

THE STATE OF THE ESTATE

February 2019

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Jane's Bat Mitzvah

Jane's Bat Mitzvah was January 19th, and it was a huge event for our entire family. As part of the ceremony, Scott and I both had a chance to share a few words about Jane. Here is an excerpt of what I wrote:

"You had grit, from the moment you arrived in the world. We used to wait to pick Eva up from kindergarten, and you would play with the other younger siblings. A grandpa would wait there with us to pick up his grandson. This man was a retired Marine, and after observing you for a while, he told us you had the heart of a warrior.

You were born with strength, courage, perseverance, and determination. Nothing, and I mean nothing, is going to stop you when you set your mind to something.

What parent wouldn't love to have her daughter possess the heart of a warrior? I am here to tell you today that this is your gift. Your warrior heart is your inborn trait. What you choose to do with it is up to you, and that is everything.

As your mother, I urge you to take that inner strength and add to it the love and support of family, friends, and the community. Grow and learn. Always be learning. There is no limit to where your warrior heart will take you in this world."

Jane is now a poised young lady who is almost as tall as I am, but here is one of my favorite pictures of her, as a mischievous little toddler.

Juliet



Candy Gram:

February is a great time to show someone you love them! Here is a fun ideas to surprise your loved ones with a sweet treat that reminds them that you love them and think of them.

In my family we have a lot of fun with these and make them for each other for valentines because it is so important to remind those we love that we care. There are no rules on how to make a candygram! You just need poster and candy! And to use a little imagination on how to work the wording!

Hope you have a sweet holiday!



Send us your questions!

Every month I go our paralegal and ask what questions we have heard over the last month and what I can do to help answer those questions for our clients and for other readers to help people have a better understanding of probate and trust litigation overall.

This month I thought I would make sure to ask you our readers to reach out to me and ask whatever questions you have. I may not have the answers, but I will definitely find out the answer and write it in an article to help with any questions you may have about how the processes in the courts work and what can be expected in probate or in a trust litigation case.

I look forward to hearing from all of you and will do my absolute best to get you articles answering your questions (and I will send you the answers as soon as I have them if you are the one asking)! I think this is one way we can help make things better for our clients. Email me at rcampbell@grossmanlaw.net

And I wanted to say thank you to our clients who are always so kind and considerate. It is a real joy talking with you and knowing that I can offer some sunshine in your day with our newsletter.

Thanks so much,
Rachel Campbell



Groundhog Day Cookies

Delicious Groundhog Day Molasses Cookies recipe that are a fun treat for the holiday or a Groundhog Day themed party. Kids will love these!

Ingredients

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1½ teaspoons cinnamon
- ½ cup unsalted butter, softened
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- ½ cup molasses
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 egg, slightly beaten
- Mini Chocolate Chips, for the eyes

Instructions

1. Sift together first seven ingredients. Set aside.
2. Cream butter and sugar until fluffy.
3. Blend in molasses and yolk.
4. Stir in flour mixture and mix well. Form into a ball.
5. Wrap in plastic wrap. Chill overnight or freeze.
6. Place small amounts of dough on a well-floured and clean countertop. Roll ⅛ inch thick.
7. Cut out cookies with lightly floured Groundhog cookie cutter.
8. Keep adding more flour to surface/rolling pin as needed.
9. Place cookies on greased baking sheet.
10. Brush with slightly beaten egg.
11. Decorate with mini chocolate chip eyes. Repeat until all dough is used.
12. Bake 8 to 10 minutes in a preheated 350-degree oven.
13. Cool slightly before removing from cookie sheet.



<https://wishesndishes.com/groundhog-day-molasses-cookies/>

How Long Does Probate Really Take?

In California Probate can take up to 2 years in some cases, but the average is about 14 months. A lot of things go into why it takes so long, like the county court backlog, the amount of property to be appraised by the probate referee and how long an executor takes to submit paperwork for an accounting. The main thing to remember when facing probate as an executor is to keep it moving forward. This includes talking to your attorney and to your paralegal and answering questions they may have or signing and returning documents. This is the best way to shorten the amount of time probate takes.



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This newsletter is intended to educate the general public about probate, trusts, wills, and other issues. It is for information purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice. Prior to acting on any information contained in this publication, you should consult with experienced, competent counsel regarding your specific situation

Funny Traditions by Rachel Campbell



Valentines Day is a big deal to a lot of people and we love celebrating that holiday! After all, who doesn't like Chocolate! But in our home we also have other traditions. One of those is Ground Hog Day!

My family is from NC and we have cold winters and February is kind of the point it gets coldest before March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb. This gives us the reminder that Winter will end and Spring will bring new flowers and new growth to us all.

In my house we love to celebrate that funny tradition of Ground Hog Day for that reason! We have fun watching the groundhog , that if we did not have this day most of us would not know he existed or what they looked like, and we enjoy the watching our favorite Bill Murray movie of Ground Hog Day then too. It is nice to see something that is familiar and just think for a moment what we would do if we had the same day to relive as many times as we wanted. This funny tradition in our house goes with molasses cookies (to be honest mine don't really often come out looking like the picture, but they taste good so that counts for something!)

Hopefully you and your family find a funny tradition to make part of your year this year. The great part about picking something like this is it is unique to you and your family and creates lots of good memories.