

BIER LAW BULLETIN

Be Informed. Be Prepared. Be Free.

Each month, our goal is to offer you valuable insights for maintaining an up-to-date estate plan, share some personal and firm highlights, and introduce you to one of your local experts. We also welcome your input on subjects you'd like to delve deeper into; simply respond to this email and let us know what might interest you!

Seth and Leann Bier

What's Happening

Recent News and Upcoming Events



UPCOMING WEBINAR: ESTATE PLANNING BASICS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21 | 5:00 PM

If estate planning has been on your “I should really do this” list, this webinar is a great place to start. Attorney Seth Bier will walk through the basics in plain English and explain what planning looks like in real life — not just in theory.

Whether you're just beginning to explore your options or want a clearer understanding of how planning works, this is an easy, no-pressure way to get informed.

>>>> [Click to Register](#)

A NEW YEAR, A THOUGHTFUL PAUSE

The start of a new year is a natural time to pause, reflect, and take stock of what matters most.

We're grateful to everyone in our community who takes the time to learn, ask questions, and engage with these topics — whether that's through our seminars, webinars, newsletter, or conversations behind the scenes. Estate planning isn't something most people think about every day, but staying informed makes a real difference when decisions matter.

As the year begins, consider this a gentle reminder that thoughtful planning is an ongoing process, and meaningful conversations don't have to happen all at once. We're always here as a resource — whether you're just getting started, revisiting existing plans, or exploring ways to educate others.



TED TALK

A Pawsitively Exciting Update ~~on~~ FROM CEO (Chief Excitement Officer) Teddy Bier!

I know one very important thing about Santa: Santa brings presents. So imagine my delight when we headed down for what I thought was a regular beach walk, but instead...the place was **flooded with Santas!** I almost didn't know where to look. Turns out it was the **Santa Stroll**, where people walk to raise money for a very good cause.

The Boss and the Lawyer explained that they weren't *real* Santas—there's only one, and he only comes on Christmas Eve, IF I'm a good boy. Message received. I immediately committed to excellent behavior, even though there were *a lot* of people, dogs, and noises happening all at once.

The Lawyer noticed I was taking it all in and suggested we start walking before everyone else. That guy is pretty smart sometimes. It turned into a great trek, and we even got medals when we crossed the finish line -- which felt very official.

We'll definitely be back next year. Seems like the kind of thing Santa keeps track of. 🐾



Not Santas



Me, the Boss, and the Lawyer



Proof of best behavior

From Seth's Desk

Real questions. Plain-English answers.

**DEAR SETH,
ESTATE PLANNING FEELS LIKE A
“LATER” PROBLEM. AM I WRONG?
– GUILTY**



Dear Guilty,

A little — and you're not alone.

Here's the problem: estate planning isn't just about when you die. It's about what happens if you're still alive but can't speak for yourself. If you're in an accident, get seriously ill, or lose capacity, decisions will be made about your health care, your finances, and your family. Those decisions don't pause just because you weren't ready.

Someone will step in. The only question is whether it's the person you intentionally chose — or a judge who's never met you.

I see families all the time who thought they had “plenty of time,” only to find themselves in court, stressed, overwhelmed, and wishing they'd done this sooner. Planning ahead doesn't mean something bad is going to happen. It means you're prepared if it does.

Next step: [Learn the basics](#), then put a plan in place that actually reflects your life and your values.

Have a question for Seth? Reply with ASK SETH.

BLOG: THE SEEDIER SIDE OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON

The holidays bring joy—but they’re also peak season for scams targeting families, especially grandparents. With a single phone call, fraudsters can create panic, exploit trust, and pressure loved ones into sending money fast. As technology makes these scams more convincing than ever, knowing what to watch for can make all the difference. Read more about this troubling trend—and how to protect your family—on the blog

👉 [Click to read full blog](#)



The Expert Exchange

Conversations with Local Professionals

Get to know a little more about the experts in our community.

LESLIE GOLD

Founder and Executive Director
Strides in Recovery

What do you do?

I am the founder and leader of Strides in Recovery, a nonprofit organization which helps newly sober individuals grow physically, emotionally and mentally stronger so they can do their best at the hard work of recovery. We achieve these results by coaching people in Los Angeles County addiction treatment programs to complete events ranging from 5Ks to full marathons.

What's the best part of your job?

I love seeing the joy on people's faces when they cross the finish line, but what really touches me are the messages they share when we ask them how running with Strides in Recovery is helping them in life. For example, "Strides in Recovery gave me

community at a time when I really needed connection. Being surrounded by people who understood what I was working through made me feel less alone. The program helped me build confidence, gave me goals to work toward, and reminded me that I'm capable of more than I thought."

What's the most common misconception people have about your industry?

Most people don't realize that roughly 50% of the people who go through addiction treatment programs relapse within a year. We are addressing that problem by offering fitness as an additional tool to promote mental and emotional health, and by creating a welcoming community that supports their new sober, healthy, and active lifestyle.

What would people be surprised to learn about you?

In 2018, my husband and I spent 2 months bicycling 3600 miles across the US. It was an exhilarating way to see the country, connect with people from all walks of life, and take the time to really be present.

What's your favorite local restaurant?

My favorite local restaurant is [Bettolino Kitchen](#). My husband and I enjoy the high quality Italian food and warm, welcoming atmosphere.

