

LAW OFFICE OF
Larry D. Stratton

225 South Lake Avenue
Suite 300
Pasadena, California 91101
(626) 447-1446

E-MAIL: Larry@StrattonPlanning.com

Reply to:
P.O. Box 661201
Arcadia, California 91066-1201

Admitted in:

- California
- United States Supreme Court
- Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals
- U.S. District Courts (California)
- U.S. Tax Court

May 7, 2009

Newsletter: Volume 2, No. 4

Dear Reader:

I hope that you forgive me. No: your mail carrier did not jealously confiscate your April edition of this Newsletter (even though it would be *perfectly* understandable if he or she did, of course). No...I'm afraid that this newsletter just didn't get completed. But don't blame my office manager for this. Edit has been acting on your behalf, periodically reminding me for the last several weeks to send one out.

But, I will try to make it up to you. You will find a few extra funny quotes in this edition. So...here it goes...

Quotes of the month...

There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics.

-- Benjamin Disraeli (1st Earl of Beaconsfield, British Prime Minister, 1804 – 1881)

Complaining is good for you as long as you're not complaining to the person you're complaining about.

-- Lynn Johnston (Canadian cartoonist, *For Better For Worst*, 1947- present)

People rarely succeed unless they have fun in what they are doing.

-- Andrew Carnegie (American industrialist, 1835 – 1919)

Always end the name of your child with a vowel, so that when you yell the name will carry.

-- Bill Cosby

I think that the film "Clueless" was very deep. I think it was deep in the way that it was very light. I think lightness has to come from a very deep place if it's true lightness.

-- Alicia Silverstone (American actress, 1976 – present)

And a few jokes...

As for that last quote...Huh? I honestly wasn't sure which category of this newsletter to put it in. Anyway, here are a few assorted *intentional* jokes for the month.

What happened in Detroit, anyway?

A tough looking biker had been in the biker bar for quite some time when he finally decided it was time, once again to hit the road. He stepped through the front door of the bar and instantly realized that his bike had vanished from the spot he had parked it.

"All right" he said loudly, coming back into the busy biker bar "I'm going to have a shot of whisky and if my hog isn't back up front by the time I'm done, what happened in Detroit will happen here too!"

With that many of the bikers ran out of the bar and within moments one came back to tell the tough biker that his hog was now parked in front of the bar for him. When the tough guy started to leave the bartender asked him.

"Pardon me, stranger, but what happened in Detroit?"

The tough biker replied, "Well...I had to walk back to my hotel."

(www.onlyfunnystories.com)

An entry from a house cat's diary...

Day 751: My captors continue to torment me with bizarre dangling objects. They eat lavish meals in my presence while I am forced to subsist on dry cereal. The only thing that keeps me going is the hope of eventual escape -- that, and the satisfaction I get from occasionally ruining some piece of their furniture.

I fear I may be going insane. Yesterday, I ate a houseplant. Tomorrow I may eat another.

(Courtesy: www.funs.co.uk)

A random walk down the street...

Here are a few assorted thoughts for your consideration...

- **If you have considered studying German:**

I have always wanted to pick up on my high school German skills without spending a bundle of money on software. I recently discovered that the official German radio station, *Deutsche Welle* (literally, "German wave") has on its website a number of absolutely free

German language courses, including story-based courses like *Radio D* and an interactive course entitled *Deutsch Interaktiv*. These are only examples. Many of the courses may be podcast. (URL: www.dw-world.de)

In addition to German language courses, the site offers German language news services, including political and human interest shows. Those owning shortwave receivers can hear the English language broadcasts of *Deutsche Welle*, usually at night in the Southern California area (the frequencies are listed online).

- **Arcadia High School street lingo:**

High School student reporter/author Bill Zhou wrote a funny article in the September 2008 edition of *The Apache Pow Wow*, the official student newspaper of Arcadia High School. The article described (obviously humorous) “urban lingo”: *10 Words: Urban Lingo for the Wise-Cracking Street Smart*. Here are a few of those “words,” each with an illustration of proper “usage”:

Mis-wave: To return a wave to someone whom you thought was waving at you when that person was actually waving to the person behind you, resulting in embarrassment.

*“I cannot believe I just **mis-waved** at Jenny when she was saying hi to my sister; now she thinks I’m a complete idiot.”*

Pedexterity: A remarkable ability to use his or her feet to pick up items.

*“Daniel was forced to develop great **pedexterity** after he broke both of his arms in a sports injury.”*

...And this one is my favorite (and if you have high school age children, you know what I mean)...

Floordrobe: A form of clothing storage which requires no hangers, drawers, doors or effort: simply drop the clothing on the floor.

*“My mom demanded that I pick up my clothes off of my **floordrobe**, but then where else will I keep all of my clothes?”*

I guess they couldn’t wait...a wicked story with an estate planning connection.

Impatience can sometimes kill.

I ran across a story local to South Carolina, but which shows the length some people will go to inherit money (and, what some people will do for money).



On May 1, 2009, United States Attorney W. Walter Wilkins announced that both James Poole (35) and his wife Jodie Ann Poole (33) were in federal custody for the 2006 murder of James Poole's mother and stepfather.

Oddly, the Pooles were not indicted for the murders but instead for their fraudulent efforts to obtain James Poole's very premature inheritance. Both Pooles were indicted by a federal Grand Jury for conspiracy to commit and for the commission of mail and wire fraud. Previously, in 2006 the local Sheriff sought their indictment for the murders themselves, but the trial court dismissed the case at the preliminary hearing for an alleged lack of probable cause.

In any event, here is an excerpt from the story:

The indictment charges that as part of the conspiracy Timothy Poole shot and killed his mother and step-father, William Henry Hilton, Jr., at their Lakewood Plantation at Nesmith in Williamsburg County, and then caused mailings in order to fraudulently benefit from her trust and estate. The indictment further alleges that Timothy Poole and Jodie Poole concealed Timothy Poole's involvement in the murder to preserve his status as an heir and to insure his eligibility to receive income from various trusts and estates immediately, rather than at the end of his mother's natural life.

The story appears at *South Carolina Now*:

[\(http://www.scnow.com/scp/news/local/article/son_indicted_in_nesmith_homicide_case/48180/\)](http://www.scnow.com/scp/news/local/article/son_indicted_in_nesmith_homicide_case/48180/)

I can't leave you with that sad story. Here is one additional quote, for the road. This one is from Reese Witherspoon, an American actress:

I'm blonde. What's your excuse?

Please feel free to contact our office with your estate planning and legal needs.

Sincerely,

Larry D. Stratton