



**Fall 2007** Newsletter for our Clients & Friends |  
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*“Have patience with all things but first with yourself. Never confuse your mistakes with your value as a human being.” St. Francis de Sales*

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**Visit my 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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## **Traditions of Jack-O'-Lanterns and Halloween**

Our celebration of Halloween is rooted in the past centuries to the Christian “All Saints Day. It began as “All Hallows Eve”, the evening before All Hallows Day, later called All Saints’ Day. In 837 the Catholic church established All Saints’ Day as November 1<sup>st</sup>, thereby establishing October 31 as “All Hallows Eve”.... eventually shortened to the term, Halloween. In addition to these Christian roots

customs from Samhain, a pagan Celtic festival celebrating the start of winter, have been intermixed with the celebration. Despite the ancient roots, Halloween, as a holiday in America, wasn't observed much until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

However, the practice of carving pumpkins or gourds and using them as lanterns was common long before it became connected with Halloween. For instance, in 1850, John Greenleaf Whittier, poet, wrote "The Pumpkin", in which he wrote "When wild, ugly faces we carved in its skin, Glaring out through the dark with a candle within!" The term "Jack-o'-lantern" is believed to have begun as a nickname for a night watchman, back in 1663 and during the 19<sup>th</sup> century began to be used for pumpkin lanterns.

Another explanation for the term stems from an Irish legend about a miserly man named Jack, who tricked the devil into agreeing not to take him into Hell. However, when Jack died, St. Peter would not let him in heaven so Jack was left to wander back and forth between Heaven and Hell with his lantern, never to find a place to rest.

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## Legal Story of the Month---

### "Scary" Court Ruling

#### **Federal agents Are Allowed to Monitor Citizens' web site surfing and emailing even Without Search Warrants**

Think the web sites you visit and the people you send to and receive email from is private? Well, think again. Recently, a federal appeals court ruled that federal agents didn't need a search warrant to find out such information.

This ruling came from a case involving an Escondido, California drug lab. In this case, Dennis Alba was convicted of leading a drug ring that the authorities said was the largest Ecstasy operation they had seen, producing 1.5million pills a month and an estimated \$10 million a month in net profits.

Federal agents began to research Alba's web and email activity in May 2001. Based on that information they obtained a search warrant to investigate the case further. Alba's attorney

objected to the tactics but the trial judge denied his objection. The case went to a federal appeals court, which also upheld the decision

The appeals court ruled that individuals have no expectation of privacy when it comes to email addresses or web site addresses they visit because they should know all their communications are going through the user's Internet service provider.

In the article I read, a law professor at the University of San Diego School of Law, Shaun Martin, commented on the problems with this ruling, pointing out that the government can obtain this information from Internet service companies about anyone including you and me, even if we're not suspected of a crime....and

without a warrant.

The obvious problem with the ruling is that most people probably expect they are sending emails and visiting web sites in private, without the Internet service company giving that information to others, including the government. It's one thing to know your employer can monitor your Internet activity ...after all, if you're surfing the net on their computers on their time--- they are paying you to do their work and they have a right to know what you're doing on company time.

But, who says the government should be able to watch your Internet activity without any

probable cause?

That's why this is a scary ruling because it can lead to more surveillance by police and authorities, invading individuals' privacy on the Internet ---without any checks and balances.

I felt this was something I wanted you to know about so you can be forewarned. Of course, if you find yourself in any legal dilemma don't put off calling me so I can begin to help you minimize legal problems and get on with your life.

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*“The short fortune teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large”-- byUnknown*

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

Q: She had three children, right?

A: Yes.

Q: How many were boys?

A: None

Q: Were there any girls?

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**Who Else Wants More Cheer  
During the Holidays?**

**By Christine Geary, Owner of  
Organized Delight, 405-590-0110**

Getting ready for the holidays can be a stressful time. However, just by taking some time before they arrive to prepare your home for guests can make things much more peaceful when the holidays do arrive. Decluttering your house now (before the holiday rush) - or at least rooms that will be the most trafficked by guests – can make you feel more comfortable and at ease while you are entertaining. It will

also be easier to do holiday decorating when your home is organized and you know where essential possessions are.

It is important to prioritize your time spent decluttering (especially if you, like most, are very busy). Certain areas, such as the coat closet, kitchen, family/living room, bathroom, or guest room (if you have guests staying over) are high priority, since they will be getting the most use and are the most visible to your guests.

Once you have prioritized, you can start the organizing process. Begin by going through things in the highest priority space. Is it something you love and use often? You definitely want to keep that! If it's something you didn't even know was there or is covered in dust, chances are that you can live without it. If it is in good condition, it can be given to a charity, or sold at a garage sale or on ebay. If it is torn up, stained, or broken it should be thrown away.

If you don't have a large amount of time one day, you can set aside a small amount of time each day to work on the project. Finish one space before moving on to another, that way you can see the results and feel a sense of accomplishment at what you've done.

Once you have finished clearing your spaces of clutter, you will be proud to show off your beautiful, clutter-free areas to guests. This will fill you with plenty of holiday cheer! Also, you won't be worrying that someone will notice that the closet is about to explode with all of the junk you shoved in there to get it out of the way!

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## **Did You Know...**

That in McKinney, Texas on Oct 15, 1966, it was reported that a 75 year old male driver received 10 traffic tickets, drove on the wrong side of the road 4 times, committed 4 hit and run offenses and caused 6 accidents, all within 20 minutes? --- What an example of someone finding himself in a legal mess in a very short period of time!

## **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!)



### Exercise for Weak Backs

Many people have weak back muscles or have injured their back and wonder if a back exercise for their back can help them feel better. Luckily, if done properly, there are back exercises for the pain in your back. Oddly enough, if you have lower back pain, an ab exercise will help give your lower back muscles the strength and tone to support your weight.

Begin by lying on your back and tightening your stomach as if you were tucking in your shirt; hold this position for a few seconds and repeat. Your stomach should pull in and be tight. Because of how your muscles are tied together, this ab exercise causes the muscles in your lower back to tighten, allowing them to become more toned.

If you have severe back problems, you may need to roll up a towel and place it under your back for additional support. Depending on the condition of your back, you may want to start slow and only do one set of ten. However, eventually you will want to begin tightening your stomach in this manner and doing crunches, but not sit-ups. Many people find it helpful to place an ice pack under their back when they finish with this ab exercise for relaxation and to relieve potential inflammation. **Of course, you should always check with your physician before initiating any exercise program to make sure it's safe for you and your situation.**

**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!**

**Q. How many changes or amendments are there to the US Constitution?**

- A. 27**
- B. 13**
- C. 9**
- D. 33**

**Correct Answer: A**

**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. Arlo Guthrie was accused of what crime in his autobiographical son "Alice's Restaurant?"**

- A. Speeding**
- B. Littering**
- C. Breaking and entering**
- D. Drug possession**

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Name

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Phone Number

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Street Address

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City, State & Zip

<p><b>"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"</b></p>
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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: \_\_\_\_\_

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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



