



Seufert Law Offices, PA

We'll Get You Through It

Merry Merry Christmas

It's the last week in March and I'm doing my annual "rite of passage" into spring. See, my family says that I am a curmudgeon around Christmas. I like going to the Christmas Tree farm and watching the kids and grandkids pick and then cut down the tree. I then load it into the pickup and drive it back to the house. I then unload it, leaving it outside a day or so to overcome the "shock" of being severed from its roots. I then take the chainsaw and fashion the base so it fits into the stand that I must locate somewhere stored in the basement. I then wrap the tree in a tarp, cinching it tightly to wrestle it thru the front doorway, and into the base it goes. I then tighten the base screws left or right to make sure it is straight and level and fill the base with water.

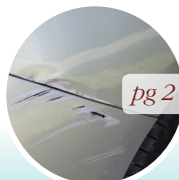
So, I've done my part. I believe it is then up to the family to do the rest while I work on other projects. They think I am the Scrooge because I don't enjoy standing around, listening to Christmas songs, and hanging the ornaments, lights, tensile and garland, nor placing all those holiday knick knacks around the house. Nope, not my job. (Oh, almost forgot, when setting up the tree I also must go to the storage unit and bring all those storage boxes back to the house that contain all those ornaments, lights, tensile and garland).

Then after New Year's I then supervise the deflowering of the ornaments back into all those storage boxes, and back to the storage unit. I then free the tree from the clutches of its base - which by this time those screws have wormed their way into the base requiring surgical precision to remove - wrap and cinch the tree back into the tarp, and bring it outside and throw it into the back yard. Yah, Christmas is almost over.

And at the rite of passage, around the 1st weekend of meteorological Spring, I can finally enjoy Christmas. Just before the last melt of snow I light the fire pit in the back yard, cut the tree into sections, open a beer, and let it rip 'tater chip and smile that Christmas is now over for that year. •



April 2017 News



Annulments

How can I annul my conviction is a common question. The answer depends on a few factors. One is the level of offense. Felonies, misdemeanors and violations each have different time frames. In addition, depending on the charge itself, the time to petition to annul may be extended. For instance, a violation level offense can normally be annulled a year after the sentence has been served. That is not true, however, of among other things, some motor vehicle violations for which the waiting time is seven years.

A Petition to Annul cannot be filed until the sentence has been served. What does that mean? Most commonly we think of the person who is sentenced to some form of incarceration and then is released. However, if you have a suspended sentence, whether that relates to a fine or imprisonment, you need to add the time that the sentence is suspended to the time to the statutory time for an annulment. For instance, let's say the law requires a waiting period of seven years to petition to annul. If you have a fine that is suspended for two years, you now must wait nine years.

One of the factors to consider in negotiating or accepting a plea is what impact it may have on the length of time you must wait to file for annulment. If an individual has no previous criminal history, he or she may accept a longer period of incarceration or a higher fine to avoid having a suspended sentence. While the initial punishment may be harsher, in the long run that person is able to annul that conviction more quickly. If an individual has a lengthy criminal history, the time frame to petition to annul is probably not a factor.

The law provides that if a Petition to Annul is denied, for any reason, that individual must wait three years to refile. So you have to be REAL careful that you don't file too soon, and the Petition must be perfect. If you have questions about annulling a conviction, give us a call. ●



Should You Report Minor Accidents to Your Insurance Company?



Contractually speaking, nearly all auto insurance companies require a driver to report any accident they're involved in, no matter how "minor." However, in a seemingly minor accident, the parties might agree to work things out amongst themselves. It's less hassle and they believe their insurance rates won't go up. Bad idea...and here's why.

After an accident, some injuries may take days or weeks to manifest. If you don't report the accident to your insurance company right away, your account of the situation later may come into question.

If you were ticketed or issued a citation at the scene of a minor fender bender, word will get back to your insurance company. Don't drag your feet in reporting it. An unreported accident might cause your premiums to not just rise, but skyrocket. Worse, your coverage may be discontinued, or your insurance company may deny coverage for the suit that may be brought against you because you failed to timely notify them of the claim - as required under the policy.

Even if you were not at fault and decide to work things out with the other driver, the other driver may size up the situation differently once they're at home. Better to let your insurance company know.

The only time it might make sense to avoid reporting an accident is if it occurs on your own property, no injuries are involved, and the only damage is to property you own (e.g., backing into your garage door). In this scenario, there are no disputes about fault or cost of repairs.

If you are involved in an auto accident, contact is for guidance and to protect your rights. ●

Disability Benefits for Wounded Warriors

There are millions of brave men and women who serve our country, protecting our freedoms, our values and our very way of life. Our law firm and all of our staff are truly thankful for the sacrifices and dedication of our service members. We as Americans know that Freedom is not Free, somebody has paid a price to protect our freedoms.

Unfortunately, though, military service members—just like any other vocation or walk of life—can become disabled and not able to work for an extended period of time.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) has a program through which military service members can receive expedited processing of disability claims. It is important to note that benefits available through the SSA are different from those that can be obtained through the Department of Veterans Affairs, and they also require a separate application.

According to the SSA, the expedited claims process is used for military service members who become disabled while on active military duty on or after October 1, 2001, regardless of where the disability occurs.

Disabled military service members (just like civilians applying for benefits) must meet Social Security's strict definition of disability, meaning that:

- You must be unable to do substantial work because of your medical condition(s); and
- Your medical condition(s) must have lasted, or be expected to last, at least one year or to result in death.

If you or a loved one is a military service member and is suffering from a disabling injury or condition, please contact our office for help in applying for and receiving disability benefits. We will find you help. **Semper Paratus.** •



April 2017 Important Dates

April 9
Palm Sunday

April 11-18
Passover

April 13
Holy Thursday

April 14
Good Friday

April 16
Easter

April 18
Tax Day

April 22
Earth Day

April 26
Administrative
Professionals' Day

April 28
Arbor Day

Did You Hear? The Thimble is No More, and it ain't right!



As part of a Hasbro Inc. worldwide contest to select the next generation of Monopoly game pieces, voters have rejected the thimble, meaning that the classic game piece won't be a part of the famous board game for the first time since 1935. I remember playing this with my grandmother almost 60 years ago, aren't some things sacred, just out of bounds?

The new game pieces, which may include such items as "hashtags" or "emojis", who's going to care about those in 20 years, the thimble, it's sacred.

It is estimated that more than 1 billion people have played Monopoly worldwide, making it one of the most popular and iconic games in history.

Well, this is just not right! There are some things that are just so, you leave them alone, and the Monopoly Game is one of them. Doesn't Hasbro Co. know that *..you don't tug on Superman's cape, you don't spit into the Wind....* •

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Protect Your Family, Protect Your Rights



Merry Merry
Christmas

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Cathy's Corner

“Charlie Hustle”

Baseball is my favorite sport. Pete Rose is my favorite player. For those of you who weren't around when Pete was playing, you missed something special. He will never be in the Baseball Hall of Fame, of course, but he was one of a kind. As a new baseball season begins, I thought it might be fun to reflect on his career.

Peter Edward Rose was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was the city's favorite son before he ever played a game in the majors. He came up in 1963 and won the Rookie of the Year award. He earned the nickname “Charlie Hustle” because Pete didn't do anything at half speed: he ran as fast to first base on a walk as he did on a ball he put into play. At first his style was not looked on with anything but derision by opposing players, and even umpires. Pete would watch every pitch he let go by into the catcher's mitt. Umpires did not take kindly to that. Pete never cared. He continued to play the game his way.

Pete holds the record for hits, of course. He also holds the records for games played, singles and at bats. He also played in 17 All Star games and started at five different positions, also a record. He owned many other records when he retired in 1986 that have been surpassed. I remember the day Pete broke the hit record that at that time was held by Ty Cobb. It was September of 1985. The Reds were playing the Padres at home. Pete hit a single, of course, to left center. The crowd erupted. The game was paused while Pete stood on first base with tears in his eyes and he was given a standing ovation that must have lasted for five minutes.

I was fortunate to see Pete play in person after he got traded to the Phillies. In 1980, he helped the Phillies to their first World Series title in a very long time. He won two other titles. One in '75. Yep, that series. I believe that is still the best World Series in my lifetime. Think of all of the Hall of Famers between those two teams: Morgan, Bench, Perez, Tiant, Fisk, Yaz, Rice and, if not ineligible, Rose. Thanks to my husband, I am now a Sox fan, when they're not playing my Reds. But back then my loyalty was undivided. ●

