



# Seufert Law Offices, PA

*We'll Get You Through It*

## From the Captain's Log NOLA REDO



The trip late 2019 to New Orleans with the wife was a rough start with all the delays and cancellations, but weary travelers must embrace the adventures. The annual U.S. Trial Lawyers Convention, held each February, was also slated for New Orleans so I purchased my plane tickets with a bit of trepidation. My wife elected not to partake in the adventures this time. Itinerary was Manchester thru Charlotte then on to NOLA. Arriving sufficiently early at the gate in Manchester had an announcement of “congestion” around Charlotte that would delay our Manchester departure, and likely make all connecting passengers thru Charlotte missing their flights. After a 90-minute late boarding the pilot came over the intercom to announce that it was not any weather or mechanical delays, but your President deciding on a last minute campaign rally in Charlotte that had the Secret Service shut down Charlotte airport for that afternoon, arrgh. Fortunately after take off, the pilot torched the afterburners all the way to Charlotte and I still had 15 minutes to run to the connecting gate for NOLA – mission accomplished.



In NOLA it was the beginning of Mardi Gras (technically I believe NOLA celebrates Mardi Gras year round so February is just another day for them). For the opening party, the Convention rented out the factory where all the large Styrofoam head pieces for the floats are produced and we got to walk thru the factory and observe the progress, the CNC lathe used to cut the Styrofoam is a massive 20' tall and the foam blocks are then rotated for the CNC to cut all the delicate details – an amazing piece of technology.

During the evenings, after the work sessions, you had the run of Bourbon Street with all the local and national jazz bands playing throughout the night into the early hours of the am. My friend of over 20-years, Bill Savage from Seattle, was also at the convention so we closed the bars most nights. If you cannot find a good meal and band to unwind to, well you should just stay home. One of the most interesting bands I saw was a nationally acclaimed jazz band whose lead singer used a toilet plunger to create wonderful tunes. Ah, NOLA. •

## March 2020 News



# Family Court Rule 1.25-A

Rule 1.25-A requires that the parties involved in a Divorce or Parenting Petition exchange certain financial documents. The documents that are required depend on which petition has been filed. A Divorce Petition is filed, of course, when the parties are married. A Parenting Petition is filed when the parties are not married but have children together. A divorce requires more financial information to be disclosed because the parties are dividing debts and assets. Debts and assets are not relevant to a parenting case. The parties are not married, and therefore they do not have a legal interest in one another's debts or assets.

The documents that are required to be exchanged include information such as bank and credit card statements, tax returns, information about retirement accounts and health insurance, and documents regarding ownership in a business.

These documents must be exchanged by the parties within forty-five days of the service of the petition. Except for the financial affidavit none of these documents are provided to the court. They are given either to the other party or to the other party's attorney. If you have an attorney, they can answer questions about what has to be provided. There is an ongoing obligation under the rule to continue to provide updated documents as well. If you do not comply with Rule 1.25-A you may be held in contempt and not be allowed to put on evidence about your financial situation. If you have questions about your obligations under Rule 1.25-A, consult with an attorney who is experienced in family law. •



## A Bunch of Blarney!

The Blarney Stone is a centuries-old stone embedded in the wall of Blarney Castle in Cork, Ireland. It purportedly imbues the gift of eloquence to those who pucker up and plant one on it. Roughly 400,000 tourists do so each year—that's a lot of saliva in a confined space!

The "gift of eloquence" tie-in, though convoluted, allegedly originated in the latter part of the 16th century. The chieftain of the MacCarthy family of Ireland was being pressured to sign over Blarney Castle to Queen Elizabeth I. Whenever the queen dispatched officials to finalize the transaction, the chieftain cleverly talked his way out of it. The queen, fed up by the repeated delays, finally bellowed, "I will hear no more of this Blarney!" Thus, "blarney" came to be associated with eloquence and nonsense in one fell swoop.

To properly smooch the Blarney Stone, a person sits, leans way back, holds on to two vertical bars, and is assisted by the "Keeper of the Blarney Stone." It appears somewhat precarious, but it's safe—unlike days of yore, when people were held by their ankles and lowered headfirst.

In fact, some archeologists and historians believe the real Blarney Stone is not the stone tourists kiss today. They say tourists were redirected to the current stone beginning in the 19th century for safety reasons. After all, a deathtrap isn't a great selling point for tourists.

As for the stone's original home, legends range from Scotland, to Israel, to the Egyptian desert. However, in 2014, geologists analyzed the Blarney Stone. It was composed of the same limestone and other materials native to Ireland. (But did they analyze the right stone?) Some stories are better left open-ended. •



# Descending into Madness

March heralds the start of one of the most prominent events in American sports: the men's NCAA basketball tournament, a.k.a. March Madness. The tournament has mass appeal, creates huge economic waves, but might strain a relationship or two.

The tournament also inspires an uptick in ... vasectomies. Many men who are ready to get snipped conveniently schedule their appointments to coincide with the tournament. Urologists note a 50-percent hike in scheduled vasectomies during this period. Recovery days spent watching wall-to-wall tournament action can ease the pain, but OUCH.

Roughly \$8.5 billion was wagered on the NCAA tournament in 2019, exceeded only by the Super Bowl. (Worldwide, FIFA World Cup soccer blows the roof off the joint.) The American Gaming Association estimates that only 3 percent of that amount was bet legally, as office pools are illegal in most states.

Workplaces suffer from March Madness, with corporate losses estimated at \$4 billion during the 2019 tournament. That encompassed employees discussing the games, following them online, streaming them on mobile devices, filling out brackets, and despairing over crumbling brackets.

The term March Madness was first coined in 1939 by Henry V. Porter, an Illinois High School Association (IHSA) official who used it to describe the frenzy of the state's high school basketball tournament. The IHSA eventually licensed the term but permitted other states to use it for a \$10 fee. All was well until college play-by-play commentator Brent Musburger—formerly a Chicago news reporter—used the term during a nationally televised NCAA tournament game in 1982. It caught fire, friction was created between the IHSA and NCAA (and corporate sponsors), legal action eventually ensued, and a satisfactory agreement was hammered out.

Let the Madness begin! •



March 2020 Notable Dates

**March 1**

National Horse Protection Day

**March 3**

National Anthem Day

**March 6**

National Dentist's Day

**March 9**

National Napping Day

**March 14**

National Write Your Own Story Day

**March 18**

National Sloppy Joe Day

**March 23**

National Near Miss Day

**March 28**

National Something on a Stick Day

## Should Pete Rose Be Reinstated?



Pete Rose is making another attempt to lift his ban from Major League Baseball. He's appealing to another commissioner in hopes that this one is more sympathetic to his case. In the interest of full disclosure, Pete Rose was my hero growing up. He was, and is, my favorite baseball player. However, he should never be reinstated. Pete committed the ultimate sin in baseball. He gambled on the game. Worse than that, he gambled on his own team. The game of baseball has always come down the hardest on gambling infractions because of the Chicago Black Sox.

When Pete was betting on his team, he was a player/manager. He had a great deal of control over the outcome of the games. People that know baseball a lot better than I do talk about how Pete changed how he managed a game depending on whether or not he had a bet on it. He was quicker to bring in a reliever, or change relievers, for example. The argument is made that he only bet to win. But when the manager bets on his team to win, that is important information to gamblers.

I have no use for cheaters. Play by the rules or don't play. Pete knew what he was doing was wrong. Almost worse than that, he has shown no remorse for his actions. There is no one in baseball who worked harder than Pete; no one to whom the game was more important. Despite that, he is not willing to admit what he has done to tarnish the image of the game. It's something I will never understand. •

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*Protect Your Family, Protect Your Rights*



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## Optical Illusions to Improve Pedestrian Safety

Pedestrian injuries and fatalities caused by traffic accidents are a major problem in the US ... and elsewhere. Nearly 100,000 pedestrians pay visits to emergency rooms, and nearly 6,000 lose their lives each year, according to U.S. government figures.

In an effort to improve pedestrian safety, some cities throughout the world are taking an innovative approach: 3D painted crosswalks. This plan of action has also begun to “pop up” throughout the United States.

Crosswalks are painted with 3D (three-dimensional) paint. From a distance, to the approaching motorist, the painted stripes appear to be solid, oblong objects that rise above the ground within the crosswalk—objects you wouldn’t want to run into with your vehicle. Pedestrians, however, see the real deal: paint on the street, no illusions.

The purpose of 3D crosswalks is to grab the attention of drivers, so they slow down at crosswalks, and to break the routine of driver assumption and inattentiveness. Cities/towns that have implemented 3D crosswalks have been pleased with the results, but there are naysayers.

Some critics maintain that a significant percentage of drivers seeing a 3D crosswalk for the first time are startled and swerve or slam on the brakes, potentially creating additional hazards. Others believe that although crosswalks may work initially, once drivers get used to the illusion they’ll be back to business as usual. Currently, no formal studies have been done to corroborate these claims.

Time will tell if 3D crosswalks help reverse the recent, upward trend in pedestrian injuries and fatalities. In the meantime, pedestrians injured by negligent motorists should contact a pedestrian injury attorney to protect their rights. ●

