in the workplace. If you think your company has room for improvement in its treatment of women, now is a great time to do something about it. Even if you believe your company treats women and men equally, there's no harm in empowering your colleagues to talk to give their opinions. If you're an employer, this could mean giving women in your workplace an avenue to discuss issues, air grievances, and make suggestions. If you're an employee, consider asking for such a forum. In either case, providing both public and anonymous avenues for women to express themselves is a great way for your company to take a step forward in fostering gender equality.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Regardless of your gender, March 8 is the perfect time to tune in to the larger conversation surrounding gender inequality, if you haven't already. This could mean attending meetings or demonstrations in your town, reading works that capture the female struggle for equality, such as Roxane Gay's "Difficult Women," or seeking out blogs and social media accounts from gender equality activists online.

International Women's Day is about appreciating the contributions of women to society and envisioning a more equal world for the future. However, you decide to celebrate women this March, keep in mind that no matter who you are or where you come from, we all have the power to change our world for the better.



ASPARAGUS AND AVOCADO SOUP

This hearty soup is the perfect meal for those late winter days when you think spring will never come. It can be made vegetarian by substituting vegetable broth for the chicken stock.

Ingredients

- 12 ounces asparagus
- 1 avocado, peeled, pitted, and cubed
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- Juice of 1/2 lemon
- 2 cloves garlic, coarsely chopped
- 1 tablespoon ghee or coconut oil
- 2 cups chicken stock
- Salt and pepper, to taste

Directions

1. Heat oven to 425 F.
2. On a large rimmed baking sheet, toss asparagus and garlic with olive oil, salt, and pepper. Roast for 10 minutes.
3. Transfer asparagus to blender. Add remaining ingredients and puree until smooth.
4. Season to taste and serve.

Inspired by CookEatPaleo.com

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Get the Most Out of Your Digital Home Assistant

More and more people are welcoming in the Amazon Echo or the Google Home into their spaces. Everyone knows they make great Bluetooth speakers and can tell you the weather forecast, but they're also capable of so much more.

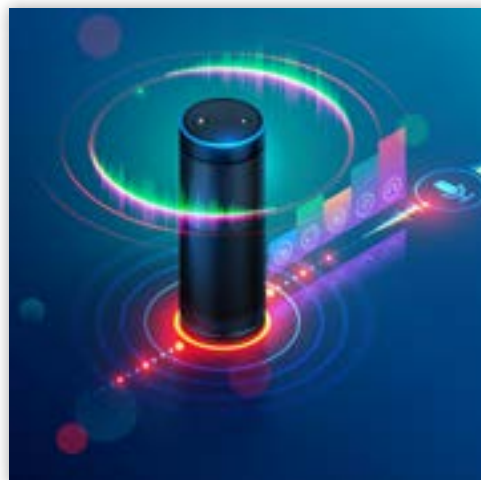
Digital assistants can do a variety of tasks depending on how much you want them to do for you. For example, if you want your digital assistant to be heavily involved in your daily life, you can use the Echo or the Home as the core of your "connected home." You can connect numerous compatible devices to these assistants, including other Bluetooth or networked speakers, lights, thermostats, coffee makers, refrigerators, and even microwaves.

Of course, therein lies the challenge — you must have compatible devices to make a connected home efficient. And let's be honest: Many of us aren't going to buy a connected

fridge or Wi-Fi enabled lightbulbs just to get the most out of our digital assistants.

What you can do, however, is make use of what you already have. Here are some ways to put your digital assistants to work without committing to a connected home.

Both the Echo and the Home make excellent communication hubs. In the home, they can be used as a local intercom system. Do you have a few Echo Dots or Google Home Minis? If you do,



you're set. You can communicate in any room where another device is present.

Your digital assistant can also make outgoing calls. As long as the device has access to your contacts (or the person you're trying to contact has an Echo or Home), you can easily make the connection. Want to send a text message? No problem! You can dictate a text to anyone in your smartphone's contact list and send it without ever touching your phone.

Aside from communications, the assistants can handle calendars, appointments, emails, and more. You can ask for information relevant to you, like "When is my flight again?" Google Home can recognize your voice, or the voice of anyone in the house, and respond accordingly. There's no worry that anyone's calendar or appointments will be mixed up with yours.

If you want to learn more, search for tutorials online. We've only scratched the surface when it comes to what these digital assistants can do for you.