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
- 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.





Martinson & Beason

Attorneys at Law 115 North Side Square Huntsville, AL, 35801 www.martinsonandbeason.com







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









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-ityourself ("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 legaleses

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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Thank You to The Heroes Fighting the COVID-19 Pandemic



The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our lives in ways that we couldn't have imagined just a few short months ago. It's proven to be challenging for everyone. With statistics changing and the discovery of new information daily, this time has been filled with great uncertainty.

Currently, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) maintains that limiting close face-to-face contact with others is the best way to reduce the spread of COVID-19. While the risk of severe illness may be different for everyone, anyone can catch and spread the virus. We all have a role in slowing the spread and protecting ourselves, our families, and our communities.

Thankfully, these guidelines ensure a majority of us will never come in close proximity to the disease, but this is not a reality for essential workers. They've been putting themselves at risk daily to ensure the well-being of the general public.

Our healthcare and public safety personnel, law enforcement, first responders, grocery store and pharmacy workers, are just a few of the unsung heroes working tirelessly to support our society during this time. By showing up day in and day out these individuals have maintained our safe streets, kept our shelves stocked, and allowed for an increase in disease testing.

As these individuals are working on the front lines to protect us and take care of those in need, we want to let them know that we support them and extend our thanks.

As a small token of our appreciation, we sponsored dinner from Zoe's Kitchen for the ER night staff at Huntsville Hospital on April 3, 2020. We're honored to extend gratitude in this small way to those making a difference during this trying time. We also challenge you to find small ways of expressing your gratitude for essential personnel during this time. Thank you to all of those who are working to keep us safe.

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.

What You Should Know About The FDA Recall of Zantac

When your doctor prescribes or recommends that you take a medication, you expect it to be safe. You fairly expect that the medication will treat or cure your illness, not injure you further. That's why being harmed by a medication is devastating.



What was supposed to rid you of your illness has only caused

further ailments. When you're now dealing with not only the original illness, but also a new ailment, it can turn into a frustrating, frightening, and difficult experience.

If you or a loved one has taken Zantac (Ranitidine) and has been diagnosed with cancer, you are not alone.

Ranitidine is found in over-the-counter and prescription medications often used to cure digestive health ailments. Over-the-counter ranitidine has been commonly used for over 30 years to relieve or prevent heartburn, while prescription-strength ranitidine is used to treat or prevent more serious issues such as ulcers in the stomach or intestines.

On April 1, 2020, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released a statement requesting that all manufacturers withdraw Zantac and ranitidine products immediately. The FDA Zantac recall includes both prescriptions and over-the-counter Zantac and ranitidine products.

This comes just months after the FDA announced that it found the levels of NDMA in ranitidine products to be above the acceptable daily limit. N-nitrosodimethylamine or NDMA is a known carcinogen that has been investigated by other organizations such as the World Health

In the ongoing FDA investigation, the FDA has determined that the levels of NDMA contaminant in the medication increase over time and when stored at higher-than-normal temperatures, pose a grave risk to human health. Sustained high levels of exposure to NDMA from ranitidine products has been linked to certain types of cancers.

NDMA exposure from ranitidine products has been linked to cancers such as:

• Prostate Cancer

• Stomach Cancer

• Testicular Cancer

• Thyroid Cancer

• Uterine Cancer

• Small Intestine Cancer

- Bladder Cancer
- Breast Cancer
- Liver Cancer
- Lung Cancer
- Blood/Leukemia Cancer Multiple Myeloma
- Colorectal Cancer
- Esophageal Cancer
- Kidney Cancer
- Pancreatic Cancer
- Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (NHL)

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 Defective Combat ArmsTM Earplugs Lawsuit



In July 2018, The U.S. Department of Justice announced that Minnesota-based company 3M agreed to resolve claims that they knowingly sold dual-ended Combat ArmsTM Earplugs, Version 2 to the U.S. military through a \$9.1 million settlement.

3M and its predecessor company, Aearo Technologies, were allegedly aware of the earplug defects as early as 2000. Yet they continued to sell the Combat Arms™ earplugs through 2015. In fact, 3M was the exclusive provider of selective attenuation ear plugs sold to the military.

The defective earplugs are dual-ended. In theory, this means the earplugs can be used on one end as traditional earplugs or flipped to the "open" positions. It's supposed to allow explosion sounds to be attenuated, while still letting quieter sounds be heard.

Unfortunately, as the Combat Arms™ earplugs loosened in the wearers' ears, loud noises such

as explosions and weapon fire were no longer being blocked out, resulting in hearing damage and tinnitus for many.

Soldiers were issued the earplugs despite the fact that the dual-ended earplugs were too short for proper insertion. This defect meant the earplugs could loosen in the users' ears, potentially resulting in serious, even permanent hearing loss or tinnitus (ringing in the ears).

What's more, 3M and Aearo are also charged with manipulating test results to ensure their earplugs would meet government standards and they would be awarded the lucrative government earplug contract.

Statute of Limitations for a Combat ArmsTM Earplugs Injury Lawsuit

The statutes of limitations govern the amount of time in which you have to file a personal injury lawsuit. These statutes vary from state to state and each situation. In some cases, the statutes of limitations offer a narrow window of opportunity to recover losses associated with using Combat ArmsTM earplugs.

These time constraints make it extremely important to act quickly. Soldiers who now suffer from hearing loss or tinnitus from using the defective earplugs should speak to a defective military earplugs attorney as quickly as possible.

If you served in the U.S. military between 2003 and 2015 and used 3M earplugs, you may be entitled to compensation. Those who believe they have suffered serious injury, including partial hearing loss, total hearing loss and tinnitus, as a result of using the defective Combat Arms™ earplugs could be eligible for a Combat ArmsTM earplugs lawsuit.

Service members who served between 2003 and 2015, then suffering from hearing loss or tinnitus, could now file a lawsuit related to the design defects associated with the Combat Arms[™] earplugs.

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 ArmsTM 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.

Summer Corn Salad By: Sylvia Tiggs

Ingredients:

4 cups of fresh or frozen corn (defrosted)

1 cup of cherry tomatoes (halved) 1/3 cup of crumbled feta cheese 1/4 cup of red onion (finely chopped) 1/4 cup of basil (thinly sliced)

3 tsp. extra-virgin olive oil Juice of 1 lime Kosher salt to taste Ground black pepper

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