

# LAW OFFICES OF SAMUEL Z. BROWN, P.C.

*July 2006 Newsletter*

## FOCUSING ON YOU

This month we are Focusing on *You and Your Estate Plan*. Have you...

- Recently been married or divorced?
- Had a new baby or adopted a child?
- Moved from a different state to NJ?
- Acquired or sold valuable property?
- Had a named heir in your Will pass away?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you should contact Christine O'Donnell, Chair of our Elder Law Department for a free consultation. These, and additional reasons, may require changes to your current estate planning documents.

## WEIRD LAWS

Did you know that in *New Jersey*...

It is against the law for a man to knit during the fishing season.

Did you know that in *Pennsylvania*...

A special cleaning ordinance bans housewives from hiding dirt and dust under a rug in a dwelling.

Did you know that in *New York*...

The penalty for jumping off a building is death.

It not only happens in our legislature, but our court rooms, as well. Check out this legal opinion...

In *Pennsylvania v. Noel*, the Judge had the following poetry to offer the litigants:

*horse is a horse, of course, of course, but the Vehicle Code does not divorce its application from, perforce, a steed, as my colleagues said. "It's not vague" I'll say until I'm hoarse, and whether a car, a truck or horse this law applies with equal force, and I'd reverse instead.*

For more strange laws ... and poetry from PA's Judge Michael Eakin visit [www.lahaha.com](http://www.lahaha.com).

## LET'S TALK ABOUT...

Property Liability. Are backyard trampolines fun or dangerous? Surprisingly, they can be both. With summer here, this is an outdoor activity that your children may enjoy. But, you should take some extra precautions before you allow your children and others to use it.

Make yourself aware of the following guidelines set forth by the Consumer Product Safety Commission:

- Padding should completely cover metal hooks, frame and springs on the trampoline
- Trampolines over 20 inches high are not recommended for children under 6 years old.
- Ladders can not be sold with trampolines to prevent access by smaller children.
- Only allow one person to jump on the trampoline at a time and warn children against doing somersaults on the trampoline.

Follow these few simple guidelines to make sure that your children's outdoor play time is both fun and safe!

## LEGAL HEADLINES

How high should punitive damages be? The US Supreme Court will make a decision this fall when it reviews a \$79.5 million verdict against Philip Morris USA for the death of a single Oregon smoker. Note that the original judgment was for \$150 million!

Think your legal bill is high? Think again. A NY bankruptcy judge approved \$41.4 million in expenses and legal fees for services provided by Delta Air Lines lawyers during the first 4.5 months of the company's Chapter 11 case. It is estimated that fees and expenses could reach \$206 million until Delta exits bankruptcy.

Ever find something weird in your food? An Illinois man is suing Kraft Foods for approximately \$55,000 over a "non-human" tooth that he allegedly found in a package of Planters peanuts.