

This Month's Articles

SCAN ME



Sticky Situations - 1
In the Courtroom - 2
Estate Planning Tips - 3
Take A Break - 3
It's National... - 4

It's National...



National Bubble Gum Day on February 2!

Before the invention of modern chewing gum, ancient human beings chewed bits of resin from trees. In 1928, Walter Diemer created the first bubble producing gum. His employer, the Fler Chewing Gum Company, marketed it as "Dubble Bubble."

Bubble Gum Facts:

Chad Fell of Haleyville, Alabama blew the largest bubble gum bubble ever blown. It was 50.8 centimeters (20 inches) in diameter with three pieces of Dubble Bubble on April 24, 2004 at Double Springs High School in Winston County, AL.

There is a difference between bubble gum and chewing gum. Bubble gum produces larger bubbles and is sweeter. Chewing gum still produces bubbles, however they are neither as large or as lasting as those made with bubble gum.



February 2024 | Vol. 18

Estate Planning Buzz

Navigating Sticky Situations

Have you ever stepped into a piece of chewing gum, or inadvertently found it beneath a table or desk? Unwanted sticky situations like these can be frustrating and unnecessarily eat up valuable time while you deal with them.

Estate planning often presents us with situations that require careful handling and can sometimes be challenging to maneuver. Everyone might not be on the same page when it comes to important decisions like healthcare or final arrangements. There might be a disagreement over who is supposed to be in charge when the time comes. Or, there could be arguments over who was meant to get what. Situations like these can be uncomfortable, but they can be avoided by having family discussions.

Having these conversations in advance shouldn't be an inconvenience. Tackling them head-on can save time, prevent misunderstandings, and lead to a smoother and more secure financial future for your loved ones. Having them can also prevent other unforeseen challenges down the road, much like keeping gum out of unwanted places.

Contact us and see what you can create at (248) 409-0256 or info@ferrilawpllc.com. I look forward to hearing from you!

Inside and Outside of the Courtroom

Counterfeit Gum Art

Michael Moebius is a German artist known for painting pop-culture icons blowing bubble gum. His work is so popular that people create fake versions of his art. According to the artist, 99 percent of the images on Google for his work 'Marilyn bubble gum' are fake.

In a complaint filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Moebius sued 399 separate companies based in China and other foreign nations claiming they violated his copyright by selling "counterfeit versions" of his art. The complaint reads the companies had gone to "great lengths" to shield themselves from liability, and details "the full scope and interworking of their counterfeiting operation."

Moebius won a significant copyright infringement lawsuit against hundreds of foreign counterfeiters. He was awarded a total of \$120 million and a default judgment was entered. The judge wrote that "None of the defaulting defendants having answered or appeared in any way, and the time for answering having expired, so that the allegations of the complaint are uncontroverted and are deemed admitted."

The judge also permanently banned the companies from further selling any other products without permission from Moebius and the transfer of the company's domain names to the artist's control.

Moebius said his team has started enforcing the judgment against some of the companies. As for the damages, Moebius said it could have been in the billions if he had not made takedown requests to Amazon and Alibaba.

Persistent Gum Popping

Susan Montgomery Williams is a world bubblegum blowing champion. During the Fresno Fair, she was arrested when she refused to stop popping her gum at an outdoor concert. The charges were eventually dropped but while she was at the courthouse for that arrest, her gum popping got her in a sticky situation again. Bailiffs repeatedly asked her to stop popping her gum in the hallway outside a courtroom where a jury was being selected in a murder case. Williams refused saying there was no law against chewing gum in the hallways. She was arrested and charged with disturbing a courtroom proceeding, which carries a potential penalty of six months in jail, a \$1,000 fine, or both.

Williams denied violating any law. The courtroom bailiffs testified that her gum popping was comparable to a .38-caliber pistol going off, a "crackling" sound like static electricity, or the sound of "banging on a garbage can with a metal hammer." The Municipal Judge fined her \$150, gave her a 30-day suspended sentence, and placed her on probation for two years.



Tips for Your Estate Plan

Some considerations to avoid having your bubble burst:

1. **Bite-Size Decisions:** Don't try to cram as many pieces as possible in at once, approach estate planning with small, manageable decisions.
2. **Choosing the Right Flavor:** Just like deciding between mint, fruity, classic bubble gum, or other flavors, selecting the right elements of an estate plan is a personal choice tailored to your preferences and needs.
3. **Long-Lasting Benefits:** Properly structured plans can offer security for you and your loved ones, like the right piece of gum can provide long-lasting flavor. Review and update your estate plan and assets to keep it as fresh as possible.
4. **Avoiding Bursting Bubbles:** An effective estate plan helps prevent familial and financial "bursts" by preparing for unexpected events and uncertainties.
5. **Chew It Over:** Just as you take time to choose and chew your gum, take the time to carefully consider your estate planning options.

Take A Break

Can you guess how many gumballs there are?



You can find the answer here

SCAN ME

