

This Month's Articles



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It's National...

It's National Make Up Your Own Holiday Day on March 26!

The word, holiday, comes from Old English where it was spelled as 'haligdæg'. The 'halig' refers to 'holy' while 'dæg' meant 'day'. It was used to refer to religious holy days where laborers and official institutions were given a day off to commemorate an important day.

There are many types of holidays: religious; national; and secular. The government sanctions official holidays and citizens observe the holiday with a day off work. Unofficial holidays are not government sanctioned, there are no closures, but they can celebrate anything and everything. These holidays can raise awareness for a cause, celebrate food or drinks, or people for a few examples. Thomas and Ruth Roy of Wellcat Holidays are the creators of Make Up Your Own Holiday. They have come up with an additional 80 unofficial holidays, including Don't Step on a Bee Day, For Pete's Sake Day, and Blah Blah Blah Day.



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Estate Planning Buzz

Creating Your Own Holiday

When I think of creating my own holiday, I remember watching the *Seinfeld* episode on Festivus. To this day, those that watched the show can have a good laugh and fond memories of the characters and the traditions surrounding this created holiday, like the Festivus Pole. From fiction to reality, celebrating holidays can deepen sense of purpose, create community, and evoke thoughts of what will my legacy be? Holidays, like our legacy, will live beyond our lifetimes and can be a way to cherish memories.

Our legacies are primarily based in our families and relationships - who we have connected with over time, how they have impacted us and how we can leave wisdom behind to impact others. Sharing your experiences with your loved ones can help your family bond grow. It can be a way to instill different values in generations to come. It can also help your family connect with past generations, and revive those beliefs and traditions that can guide you today.

To learn more contact us at (248) 409-0256 or info@ferrilawpllc.com. I look forward to hearing from you!

Inside and Outside of the Courtroom

Made Up Holiday Troubles

When Disney encouraged “Star Wars” fans to tweet their favorite memories, it quickly backfired into a copyright feud. Disney and Disney Plus tweeted three messages that caused confusion and frustration. The first tweet encouraged the fans to tweet about “Star Wars” favorite memories. The second tweet claimed that account users who replied using the popular hashtag, #MayThe4th, were agreeing to Disney terms, and that Disney could use their messages and account handles across all media. This sparked concern from fans that Disney was trying to claim every tweet with the popular hashtag as their own intellectual property.

The final tweet Disney sent out clarified this only applied to those users and messages containing the hashtag, sent in response to the original tweet *and* that mentioned Disney Plus. Though, even with this clarification, fans did not hesitate to make further comments about the copyright and property of individuals tweets and the use of hashtags.

A law professor at Rutgers Law School, Michael Carrier, stated that the terms and conditions of tweets were between an individual user and Twitter itself. He also stated no matter the hashtag or mentioning of Disney Plus, users have the intellectual property rights of their own messages, Disney does not.

Whenever you hear the word ‘humbug’, you probably picture old Ebenezer Scrooge from the classic Christmas Carol.

Even though this has been in the public domain for decades now, Thomas and Ruth Roy have claimed they own copyright of the word, because they created “National Humbug Day.” Celebrated on December 21st, the Roy’s state their national holiday is the day for cursing Christmas. In addition, they claim that any use of the holiday or the word ‘humbug’ needs to be approved by them and their company, Wellcat Holidays & Herbs, for profit or otherwise.

Thomas and Ruth Roy may have a copyright on Make Up Your Own Holiday Day and other national holidays they have come up with, but does that mean they can claim copyright over every holiday created?



Tips for Your Estate Plan

Some simple steps to take

Select a few of these topics and write a note to your loved ones:

1. Memories of trips or vacations when we have spent time together
2. Things I admire about you
3. Special talents or gifts I feel you have been given and the great potential I have seen in you
4. Really difficult challenges I have seen you overcome and how I felt about your effort
5. Things you said to me that really made me feel special or loved
6. Gifts you gave me that I have treasured
7. The accomplishments and recognition you have received and how I felt about them
8. Things I wish I could have done with you
9. What I hope you will do with your life
10. What I hope you and the other members of the family will do in terms of continuing your relationship as family members when I’m not around.

Take A Break

Holiday Mad Libs:

Today is _____ (adjective or noun) Day! It started when _____ (noun) decided to _____ (verb). _____ (same adjective or noun) Day is _____ (verb) every _____ (name a month) on _____ (give a number) day. We _____ (verb) the day by _____ (verb ending in ing). Often we include _____ (person) or even _____ (name of an animal) in the celebration. We have _____ (food) and for dessert, _____ (flavor) cake. It is customary to serve _____ (drink) which tastes like _____ (adjective). We give _____ (adjective) _____ (noun plural). The best _____ (noun) was given by _____ (family relation). _____ (same noun or adjective) Day is the _____ (adjective) day of the _____ (season).