

This Month's Articles

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It's National...

Coloring Book Day on August 2

The first coloring book, The Little Folk's Painting Book, was produced in the 1880s by the Mcloughlin Brothers in collaboration with Kate Greenaway. They continued to publish coloring books until the 1920s when they became part of the Milton Bradley Company. Original coloring books were intended to be painted. Coloring books continued to be published with the idea that they could be painted or colored when crayons became popular in the 1930s.

Coloring books serve many purposes. In the United States they emerged as a part of "democratization of art." Educators believed that students, regardless of their background, could benefit from this type of art education. Coloring books were thought to help a student's conceptual understanding of the tangible, develop their cognitive abilities, and give them the skills for finding a profession. Now coloring books are praised for promoting wellness and relaxation in adults.



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Estate Planning Buzz

Crayon (Pen) to Paper

When confronted with a blank page, even a coloring book and handed a marker or a crayon I tend to hesitate, afraid to make the first move or the first mark. The choices are endless, what do I want to color green or what if I change my mind and I can't erase my marks or worse yet what if I happen to not pay attention and go outside the lines. It may seem silly all this thought for just coloring a picture. Some people tend to overthink it and therefore don't do it.

In some ways I think coloring can be like designing an estate plan and even finding an estate planning attorney. Is this first step going to be the right one and more importantly one that I am happy with?

Thankfully, taking the first steps in your planning can be easier with the help of a guide to provide direction in what your plan should be like for you and your family. We even have the ability to modify and redo plans for those that want to make changes after they have created a plan.

For those of you who have taken the steps to create your plan, thank you. For those of you who want to make changes we are here to help. We appreciate your introductions to family and friends who could benefit from what we do. Our office can help guide you through this process. Contact us today to get started at (248) 409-0256 or info@ferrilawpllc.com.

- Matt

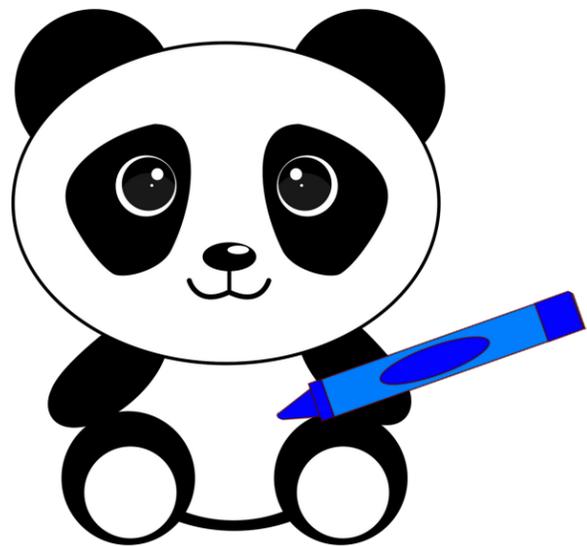
A Coloring Book Cracks the Case?

A Panda Story

In May 2017, a 51 year old Massachusetts man was sentenced to two years in prison and ordered to pay more than 3 million dollars in restitute after he attempted to defraud and extort the makers of the animated film Kung Fu Panda.

Jayne Gordon claimed that DreamWorks Animation SKG, Inc. stole his idea for the characters and story of the popular 2008 film Kung Fu Panda. In 2011, he filed a civil suit against the studio seeking over \$12 million in damages and claimed he had evidence. Protecting intellectual property was important to DreamWorks and the company spent \$3 million in defense. The case lasted for years.

Gordon's attorney was confident since he had drawings that appeared to support his case.



Gordon's original drawings and story "Panda Power" did not resemble the movie, so he revised them and renamed his story "Kung Fu Panda Power." In addition to fabricating and backdating sketches, he deleted evidence on his computer and lied during depositions. However, the real breakthrough in the case came from a coloring book.

DreamWorks learned that Gordon had traced some of his panda drawings from Disney's The Lion King coloring book. The copied sketches were from a coloring that was published in 1996 and therefore could not have been drawn in 1992 and 1993, like Gordon claimed they were. As a result, Gordon dropped his copyright infringement lawsuit. However, he now became a defendant in a criminal case for the crimes he committed (perjury and wire fraud) from the original lawsuit.

At his criminal trial in 2016, Gordon denied tracing his drawings from coloring books. He claimed that Disney, like DreamWorks, had copied his drawings for the characters in The Lion King. The jury didn't believe him and now he has plenty of time to color behind the lines.

Tips for Your Estate Plan

Some simple steps to take

1. If you don't have an estate plan - start to educate yourself about what one is and what it does and what the different types do or not do.
2. Find an estate planning attorney. Ask your friends or your advisors for referrals. Remember find one that you feel comfortable with.
3. Think about yourself, your family and your goals, wants and wishes. If you start to consider what is important to you and what you hope to achieve, creating an estate plan will be that much easier.
4. If you have already created an estate plan, make sure you review it annually to make sure it meets your expectations.

Take A Break

