

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



ESTATE PLANNING DOESN'T HAVE TO FEEL COMPLICATED

Wills. Trusts. Probate. Powers of Attorney. Health Care Directives. There's a lot to understand—and it's easy to see why estate planning can feel overwhelming.

That's exactly why Seth created our live webinar. On October 13, he'll explain what it all means, how the pieces fit together, and the decisions that actually matter.

No legal jargon. No sales pitch.
Just straightforward information to help you make sense of it all.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

OUT & ABOUT IN THE SOUTH BAY

We had a great time at the Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce Annual Regional Mixer, catching up with familiar faces and meeting some new ones along the way.

One of our favorite things about being a small, local firm is getting out from behind our desks and spending time with the people and businesses that make the South Bay such a great community.

The real surprise of the evening? Seth showed up in something other than a suit! Several people said they almost didn't recognize him. Apparently, taking Seth out of a suit is an effective disguise.



Leann, Jane Lau, Seth



LeAnne Long, Seth, Theresa Mack, Leann

TED TALK

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

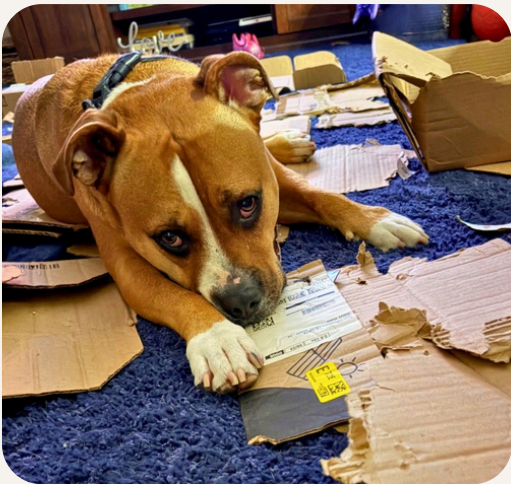
Good news, buddies! I went back to Access for my 8-week checkup, and apparently I'm an excellent healer. My X-rays looked great and I barely lost any muscle. (You don't get a body like this by accident.) I just need a little more time before I'm officially cleared for ALL THE THINGS. One more appointment next month and I'm a free doggo!

In other exciting news, RECYCLING DAY IS BACK! After weeks of unreasonable restrictions, I was finally allowed to resume one of my most important jobs: turning large pieces of cardboard into hundreds of smaller pieces of cardboard. You're welcome.

I've also become an active fly-swatter protester. To be clear, I have nothing against catching flies. I'm happy to catch and eat them myself. But that horrible SMACK thing? Absolutely not. Put it away, Boss. I'll handle the flies.

And finally, my friends at [PAW Veterinary Center](#) had a party to celebrate their 4th birthday. Since PAW is right on my walking route—and I'm almost four myself—I obviously had to stop by, inspect their new expansion, say hello to everyone, and meet the biggest dog I have ever seen. I'm still not entirely sure about that guy.

One more good report next month and I'm officially back in business. I can almost taste the bubbles. 🐾



Back on the job.



Put the weapon down, Boss!



Finally, someone my size.

From Seth's Desk

Real questions. Plain-English answers.

DEAR SETH,

MY BEST FRIEND KNOWS ME BETTER THAN MY FAMILY DOES. CAN I PUT HER IN CHARGE INSTEAD?

— BFF

Absolutely.

You do not have to choose someone just because they are your oldest child, sibling, or closest relative.

The better question is: **Who do you trust to do the job well and carry out your wishes?**

Depending on the role, that could mean managing your Trust, handling financial decisions if you become incapacitated, or making health care decisions for you.

Sometimes the right person is family. Sometimes it's the family you choose.

Your estate plan should reflect your real relationships, not somebody else's idea of what family is supposed to look like.



Knowledge Is Power

Highlighted Articles, Blogs, & Reports

BLOG: THE MOST VALUABLE THING IN HIS ESTATE WAS WORTH ONE DOLLAR

By Seth Bier

A one-dollar bill named Georgie had been part of a family's story for decades. When its owner died, his Trust said nothing about who should get it. What happened next fractured the family for nearly 30 years.

It's an extreme example of something we see all the time: the things families care about most aren't always the things worth the most. In this month's blog, Seth shares Georgie's story—and why the “little things” deserve a place in your estate plan too.

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



The Expert Exchange

Conversations with Local Professionals

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

Jeff Lewis, Founding & Managing Partner **[Jeff Lewis Law, APC](#)**

What do you do?

I run a boutique appellate and civil litigation firm based in Rolling Hills Estates, with a particular focus on anti-SLAPP motions and First Amendment law. I help clients — often journalists, critics, and everyday people — fight back when they're sued for speaking out, and I also host the [California Appellate Law Podcast](#).

What's the best part of your job?

Protecting people's right to speak freely. Anti-SLAPP work means stepping in early when someone is being sued just for exercising their First Amendment rights, and there's real satisfaction in shutting those cases down before they can silence anyone.

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

That the First Amendment is absolute and self-executing — that free speech somehow protects itself. In reality, defending speech rights takes active, often technical legal work, and without lawyers willing to do it, meritless lawsuits can chill speech before a court ever weighs in.

What would people be surprised to learn about you?

One of my favorite pastimes is finding new dueling piano bars to visit. I can't get enough of hearing Sweet Caroline in a bar.

What's your favorite local restaurant?

I do like to support local restaurants and [The Red Onion](#) in Palos Verdes is among my favorites.

