



## E-BRIEFS



VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

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### Special Points of Interest:

- *Seventh Annual Law Day Essay Contest*
- *New Year– Time to Shape up your Legal Fitness*
- *Health Care Case taken up by Supreme Court*

### SEVENTH ANNUAL LAW DAY ESSAY CONTEST

We are pleased to announce the Law Offices of Warren C. Caswell Seventh Annual Law Day Essay Contest.

Law Day was first proclaimed by President Eisenhower in 1958. Law Day, May first of each year, is a day of national dedication to the principle of government under law. Each year the American Bar Association, along with a multitude of state and local bar associations around the country, hold events and celebrations honoring law day to educate the public about the role of law in our society. The original goal of Law Day, per the proclamation of President Eisenhower, is to strengthen our great American heritage of liberty, justice and equality under the law.

We designed this essay contest to further those goals and also to encourage young people to think about the role of law in our society and how law affects their everyday lives, even at a young age. Also, we feel it is important that our younger generation realize the importance of a society ruled by law, to realize, think and discuss this proposition; and to be able to reflect upon it meaningfully.



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### RECENT NEWS— CLIENT'S CHARGES DISMISSED

Mr. Caswell recently represented a young client charged with multiple counts of burglary and other charges which could have resulted in a sentence of more than 130 years in prison. After significant work and time put into the case the client accepted a plea offer which resulted in the dismissal of all charges, save one count; and kept the client out of prison completely. In fact the client will not have to serve a single day in confinement.

The victory for this client could not have been achieved absent hard work by Mr. Caswell and those assisting him in this case, as well as the client's patience and perseverance in the face of a seemingly impossible situation.



## LAW DAY ESSAY CONTEST— CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The contest is open to 9-12 graders in Madison, Franklin, Oglethorpe, Elbert, Hart, Jackson and Banks Counties. Each winner will have their entry posted in this newsletter and on the website. This year's awards for First Prize is a \$500 cash scholarship, and Second Prize is a \$200 cash scholarship.

This year's topic asks students should creationism (the version of how the world was created according to the bible) be taught in public schools? The First Amendment to the Constitution prohibits the government from making any law “. . .respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. . .” Public schools are a government institution which undoubtedly form and shape the future of our society. Given our law and the great influence which schools can have on the future, should a religious doctrine such as creationism be something which is taught in school rather than only in church or at home. Entrants should choose a side either for or against teaching in school and write a persuasive essay for their chosen side. The essay should attempt to balance their desired goal with the direction of our law and Constitution.

## NEW YEAR— TIME TO GET THE LEGAL HOUSE IN ORDER

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2012 has dawned upon us. With every new year comes new year's resolutions. Thos promises we make to ourselves, with good intentions and often with the knowledge we'll never make it through the year no matter how important our health, finances or whatever the subject of our resolution may be. However, how about some important resolutions that are actually easy to keep! Start off the new year with a sense of accomplishment by checking some of these items off of your to-do list; with reasons why you should be checking them off:

1. Update your will: When was the last time you had an attorney look over your will. Most attorneys recommend going over it at major life events (marriage, birth of a child, buying a home, etc) but also every three to five years just to make sure it is still relevant. If you don't have a will, a new years resolution to get one should be at the top of your list— they can be as cheap as \$50.00.
2. Have your contracts reviewed and updated: Own a business? Rent property? Have a contract that you use, or are required to sign, regularly. Have a lawyer spend some time going over that contract and make sure that it still comports with the law and update it for any new issues that have cropped up during the year (i.e. did your tenant insist that you pay for a repair you thought was his responsibility but the lease was unclear? A lawyer can fix that, quickly and cheaply!)
3. Meet with your lawyer and get your annual check-up. Your lawyer is an important part of your life management team. He knows what issues are important to you through your discussions with him. The legislature is going back into session and he can give you a heads up

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PROTECTING AND DEFENDING THE INNOCENT



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This newsletter does not create an attorney/client relationship.

**Feel free to forward this newsletter.**

Want to see a particular topic discussed in a future issues of this newsletter? Then send us the question or topic you would like to see discussed. We'll gather together what information we have on the subject and post an article— and best of all you it only costs you the stamp! Just send your questions to the e-mail or address above.

## ESSAY CONTEST— CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Essays will be judged based solely on how well the student supports his or her arguments. As always, essays will not be judged based on the position taken.

The topic and full rules to this year's essay contest can be found online at [www.warrencaswelllaw.com](http://www.warrencaswelllaw.com) by clicking on the Essay Contest Button. Briefly, the entrant must live in an eligible county and be of the grade level indicated, public, private and home schooling are all accepted. The entrant can consult with anyone but must write their own essay.

Each year we receive many outstanding essays from local students and we hope to continue that tradition this year. We wish all entrants good luck and want you to know that we can't wait to read your essays.

Winners will be announced on Tuesday May 1st, Law Day. Entries must be post-marked by Monday April 16, 2012 to be considered.

## Legal Resolutions— Cont'd from P. 2

on new laws that they are considering and whether they are likely to pass (recycled metal sales? New ethics laws?) If you don't have a lawyer you consider *yours* now is a great time to start that relationship.

4. Start work on your new necessary contracts. Getting married this year, starting a new business, going into partnership? Now is the time to get to work on your pre-nupts, business agreements and other paperwork.

Whatever 2012 has in store for you, be prepared with a good lawyer by your side by acting now. Happy New Year!