

## Client's Bill of Rights

Lawyers will tell you that it is impossible to offer a guarantee in the legal business. **WRONG!** We say that law firm clients should settle for nothing less! Remember, your attorney works for you – not the other way around.

At Martinson & Beason we believe we can promise our clients quality service with personal attention. We believe that as our client you are entitled to have the:

1. Right to loyalty to you and your cause.
2. Right to be updated regularly and in a timely manner as to the progress of your case.
3. Right to our respect.
4. Right to expect competence from our firm and all who work here.
5. Right to know the truth about your case.
6. Right to prompt attention from us.
7. Right to have your legal rights and options explained in plain English without legal mumbo jumbo.
8. Right to a fair written fee agreement with our firm.
9. Right to a fair fee for the work we do.
10. Right to make the ultimate decision on your case.



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# MESSAGE & BULLETIN

A Newsletter from Martinson & Beason, P.C., Attorneys at Law

Summer 2020

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M&B is a full service law firm that has attorneys who specialize in the following areas:

- Serious Personal Injury
- Car, Truck & Motorcycle Accidents
- Wrongful Death
- Breach of Contract & Fraud
- Probate, Estates & Trusts
- Real Estate Transactions
- Business Law
- Criminal Domestic Relations

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Phones answered 24 hrs.

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Call or visit  
martinsonandbeason.com  
and enter your questions.  
You will get confidential answers  
from an attorney  
with no obligation.



## Estate Planning at Home

Estate planning is something many people would rather not talk about. We realize it's a task we need to take care of eventually, but an estate plan is something that's easy to put off when it comes time to prepare one. In fact, only 44% of Americans have a will in place, according to a 2016 Gallup Poll survey.

While it's uncomfortable to consider our own mortality, it's necessary to have a plan to guide or protect our families. This is the time to take action. Now that we're in the middle of a pandemic, many of us are working from home and concerns about our wellbeing are top of mind.

It might be tempting to go about your estate planning alone. In recent years, a number of do-it-yourself ("DIY") estate planning tools and services have emerged. The process seems easy enough, and you can save money by downloading a few forms online and handling it yourself.

However, estate planning is harder than it looks and even the tiniest mistake can lead to unintended problems. These consequences often won't be discovered until it's too late. While a DIY estate planning document can sometimes be, at the very least, better than nothing at all, it's worth it for yourself and your family to consider getting an attorney.

### HERE'S WHY YOU SHOULDN'T GO IT ALONE:

#### Documents are filled with legalese

If someone isn't familiar with legal terms, this can cause a lot of confusion and lead them to do something they hadn't intended. For example, a "durable power of attorney," is a document that gives another person the power to handle your finances if you're unable to do so yourself. Yet the person you name power of attorney could steal from you if they aren't trustworthy.

#### Documents need to be executed correctly

The requirements for executing documents vary from state to state, which makes it harder for individuals to DIY their estate plans. Beyond that, certain documents may need to only be signed; others may need to have one or more witnesses to your signature. The problem is your will may be rendered invalid if this isn't executed properly, thus undoing all of your planning.



### Estate planning forms are complicated

One question answered incorrectly can cause major problems in the future. A survey by LegalZoom, provider of DIY documents, found that a staggering 75% of married couples lack a legal document that names a guardian for their children. What happens if a couple passes away before their children reach adult age? A court, not the family, will have the power to appoint a guardian for their children.

### Wills and other documents can have holes

A lawyer can help you realistically plan for circumstances you might not have considered had you written the will by yourself. What happens if you get a divorce? What happens if you get more grandchildren? If you don't consider these factors, your will could have holes that can cause errors or disputes later.

In order to save money when planning your estate, make sure that you discuss the costs in advance with an attorney and determine which services you truly need. No matter which route you go with, it's important that you update your estate plan every two to three years, or at least after major life events like getting married, having children, a divorce, or buying a home.

In these difficult times, our experienced estate planning and probate lawyers are embracing new tools and technology to ensure you have the best possible experience. Initial consultations are now available via telephone or videoconference and we are constantly sanitizing to ensure your safety. We are also able to notarize Wills and estate planning documents through videoconference per the Governor's proclamation.

## Welcome the Newest Additions to the M&B Team

Please help us welcome the newest members of the growing M&B family. Congratulations to paralegal Stephanie Nunez and husband Danny on the arrival of Liam and Derek. See how quickly they've grown in the last three months!



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BBB Rating: A+



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Alabama Bar Association rules require the following disclaimer: "No representation is made that the quality of legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers."



## A string of white gloves hanging on a teal background. A central white card with a red clip at the top reads "Thank you!" in handwritten black ink. The card is flanked by pairs of white gloves hanging from a black string with wooden clothespins.

If you'd like to get involved, consider a monetary donation to the Huntsville Hospital Foundation, donation of medical protective supplies and equipment to the North Alabama Medical Center. You can also sponsor a meal from a local restaurant open for curbside pick-up and to-go orders. If you are not in the North Alabama community, consider making a donation to your local hospital or these national organizations: American Red Cross, UNICEF, and Direct Relief.

The image displays the Zantac 150 Maximum Strength product. It includes a blue and white box with the text 'MAXIMUM STRENGTH Zantac 150' and 'ranitidine tablets (150 mg) Quick Relief'. In front of the box is a blister pack containing 24 tablets, with the text 'ranitidine HCL 150 mg' visible. Two individual tablets are shown separately, one white and one orange, both with the Zantac logo.

If you or your loved one have been diagnosed with cancer as a result of taking ranitidine products or Zantac, please call us today at (256) 533-1667. During your free consultation, we'll let you know all of your options and give you the guidance you need.

3M COMBAT ARMS™  
EARPLUGS LAWSUIT

Our military deserves the best safety equipment possible. M&B is honored to represent veterans who have suffered hearing loss and tinnitus due to the defectively designed 3M ear plugs. If you suffered hearing loss or tinnitus as a result of defective Combat Arms™ earplugs, it is important that you speak to an experienced Martinson & Beason personal injury lawyer as quickly as possible. Contact us today for a free consultation.

Toss all ingredients together in a large bowl.  
Season with salt and pepper and enjoy!

