

BIER LAW BULLETIN

Be Informed. Be Prepared. Be Free.

Each month, we share practical tips for keeping your estate plan up to date, a few personal and firm highlights, and an introduction to one of our favorite local experts. If there's a topic you'd like us to cover in a future issue, simply reply to this email—we'd love to hear from you.

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What's Happening

Recent News and Upcoming Events



STILL ON YOUR TO-DO LIST?

Estate planning has a way of staying on the list. You know it's important, but there's always something more immediate demanding your attention.

If you've been meaning to finally understand what you need—and why—join Seth for our live [Estate Planning Webinar](#) on Wednesday, September 16. He'll explain Wills, Trusts, probate, incapacity planning, and the decisions that matter most, all in plain English.

It's an easy way to turn “I really need to do that” into “Now I know what to do next.”

Wednesday, September 16 | 6:00 PM

[REGISTER HERE](#)

BEFORE BIER LAW, THERE WAS... SURVIVOR?

Some of you may know this already, but for others, this will be news: a long time ago, I (Leann) was a contestant on *Survivor*.

In 2004, I spent 39 days competing on *Survivor: Vanuatu*. It was an extraordinary, completely surreal chapter of my life—and one I don't get to talk about much these days.

This December, I'm dusting off my *Survivor* past for a very good reason. I'll be joining other reality-TV alumni for a special weekend benefiting [The Sojourn Project](#), a nonprofit that takes students on immersive journeys through the history of the Civil Rights Movement.

I'm excited to be part of it—and raising money to support their work along the way.

[LEARN MORE & SUPPORT MY FUNDRAISER](#)



TED TALK

A Pawsitively Exciting Update from Teddy Bier, CEO (Chief Excitement Officer)!

Hey buddies. Recovery continues to be super boring around here, but I'm finally getting longer walks and more outside time. I feel GREAT and am completely ready to run, jump and play—which, apparently, is irrelevant. I'm still not allowed to do any of those things.

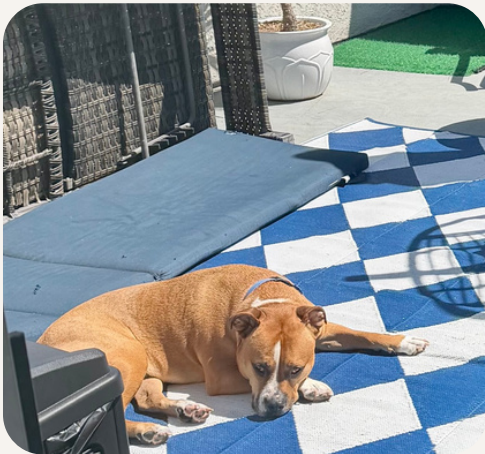
The Lawyer even turned the patio furniture on its side so I can't jump on it. This seems excessive. I'm not saying I *would* have jumped on it. I'm just saying I should have the option.

On the bright side, the hair on my leg (and, yes, my butt cheek) is *finally* growing back. At least one indignity is coming to an end. I'm almost respectable again.

Oh yeah, and on one of my walks with the Boss, I discovered something promising: **FREE TOYS!** Naturally, I stopped to investigate.

Unfortunately, the selection was disappointing. Baskets? Boxes? Not a ball, squeaky toy, or tug rope in sight. I'm not sure who these “toys” were intended for, but clearly no one consulted a dog. I checked all the bags just in case they were hiding the good stuff. They were not.

For now, I'll keep walking, keep healing, and keep an eye out for a better free-toy department. My next X-rays are coming up soon, so please keep your paws crossed. I've been on restricted duty as Chief Excitement Officer for long enough. This place isn't going to excite itself. 🐾



Apparently even the furniture is on restriction.



FREE TOYS?! Recovery is looking up!



Free? Yes. Toys? Debatable.

From Seth's Desk

Real questions. Plain-English answers.

DEAR SETH,

OUR DOG IS PART OF OUR FAMILY. WHAT HAPPENS TO HER IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO US?

– PUPPY PARENT

This is an easy one for me. Leann and I consider Teddy part of our family. Because he is.

We can create a Pet Trust as part of an estate plan, and for some people, that's exactly the right choice. But not everyone needs a formal Trust with a large sum of money set aside for their pet.

What you do need is a plan.

Who will take care of your furry, feathered, or scaled family member if you're incapacitated? Who would adopt them if something happened to you? And most importantly, do they know your plan—and have they agreed to it?

Sometimes good estate planning isn't complicated. It's simply making sure that if you're no longer there, someone you trust is ready to step in and care for the animal you love.



Want to learn more? Seth wrote about planning for pets—including Pet Trusts and choosing caregivers—in Rethinking65. [Read “Pet Trusts Often Overlooked in Planning.”](#)

BLOG: STILL FIGHTING -- THE ESTATE PLANNING LEGACY OF SHANNEN DOHERTY

Shannen Doherty took her estate planning seriously. She had a Trust, made careful decisions about who would inherit her estate, and even finalized her divorce settlement just one day before she died. So why are the people she left behind still fighting over her wishes? Her story is a powerful reminder that even thoughtful planning can leave room for conflict—and offers some important lessons for all of us.

>>> [Read the full blog](#)



The Expert Exchange *Conversations with Local Professionals*

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

Bill Meek, Artist/Sculptor [Meek Studio](#)

What do you do?

I have been a full-time artist for the past 50+ years. My wife and business partner, Valerie, has been with me 45 of those years. My sculpture medium is slab glass—not blown glass. I hammer, sand, polish, saw, bend, and glue glass to glass to create my sculptures which have ranged in height from inches to 18 feet.

What's the best part of your job?

Delivering a finished sculpture to a client. My sculptures are mostly in residential private collections but also in many building lobbies, hospitals, churches, synagogues, restaurants, and private clubs.

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

I believe it's a misconception to view art as a luxury. Going back to cavemen, art is a part of human nature. It is a language—and often a reflection of creation and wonder whether as an observer or creator.

What would people be surprised to learn about you?

That I grew up in Southern California, went to Texas for a 3-month project and stayed there for 45 years.

What's your favorite local restaurant?

[Okane Umi](#) on PCH in Lomita.

