

This Month's Articles

SCAN ME



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It's National...



Ghost Hunting Day on September 30!

National Ghost Hunting Day is on September 30, 2023 and it starts the annual international investigation of the paranormal. According to USA Today about 40% of people believe ghosts exist. Ghost stories around the world are often based off historical records or literature. Science, religion, and academia debate the existence of ghosts. Ghost hunting brings attention to historic properties and helps with preservation. Ghost hunters not only use several apparatuses to communicate or record evidence of a ghost, but they also employ traditional methods like researching the history of a site. Whatever your belief, ghost hunting can be a fun way to learn about history and explore places you might normally not visit.



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Estate Planning Buzz

Navigating Estate Planning Fearlessly

I have been on a ghost tour. My father-in-law used to lead them at Historic Fort Wayne in Detroit, Michigan. The tours were a great way to raise funds to support the historic fort. The tour was factually based, and while we learned a great deal about the fort, we didn't see any ghosts. However, a bat did cause quite a few members of the ghost hunting party to run screaming from a tunnel!

In the end the ghost tour wasn't frightening, it was interesting. The only time it became spooky for my wife was when, she admits, her imagination ran wild. Estate planning is like ghost hunting. There is a lot factual base to it and it isn't scary at all, unless you imagine it to be. It's an organized and responsible approach to shaping your legacy, that ensures your loved ones are cared for and your wishes are honored. Understanding the estate planning process can make starting less intimidating and enables you to make informed decisions. By engaging in open conversations, you transform the unknown into a manageable process that empowers you, brings you and your loved ones peace of mind, and that helps you keep control.

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

'As A Matter Of Law, The House Is Haunted'

In 1991, Jeffrey M. Stambovsky decided to move from New York City to the Village of Nyack. He paid \$32,500 as a down payment and agreed to a total price of \$650,000 for a house that had 4,628 sq. feet of living space spread across three full floors. It was built in 1890, included a wrap around porch that faced the river, 10 foot ceilings, a turret, handcrafted bookcases, pocket doors, inlay wood floors, window seats and coffered ceilings. The house Stambovsky wanted to purchase was also haunted.

The sellers never told Stambovsky about the hauntings. However, they had mentioned supernatural encounters to others, including "Sir George and Lady Margaret," a "Revolutionary Navy Lieutenant" and that something would shake the daughter's bed every morning unless she requested out loud to sleep in. These events, and the fact that the house was featured on a walking tour and occasionally attracted paranormal investigators caused Stambovsky to try to back out of the deal.

The trial court ruled in favor of the seller based on New York's then iron-clad adherence to caveat emptor, the idea that a diligent buyer can and should identify problems with a property before purchase. But the appellate court reversed. While the defendants had played up the house's haunted past in the media, the Judge noted that researching a haunting is not something one should typically consider to be a reasonable aspect of a property inspection. Stambovsky got out of buying New York's only legally recognized haunted house.

The court declared the house officially haunted, returned half the deposit and all other prospective buyers had to be told about the hauntings. The buyers found another purchaser and more recently the house was sold again in 2015 for 1.77 million dollars. The two subsequent owners did not have any ghost encounters.

In 2016, Gerald Brittle, author of the book *The Demonologist* sued Warner Bros. for \$900 million over *The Conjuring* film franchise. In the lawsuit, Brittle claims in 1978 when he signed an agreement with Lorraine Warren (the paranormal investigator Brittle wrote about) to write *The Demonologist* it included an exclusive "no compete" clause forbidding anyone from making works based on the Warren's paranormal cases. Brittle claims he sent Warner Bros. a cease-and-desist letter and the company responded that the movie was based on "historical events" and not on the book *The Demonologist*. In response, Brittle challenged Warner Bros. to either prove the hauntings really happened or pay him nearly a billion dollars. A year after the lawsuit was filed, Warner Bros. settled with Brittle rather than prove the Warren's cases happened.

In the 1895 Nebraska case, *McClary v. Stull*, the children of a widow asked the court to invalidate changes she made to her will. The children claim she wrote a will with the input of her husband's ghost - specifically, that she'd communicated with her husband's ghost using a "planchette," a wooden board with wheels that's used in conjunction with a Ouija board. The court declined to rule on the existence of ghosts but did rule the will invalid.

Tips for Your Estate Plan

Some simple steps to take so leaving a legacy is not daunting:

1. Open Communication: Start conversations with your family about your values, wishes, and intentions. Transparency can prevent misunderstandings and conflicts later on.
2. Family Meetings: Consider holding family meetings to discuss your estate plan, allowing everyone to ask questions, and gain a clear understanding of your intentions.
3. Personalized Gifts: Identify sentimental items or heirlooms you'd like to pass down to specific family members. Be clear about your reasons behind these choices.
4. Memories and Stories: Document your life experiences, stories, and wisdom through written or recorded formats. This can help your family connect with your legacy on a personal level.
5. Legacy Letter: Consider writing a document that focuses on passing down your values, beliefs, and life lessons to guide future generations.

Take A Break

Search and Find for the Ghost Who Owned this Haunted House:

