

**May/June 2007** Newsletter for our Clients & Friends  
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*“A cynic is a man who, when he smells flowers, looks around for a coffin.” – H. L. Mencken*

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**Visit my new blog: Oklahoma Legal Help Blog---** for helpful and interesting articles relating to legal situations and how they affect you. You can either get there by going to [www.oklahomalegalhelpblog.com](http://www.oklahomalegalhelpblog.com) or going to my website [www.edmondgeary.com](http://www.edmondgeary.com) and clicking on the link on the left side of the home page that says Oklahoma Legal Help Blog

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### ***May and June Celebrates Mother’s Day and Father’s Day***

If you were asked to guess which came first, you would probably guess correctly—that the establishment of Mother’s Day as a holiday came before the establishment of Father’s Day. But did you know that the custom of celebrating mothers has been around at least as far back as the 17th Century in England, where they continue to celebrate Mothering Sunday?

In the United States, Mother’s Day originated in 1872 with Julia Ward Howe, who wrote the “Battle Hymn of the Republic”. Then in 1911 President Woodrow Wilson made it a national holiday.

Over the Internet, people were asked, “What’s your favorite motherly advice?” among the following choices:

1. Don’t stand on a swivel chair
2. Mind your manners
3. Always wear clean underwear, in case you’re in an accident
4. You can’t regret what you don’t say.
5. Don’t put that in your mouth. You don’t know where it’s been.

Out of 1501 people responding, the most chosen answer was #5 – Don’t put that in your mouth. You don’t know where it’s been --- with 28% choosing that answer. Answer # 3 – Always wear clean underwear was a close second with 27%, followed by #2 – Mind your manners with 23%. The fourth answer was chosen by 18% and #1 received only 4%.

In contrast to the older tradition of honoring mothers, the first U.S. organized Father’s Day celebration was in 1910, when Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington organized a state supported

celebration for her father's birthday. Her father was a farmer and Civil War veteran, and had been a single parent to six young children following the death of his wife. There were plans for a national Father's Day in the 1920's but it was not until 1966, when President Lyndon Johnson proclaimed Father's Day to be an official national holiday.

Last year 60% of consumers bought cards for Father's Day, and the most popular gift was apparel, then dinner, followed by such items as sporting goods, home improvement items and electronics.

## **Paris Hilton's Continuing Jail Saga & a Comparison to What Might Happen In Oklahoma**

If you've been following the Paris Hilton drama you probably know that she was sent back to jail after the sheriff initially released her after serving 4 days of her 45 day sentence. She was originally given 36 months of probation plus a fine and alcohol education for DUI. She was later stopped twice for driving with a suspended license and she failed to go to the alcohol education classes.

The initial early release from her 45 day sentence brought an outcry from citizens and the media who believed she shouldn't be set free after such a short period of time, which amounted to only 10% of her sentence.

After the judge emphatically indicated that no house arrest or electronic monitoring "ankle bracelet" situation should be allowed, the Los Angeles County Sheriff released her to house arrest— due to some undisclosed "medical condition".

The judge and prosecutors were outraged at this action. Consequently, the city attorney filed a petition urging that Paris be returned to jail and to hold the sheriff in contempt of court. Paris was sent back to court and ordered to return to jail to continue her 45 day sentence, with an expected 23 actual number of days to be served.

Then, an interesting development occurred after Paris went back to jail. A news article was written by the Los Angeles Times, which gathered records over the last seven years from the Sheriff's office concerning people sentenced to jail for driving with a suspended license in

violation of DUI probation. Their study showed that showed that prior to July 1, 2002 only 22% of those sentenced for similar situations were released during the first 5 days of the sentence. However, in the years following July 1, 2002, when the sheriff initiated an early release program, 59% of those with similar cases and sentences were released within the first 5 days.

Therefore, instead of Paris getting preferential treatment because of her celebrity status (as most people believed was happening when the Sheriff released her after 4 days) she is actually expecting to serve more time than the average person would. In fact, the LA Times indicated that if she serves 23 days that would be the amount of time those charged with more serious crimes such as burglary, assault, and theft normally serve.

Obviously, her past behavior, including showing up late for court, and saying she didn't know her license was suspended (although when she was stopped while driving with a suspended license, the law enforcement officer specifically made her initial the citation, indicating she knew her license was suspended) didn't sit well with the judge. Consequently, he took those things into consideration when assigning the sentence.

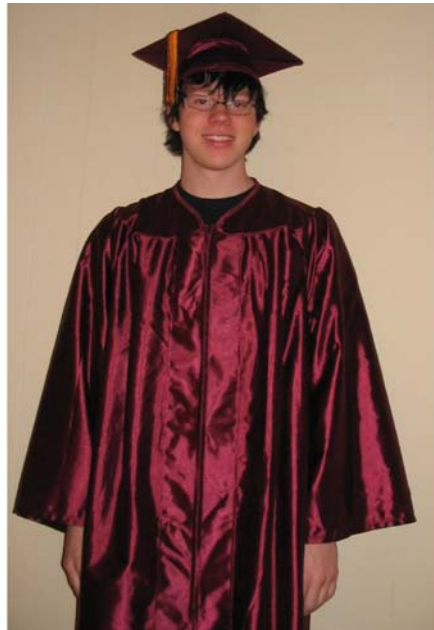
If a similar situation had occurred with an average citizen in Oklahoma, it wouldn't be unusual for the judge to issue a 45 day sentence. But it would be unusual for that person to only serve 10% of their sentence, which apparently is the norm in Los Angeles.

While I don't have access to our county sheriff's records, my personal experience is that most people in Oklahoma would serve at least 50% of their sentence ---instead of Los Angeles' average of 10%.

Therefore, I'm struck, not by the earlier appearance of initially giving a celebrity preferential treatment.....but by apparent preferential treatment for people convicted of crimes in Los Angeles as compared to those convicted in Oklahoma. It seems that justice is not equal in our country and that someone who is convicted in Los Angeles has a much easier time than someone convicted in Oklahoma. That doesn't seem right but, unfortunately it is reality.

Consequently, it's even more important that someone charged with a crime in Oklahoma get the best legal representation they can, as the stakes are higher and the punishment is greater here. So, if you or a loved one finds yourself charged with a DUI, or other crime you should go to my web site at [www.edmondgeary.com](http://www.edmondgeary.com) to find out how to choose the right lawyer.

By the way, I'm curious what Oklahomans think about how Paris is being treated – whether you think she should serve out her sentence or whether you think she should have been released to house arrest. **If you have an opinion I invite you to share it with others on my blog at [www.oklahomalegalhelpblog.com](http://www.oklahomalegalhelpblog.com)**



### *My High School Graduate Son, Ryan*

### *How to Stay Safe at all those Outdoor Celebrations in May and June*

May and June are full of celebrations for things like Mother's Day, Graduations, Memorial Day, Father's Day, and Weddings. (As you can see above, we just celebrated my son, Ryan's high school graduation & he'll be going off to OU in the fall. Way to go, Ryan!) With the warmer weather, many people celebrate with outdoor barbecues. Each year, however,

about 30 people are injured as a result of liquid petroleum gas or propane gas grill fires and explosions. To keep you and your family and friends safe here are some safety tips from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

- Check the tubes leading into the burner for blockage & use a pipe cleaner or wire to clear the blockage
- Examine grill hoses for cracks, brittleness, and leaks and avoid sharp bends in the hose or tubing
- Keep gas hoses as far away as possible from hot surfaces or install a heat shield to protect them.
- Replace scratched or nicked connectors, which may eventually leak gas
- Check for gas leaks. If you find a leak, turn off the gas immediately and get the leak fixed before using again.
- Keep open flames including cigarettes and lit matches away from a leaking grill.
- Don't attempt to make repairs yourself. Use a qualified repairperson.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions
- Never use a grill indoors, in a garage, or under a surface that can catch fire.

Also, every year about 30 people die and 100 are injured as a result of carbon monoxide fumes from charcoal grills and hibachis used inside. These fumes are colorless, odorless gases that can easily accumulate to toxic levels in closed environments. Consequently, charcoal should never be used indoors, even if ventilation is available. Neither should charcoal be used in tents, campers, or vehicles.

### **Court Notes Humor: Incredible but true. These are some of the real-life answers given in the courtroom.**

Q: And where was the location of the accident?

A: Approximately milepost 499.

Q: And where is milepost 499?

A: Probably between milepost 498 and 500.

### **If You're Planning a Move This Summer Get Organized Now** **By Christine Geary, Owner of** **Organized Delight, 405-590-0110**

The best way to reduce the cost and time involved in moving is to plan ahead, keeping in mind this is the best time to get rid of things you really don't use or need any more. After all, when you reduce the weight and volume you reduce the cost of moving. Why pay movers to move the exercise equipment you haven't used for five years, or the toys your kids have outgrown? Here are a few tips:

- Look at your furniture to analyze whether you will need or use all of it before moving. Get rid of worn items that you are about to replace. Things that are custom built to your current home probably won't work in the new place and should probably be left. Measure furniture to insure it will fit in the new location. And, think twice about moving a sofa as it may not be worth the price to move.
- Measure dimensions of drapes and curtains to see if they will fit the new home before packing them up. Chances are windows in the new house will be a different size, meaning you will likely leave the drapes behind as well.
- Go through each room of your home, one room at a time, including garage and attic to throw away trash and damaged items. Usable items that you don't need or want can be given away or sold in yard sales, online, or through consignment stores.

- Begin boxing rarely used (but still needed) items as soon as you know you are moving. Mark the boxes with the room they came from and some of the contents written on the box.

**June Special for my Newsletter Readers**

**Buy 2 Hours of Organizing, Get 2 Hours Free (A \$70.00 Value) ---**

**Sorry, you out-of-towners --this is only for homes in Oklahoma City and Edmond, by appointment --- Call Christine at 405-590-0196 & mention this newsletter.**

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**Did You Know...**

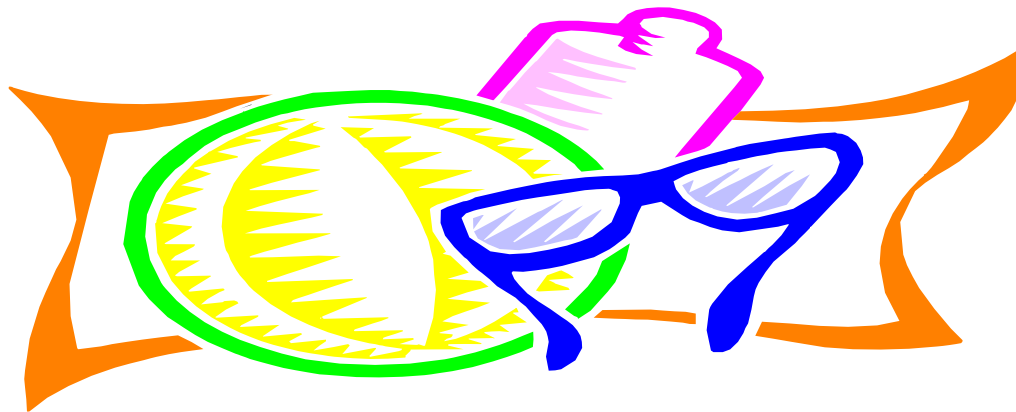
The iron in a human being could make one small nail.

**Welcome To New Clients and Thank You for Referring!**

*I love spending more of my time thinking about your case, various strategies and the best way to educate and help you with your legal matters, rather than spending my time doing TV and radio advertising to bring in new clients. That's why I appreciate your referral of two like- quality individuals who need to talk to a lawyer. Furthermore, I will gift your two referred friends, relatives, neighbors, or peers (not current or past clients) with a \$100 Value Consultation Certificate. Just call the office at 405-728-8223 to make the arrangements.*

**Health Tip Of the Month...**

(These tips are not for everybody and should not be taken as specific recommendations. Before you take any action regarding yours or anyone's health, we strongly suggest you consult a qualified physician – whether your condition is a result of a personal injury caused by someone else & requiring legal help, or due to some other reason!)



**Tanning Beds Aren't Safer than Sunbathing**

It's a mistake to think that getting a tan from tanning beds, rather than the sun, reduces your risk of skin cancer. According to research at Dartmouth Medical School, people who used tanning beds were two and a half times more likely to develop squamous cell carcinoma and one and a half times more likely to develop basal cell carcinoma than those who got their tans from the sun. (And, everyone knows sun

bathing is an unhealthy activity as it definitely increases the risk for skin cancer and causes the skin to wrinkle and age.)

Furthermore, researchers found that younger users of tanning beds were at the greatest risk. The bottom line: Limit your exposure to ultraviolet rays, whatever the source. Moreover, a safer alternative is the spray-on tan or self-tanning lotions.

**Client Quiz!**

**Please enter our Client Quiz. The first person who answers the quiz question correctly will receive a Free Blockbuster certificate. All you need to do is circle the correct answer below and fill out your name and contact information and either fax this to me at 405-840-9467 or mail it to Ed Geary, Attorney at Law, 5601 NW 72<sup>nd</sup>, Suite 178, Oklahoma City, OK 73132 or call in your answer to 728-8223 and leave your name, phone number and time you called.**

**Here's Last Month's Quiz Question and Answer!**

**What lawyer defended thrill killers Richard Loeb and Nathan Leopold?**

- A. F. Lee Bailey**
- B. Clarence Darrow**
- C. Alf Landon**
- D. William Jennings Bryan**

**Correct Answer: B—Clarence Darrow**

**Now Here's This Month's Quiz Question**

**Circle the correct answer below and either fax or mail it as indicated below the address blank.**

**Q. What real life bank robber appeared as a character in the 2000 movie "O Brother, where Art Thou?"**

- A. Willie Sutton**
- B. Baby Face Nelson**
- C. Machine Gun Kelly**
- D. Bugs Moran**

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Phone Number

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City, State & Zip

**"3 Questions You Should Ask Before Hiring a Lawyer Plus 6 TIPS For Getting Higher Settlements in Your Personal Injury Claim and Avoid Paying for Losses that Aren't Your Fault"**

If you or someone you care about happens to be the victim of an accident through someone else's fault you need this information. As I have pointed out in the article in this newsletter, the insurance company who represents the other person at fault is not on your side and is trying to limit the amount paid out. That's why you need to be as informed as possible. Call 405-728-8223 to get a copy of our FREE Report that reveals this critical information

If you would like any additional free reports, or would like some of your friends, co-workers, relatives, business acquaintances, etc. to receive a FREE subscription to this newsletter, please fill out the info on the reply form, and we'll add them to the mailing list. We'll also send them a note with their first issue telling them that you had suggested they receive the newsletter, and to contact us if they would like to stop at any time. If you enjoy this newsletter, why not share it for FREE with people you know, with no hassle for you!

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**PLEASE FAX THIS FORM BACK TO US ANY TIME: 405-840-9467, OR MAIL IT BACK TO:  
Ed Geary, Attorney at Law, 5601 NW 72<sup>nd</sup>, Suite 178, Oklahoma City, OK 73132)**

**YES! I'd like more FREE information on the following FREE Reports Available!**

*Call 405-728-8223, or Fax to 405-840-9467, 24 hrs., To Get Any Of These Free Reports!  
(When leaving a message be sure to indicate which reports you want and where to send them)  
Or Check Off The Ones You Want On This Form And Mail/Fax It In!*

- "Questions You Must Ask Before Hiring Any Lawyer"
- "How to Protect Your Rights if the Unexpected Happens & You are stopped or Arrested; & Avoid DUI Guidelines" Glove Box/Wallet or Purse Mini Guide (Remember to get some for your friends and loved ones –so tell us or indicate how many of these you want)
- "The TRUTH About The Financial Loss Caused By Long Term Care"
- "10 Common Estate Planning Disasters (And How to Avoid Them)"
  
- Please contact me to set up a consultation regarding the following legal matter: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Best time to Contact \_\_\_\_\_

- Please add a FREE subscription to your monthly newsletter for the following people. I understand you will send them a note explaining I suggested they get this FREE subscription, and that all they have to do is contact us if they wish to cancel.

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please use additional paper if necessary! Thanks, and don't forget to send in your Client Quiz answers to win a FREE Blockbuster certificate

