



Compassionate Advocates for the Injured and Disabled

# The Christie Report

Social Security Disability — Car Accidents—Nursing Home/Medical Malpractice

March/April 2011

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If you prefer to receive updates from us via email, please send your email address to us at:

[Donna@SharonChristieLaw.com](mailto:Donna@SharonChristieLaw.com)

If you wish to be added to or removed from our mailing list, please call: 800-681-9821

## Happy Spring!

As I write this message it is still cold and very windy. I can't wait for SPRING!! Spring is the time of year when everything seems fresh and I feel great optimism. This year I am even looking forward to Orioles baseball for the first time in a long time. Now I am not going off the deep end thinking that the Orioles will win the World Series or even the Wild Card. But maybe they will make some progress and win more games than they lose. That would be amazing after 13 losing seasons!



I hope that each of you feels some optimism, too, this Spring. I know that many of you are "waiting" for things to happen in your case. My injury clients may be waiting for an answer from the insurance company or for an expert's opinion or for a trial date. My disability clients may be waiting for a decision on their latest appeal or for a hearing date or for the written decision from the judge. It is so hard to wait. I know because I am waiting for these things to happen, too. But the waiting will come to an end. We will hear from the insurance company or the expert. We will get a trial date or a hearing date. The judge will issue an opinion. And, if you are struggling, there is a light at the end of the tunnel. We will get there with you.



## Thanks for the Referrals

The greatest compliment I can receive is for clients and colleagues to refer new clients. Thank you to everyone who referred clients in January & February:

- |                           |                                |                       |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Brain Injury Assoc. of MD | Sean Gilliam                   | Latonya Harley        |
| Randall Jewell            | Karen Levian, Esquire          | Randy Luttrell        |
| Anthony Miginini, Esquire | Mosaid of Timonium             | Jim Rutledge, Esquire |
| Saiontz & Kirk            | Weinstock, Friedman & Friedman | Irwin Weiss, Esquire  |
| David Zerivitz, Esquire   |                                |                       |



Sunday, March 13th



Sunday, April 24



## I Didn't Apply for Disability—I Thought I'd Get Better

I hear this all the time when I talk to new disability clients and learn that they stopped working several years before they applied for disability. What they did not know at the time was that you can get disability benefits and, if you get better, go back to work! They also did not know that they were potentially losing money because Social Security has a limit on how far back you can get disability benefits. For Social Security disability that limit is one year prior to the date of your application. So, Social Security could find that you stopped working and met all the requirements to be found disabled two years before you filed the application but you will not get two years' worth of back payments, you will only get one year because you delayed filing the application.

In my experience, most people who apply for disability benefits don't want to – they would rather work. But the reality is that they cannot work. Even so, it is too hard for some people to admit to themselves that they can't work. One of the misconceptions that many people have about Social Security disability benefits is that you will stay on those benefits forever. That is not always true. Disability benefits continue until you get better and can return to

work or you reach full retirement age, whichever comes first. Social Security wants you to go back to work if you can. In fact, the budget proposed by the Obama Administration includes a pilot program to make it easier for people receiving disability benefits to try to return to work.

Another misconception is that Social Security disability benefits are only for people with chronic diseases. Again, this is not true. If you have been seriously injured in a car accident, for example, you may spend time in a hospital and a rehabilitation facility and then more time recuperating at home. You may require extended physical, occupational or speech therapy. It may take 12 months or longer to get back on your feet. If you are unable to work for at least 12 consecutive months you may qualify for disability benefits for the period of time that you could not work.

It is important to get the facts! If you need more information about Social Security disability benefits visit my website at [www.SharonChristieLaw.com](http://www.SharonChristieLaw.com) or call my toll free hotline **800-681-9821** to order my

*Unofficial Guide to Social Security Disability Claims.*

*Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.* ~Winston Churchill

*Meetings are held to collect Minutes.* ~ courtesy of Carol Melvin

## The Lighter Side

### In Memorium

One Sunday, the pastor noticed little Alex staring up at the large plaque in the foyer of the church. The plaque was covered with names. The pastor walked up, stood beside the lad and quietly said, "Good morning, Alex."

"Good morning pastor," replied the little fellow. "What is this?"

"Well, son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service."

Little Alex's voice was barely audible when he asked, "Which service . . . the 8:30 or the 10:45?"

### The Bum

A bum asks a well dressed gentleman on the street for two dollars. The gentleman asks, "Are you going to spend it on liquor or gambling?"

"No, sir. I don't drink or gamble."

"You wouldn't waste time and money at a golf course, would you?"

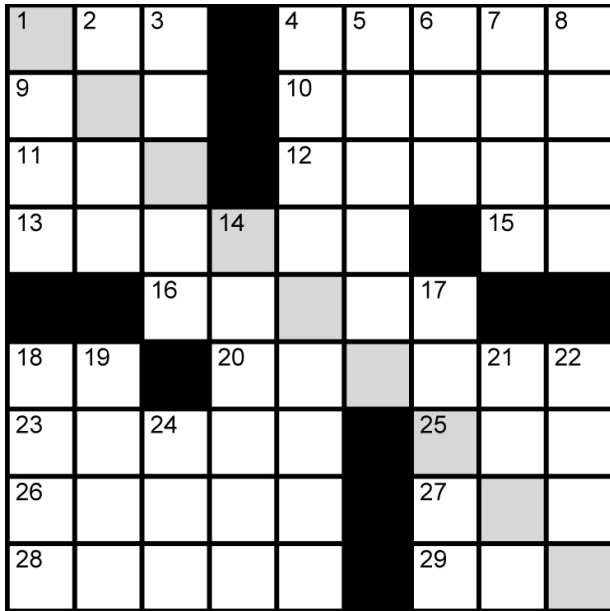
"Never," says the bum.

"Would you like to come home with me for a nice dinner?"

"But won't your wife be angry?"

"Probably, but I want her to see what happens to a guy who doesn't drink, gamble or play golf!"

# Spring Flowers



**Across**

- 1. To and \_\_\_\_
- 4. Earthy deposits containing lime
- 9. Journal
- 10. Otherwise
- 11. Paddle
- 12. Quench
- 13. Magic word
- 15. Hoosier state
- 16. Nutritious beans
- 18. Indefinite article
- 20. Gold, silver, etc.
- 23. Foyer
- 25. "Fat chance!"
- 26. Check recipient
- 27. Junior's junior
- 28. Dig discovery: Var.
- 29. Bikini top

**Down**

- 1. Broadway bomb
- 2. Crowd noise
- 3. Monsters
- 4. Tearful
- 5. Undirected
- 6. Cellular stuff
- 7. Norse deity
- 8. British submachine gun
- 14. Melancholy
- 17. Sir, in India
- 18. "Sound of Music" backdrop
- 19. Wyle of "ER"
- 21. Animal house
- 22. Branch of orthodox Islam
- 24. "Ciao!"



**FREE Seminars**

**- Social Security Disability -**

Sessions Each Month!  
See website for days, times, and locations

**BALTIMORE EVENTS**

**Baltimore Orioles Home Opener**  
April 4 | 3:05pm vs Detroit

**St. Patrick Parade**  
March 13 | 2pm  
Starts at Washington Monument, to Pratt St. and Market Place

**Back to Basics - Free Family Sundays**  
Apr. 3- 24 | 2-5pm  
Baltimore Museum of Art  
10 Art Museum Dr.  
Paint. Sculpt. Draw.  
443-573-1700

**Baltimore in the Civil War**  
Apr. 15 - Dec. 31 | 12 - 5pm  
Fell's Point Visitor Center  
1724 Thames St.  
What really happened in Baltimore during the Civil War?  
410-675-6750 ext. 16



## What to Throw Away- What to Keep

Chances are you're saving more paper than you need to. Here's some advice from Consumer Reports on what to save, where to save it and for how long.

**Keep these in a safety deposit box**

- \* Wills, health care proxy and estate planning documents. Give copies to your executor.
- \* Life insurance policies. Toss only when a term policy expires.
- \* Vehicle titles. Throw them away when you sell the vehicle.
- \* Savings bonds. Save until maturity, then cash them in.

**Keep these papers at home**

- \* Bank deposit slips. Discard after you reconcile your bank statement.
- \* Bank statements. Save with tax returns if they support deductions.

- \* Credit-card bills. Can be discarded after you pay them. Save any that support tax deductions for seven years.
- \* Loan documents: Put discharge papers in a safe-deposit box after they are paid off.
- \* Pay stubs. Discard after you reconcile with your W-2.
- \* Brokerage, retirement and investment statements. Shred quarterly or as new ones arrive. Keep annual statements until you sell the securities.
- \* Household warranties. Discard when they expire but save parts lists and repair instructions.
- \* Social Security statements: Toss when you get a new one.
- \* Tax returns and supporting documents can be discarded after seven years.



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**To receive a FREE copy of**  
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# Sharon A. Christie Law

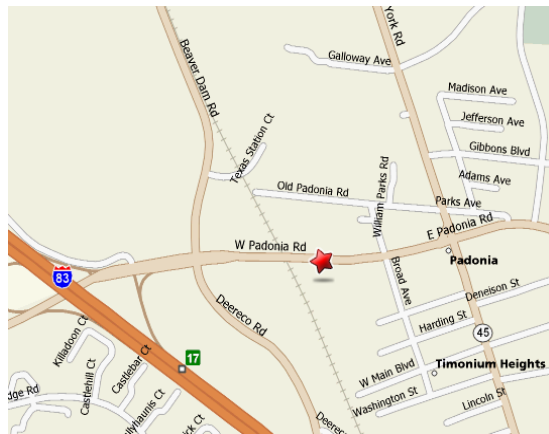
The **Law Office of Sharon A. Christie** helps disabled workers receive the Social Security Disability benefits they deserve. The firm also helps clients who are seriously injured in car accidents, by medical malpractice or who are victims of nursing home abuse get fair compensation for those injuries.

The firm's mission is to fight for the underdog and level the playing field, whether the opponent is the government or an insurance company.

The firm's founder, Sharon A. Christie, is a nurse as well as an attorney.

**Sharon's clients receive the benefit of having their cases handled by a firm that knows the medicine AND the law.**

For more information about the law firm, visit our website at  
[www.SharonChristieLaw.com](http://www.SharonChristieLaw.com).



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<http://twitter.com/sharonchristie>



<http://www.facebook.com/SharonAChristie>

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**Practice Area**  
 Social Security Disability

V	R	B	D	R	E	H	S
I	I	I	E	E	Y	A	P
H	A	H	Y	B	B	O	L
S	L	A	T	E	M	N	A
		S	A	Y	O	S	
N	I		O	T	S	E	P
E	A	K	L	S	R	A	O
O	N	F	I	G	O	L	
S	L	R	M	A	R	O	F