

legal lines

from
MOORE, SUSLER, McNUTT & WRIGLEY
Lawyers

More About Our Children...

Our prior newsletter concerning the treatment of juveniles charged with committing a crime may have been confusing regarding the ages at which a child may be prosecuted as an adult under the criminal laws of the state rather than as a juvenile.

A child under the age of 13 cannot be convicted of a crime and, therefore, is always treated as a juvenile. At age 17 a person is always prosecuted as an adult and never as a juvenile. Between the ages of 13 and 17 a child is prosecuted for the commission of a crime as a juvenile unless the state's attorney asks the court for permission to proceed under the criminal laws of the state and the court grants permission.

In addition to drinking, mentioned in our last Legal Lines, there are at least three other areas where age 18 isn't the "home-free" age:

1. Uniform Transfers to Minors where one makes a gift of money or other assets to a minor. These don't terminate and become completed until the receiver of the gift attains age 21.
2. In or after a marriage dissolution, parents may continue to be held liable for all the expenses of educating their post-18 children.
3. The Illinois Department of Public Aid can continue to seek payment from parents for care expenses paid by the Department for their children still living at home, until age 21.

We apologize for any confusion caused by the first article.

Need A Speaker?

Our lawyers are no different from any others – they love to talk. If you have, or if someone you know has, the responsibility for providing speakers to groups of any age, we are available, and it's free.

If any of the following titles pique your interest, call for **Dan Moore**:

- Aging Gratefully—a financially and physically universal desire
- Living Trusts—they do more than avoid probate
- Getting the most out of your doctor and lawyer visits
- The 1995 White House Conference on Aging—a delegate's view
- Your best and cheapest health care provider—YOU!
- Planning against Frailty—the care alternatives and financing them.

If sexual harassment, discrimination in employment, the mechanics of a lawsuit, alternative dispute resolution or the pitfalls of buying or selling a home interest you, call **Marshall Susler**.

Among other things, Bill McNutt is ready to talk to your group on a poorly understood, but often encountered law—the Illinois Mechanics Lien.

If your group would be interested in family law, criminal law or juvenile law, **Bob Wrigley** can provide some interesting enlightenment.

Finally, among the topics **Karen Root** would speak on are "Our Top Ten Tips for the Worker's Compensation Claimant" and current legal issues affecting primarily women.

Announcing

a seminar



Preserving Personal Independence

Saturday, April 26
1:00 to 4:30 PM

Area professionals in the fields of health care, insurance and law will be speaking on topics of interest to seniors who are enjoying their independence and to those who are now, or may in the future be, helping frail older persons.

Additional information on this seminar we are sponsoring will be published in our April newsletter or may be obtained by calling our office at 872-1600.

McNutt Elected to Noon Kiwanis Presidency

Partner Bill McNutt serves as 1996-97 President of the Noon Kiwanis Club. Bill's very active community service includes past presidencies of Webster-Cantrell Hall and the Lincoln Trails Council of the Boy Scouts of America as well as participation in many church-related committees and functions. Bill is also a charter member and active participant in the Decatur Area Labor-Management Committee as well as historian for the Decatur Bar Association.

Introducing Karen Root

Please join us in welcoming Karen Root as our new associate. Karen graduated with honors from Sangamon State University with a B.A. in English and received her juris doctor from the University of Illinois College of Law. She took the bar exam in July, passed, and was sworn in before the Illinois Supreme Court on November 7, 1996. Those are the facts, but we thought it would be more interesting for Karen to fill in the details herself...



Moore Receives Two State Appointments

As a result of his chairmanship of the Illinois State Bar Association Elder Law Section Council, partner Dan Moore has been asked by Illinois Attorney General Jim Ryan to serve on his Vulnerable Adults Act Committee, studying this proposed legislation. Other committee members include the directors of the Department on Aging, the Department of Mental Health and Development Disabilities, the Department of Public Health and the Department of Rehabilitate Services.

In December, Moore received appointment from Governor Jim Edgar to the State's Council on Aging. This group, which is advisory to the Illinois Department on Aging, is composed of twenty-three citizen members and eight from the Illinois General Assembly.

Moore anticipates that both of these new appointments to serve at the state level in senior issues will enhance his ability to serve as an elder law attorney.

In the immortal words of Confucius, *the longest journey begins with a single step*, and no one knows the truth of that more than I. Finally, after seven years of school, thousands of hours studying, hundreds of hours driving to distant campuses, countless missteps and disappointments, and the most grueling two days of bar examinations anyone should ever have to face, I can finally say I reached the end of the road. And the funny thing is, the journey was the best part.

Because I continued to work as a paralegal at the office, many of you loyal friends kept pace with me along the way. To those of you who (on more than one occasion) gave me a "thumbs-up," an encouraging word or simply understood my slow response time to your needs, I give my sincere thanks. Believe me, there were times when the end result did not seem to justify the means but because so many of you had faith in my abilities, I felt the least I could do was see it through. So, in essence, any accomplishments I achieved are yours as well, and you are to be congratulated for your patience and support.

If my success does nothing else, I hope it will inspire others to examine their own lives and accept the challenge of going beyond what is expected. I may have earned the title "attorney" but I gained an even more valuable insight—belief in the indomitable spirit of man (and woman) kind. I started this adventure at the ripe old age of 33 and initially saw that as a disadvantage. Little did I know how those extra years of experience could work for me, rather than against me. I did not take the minor setbacks as seriously as did my younger colleagues so I could help them through the rough spots. Because I still had both work and family obligations that could not be delegated, I was forced to apply all those organizational skills I possessed, but never used. And most important, I took real pleasure in discovering facts and studying theories that would have seemed boring and useless had I been exposed to them earlier in my youth.

Life has a way of sneaking up on you and before you know it, a good part is already gone. Becoming a student again taught me to focus on the moment, live it to the fullest and savor what I retained. As a result, I can honestly say that (despite the moans and groans you may have occasionally heard) I had a wonderful time during my seven year trek, and I heartily recommend it for each and every one of you. I am certainly not suggesting that everyone go to law school (then you wouldn't need us!) but decide what does interest you and set your sights on a goal. The important thing is to start somewhere, and don't ever, ever give up!

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