



Compassionate Advocates for the Injured and Disabled

The Christie Report

Social Security Disability

September/October 2011

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If you wish to be added to or removed from our mailing list, please call: 800-218-7062

You Gotta Have Friends

Recently I took a long overdue trip to South Bend, Indiana to visit my dear friend, Barbara. We met on the first day of registration for law school – in August 1983! And we have been the best of friends ever since. We have weathered bad and stormy times (divorce, illness, deaths) and celebrated joyous occasions (weddings, big birthdays, new babies). Through it all, we had each other to lean on.

When we got together it was like we had just seen each other a few days before. Nothing had changed. Well, except our hair is a little grayer and Barbara has 3 grandsons. Luckily, one grandson, Noah, lives in South Bend so I got to visit with him, too. We also visited Notre Dame Law School where the memories came flooding back. It is hard to believe that we graduated 25 years ago...

When I got home, Joe asked me what we did all weekend. Ladies – you will identify with this. I told him we talked from the time I walked in her front door until the time I left – and we did a little shopping in between! He didn't really get it. Now, if I had said that we watched sports all weekend, he would have understood completely!

The weekend reminded me that you gotta have friends. We all need someone to laugh with and cry with and lean on when times are rough. We all need someone to call when something happens – good or bad- or for no reason at all.

We, here in the office, want to do that for you. We can't solve all of your problems but we can answer your questions or listen to your frustrations or just share a laugh with you. So give us a call. We'll be glad to hear from you!



Sharon & Noah



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 July & August:

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Gordon Biggers | Towanda Biggers | Bruce Eisenberg, Esq. | Jonetta Ellis |
| Laura Jenifer, Esq. | Sheronda Lewis | Lupus Mid-Atlantic | Priority Partners |
| Michael Pulver, Esq. | Jeffrey Rose | Weinstock, Friedman & Friedman | Saiontz & Kirk |
| Angeleak Smith | Lou Weinkam, Esq. | Melvina Rusk-Young | |



3 Minutes lost

Daytime continues to be longer than nighttime until after the September equinox, which is always between September 22-24, the beginning of autumn. The word "equinox" means "equal night" and refers to when the sun crosses the equator. Days are shortened by three minutes per day, resulting in a half-hour per week.

The Newest Member of Our Staff—Denise Justus



My name is Denise and I am the newest member of the Sharon Christie Law Firm. I have over 20 years experience in the technology world doing a variety of things. I have a lot of customer service experience and am a very good listener, so feel free to call me anytime.

I have a 24 year old son, David, who has moved to New York City and is doing very well in the computer world. Whenever I get a chance, which is not often enough, I visit him. He has a top floor apartment with a rooftop deck. I love sitting up there in the mornings, with my cup of coffee, looking out over the water and watching the hustle and bustle of everyday life in the big city. Yes, I am a coffee person, none of that fancy stuff, just plain

everyday coffee!

When I am not trying to get to see my son, I like sitting outside with my neighbors, going out to dinner, or visiting my sister at the beach—especially in winter, when the seashore takes on a tranquil feel. I can sit there and stare at the waves for a very long time. I find it peaceful and rejuvenating.

I look forward to meeting you!

Good Cause for Late Social Security Disability Appeals

One thing that I emphasize in all of my Social Security Disability seminars, as well as with my clients, is that the appeal of an unfavorable decision must be filed within the 60 day deadline. If you miss the deadline, then you have to start all over again from the beginning, unless the Social Security Administration (SSA) grants a good cause exception for late filing. As you can imagine, those exceptions are not frequently granted.

The SSA will determine whether there is "good cause" for your late appeal based on factors such as whether the SSA misled you or whether you did not understand that you were required to appeal within a certain time frame. They will also consider limitations in your mental, physical, educational, or linguistic faculties, including any problems understanding English. There is no limit to how far the Social Security Administration can decide to extend the deadline if the claimant lacked the mental capacity to understand how to request a review, as long as there was no one legally responsible for prosecuting the claim (such as a parent, guardian, attorney, or legal representative).

A claim that you never received the denial will usually fall on deaf ears, unless you can prove that the SSA mailed the decision to the wrong address. For example, if you changed your address and sent a written change of address to the SSA and have a copy of the change of address letter and the SSA still sent your unfavorable decision to your old address, then you will likely get a good cause exception for late filing. Without this type of proof the request will be denied.

This is one of the reasons that you need an experienced Social Security disability lawyer representing you in your claim. Once I have entered my appearance as your lawyer in the case I get copies of all of the correspondence from the SSA, including any denials. Then, we schedule an appointment with you to go over your current condition and treating health care providers so that I can file your appeal. Of course this is done within the 60 day deadline!

For more information about Social Security disability claims, visit my website at www.SharonChristieLaw.com

Superstition:

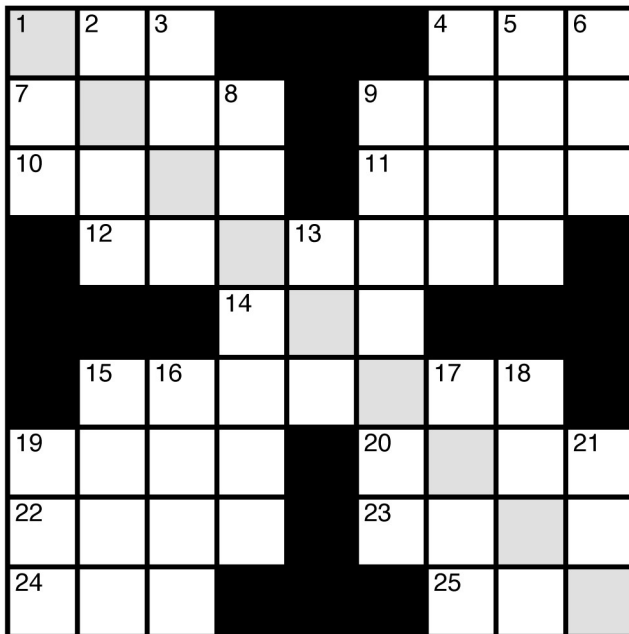
If you can catch a falling leaf on the first day of autumn, you will not catch a cold all winter.



"Nice of you to climb up here. But I put all my enlightenment on my Website. Be sure to sign up for my newsletter."



All American Treats



Across

- 1. Death on the Nile?
- 4. Feathery wrap
- 7. Junk email
- 9. Terrarium plant
- 10. Arizona Indian
- 11. Bohemian
- 12. Bath powders
- 14. Mr. Luther of Superman
- 15. Church spire
- 19. "Coma again?"
- 20. Adjutant
- 22. Goals
- 23. Goblet feature
- 24. Economic abbr.
- 25. "Star Trek" rank: Abbr.

Down

- 1. Bat wood
- 2. Detect
- 3. Perry Como's "___ Loves Mambo"
- 4. Road shoulder
- 5. Crumbs
- 6. "___ luck?"
- 8. Cereal grasses
- 9. Blunder
- 13. Average grade
- 15. Kicker's target
- 16. Pack down
- 17. Kind of beer
- 18. Barbara of "I Dream of Jeannie"
- 19. Jokester
- 21. Dash lengths



FREE Seminars
- Social Security Disability -

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

BALTIMORE EVENTS

Baltimore Book Festival

Sept. 25—28 | Noon - 8pm
Mount Vernon Place
600 Block North Charles St.
Baltimore, MD 21201
The 16th annual Baltimore Book Festival will welcome local and national authors. www.baltimorebookfestival.com

Free Fall Baltimore 2011

Oct. 1—31 | All day
Charles St. & Pratt St.
Baltimore, MD 21201
A month long, free city-wide , arts extravaganza. Over 200 free events. Visit www.freefallbaltimore.com for more info.



The 9/11 Memorial to Open on Sept. 11, 2011

Ten years after the terrorist attacks, the names of all the September 11 victims will be read for the first time during a ceremony in New York City. Besides the names of those killed at the World Trade Center on 9/11/2001, relatives will read the names of those lost in terrorist plane crashes at the Pentagon in Washington, DC, and in Shanksville, PA. And they will read the names of the victims of the 1993 Trade Center bombing, also.

In all, 2983 names will be read. In addition, the names will be inscribed in bronze on the memorial plaza.

President Obama will attend the ceremony marking the opening of the national memorial to relatives of the victims on Sept. 11, and to the public the next day.

The ceremony will pause six times, each representing when a twin tower was struck and fell, the attack on the Pentagon and the Flight 93 crash in Shanksville. The first moment of silence will be at 8:46am EST.

The names of all victims of terrorist attacks are inscribed on bronze panels lining the two pools. Waterfalls cascade down all four sides of each pool, creating a special place for remembrance and reflection. The surrounding plaza will be filled with oak trees and a callery pear known as the "Tree of Life," which was nursed back to health after 9/11.

The entrance to the 9/11 Memorial Museum, a large pavilion with a glass atrium, houses two enormous tridents. They are artifacts from the steel façade of the original 1 WTC, also known as the North Tower. Although the pavilion will be inaccessible to 9/11 Memorial visitors, the majestic tridents will be visible from the plaza.



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To receive a FREE copy of
Sharon Christie's
*Unofficial Guide to Social
 Security Disability Claims*

Call 410-823-8200
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Sharon A. Christie Law

The **Law Office of Sharon A. Christie** helps disabled workers get disability benefits from Social Security. It is a long and complicated process and you should not go it alone.

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

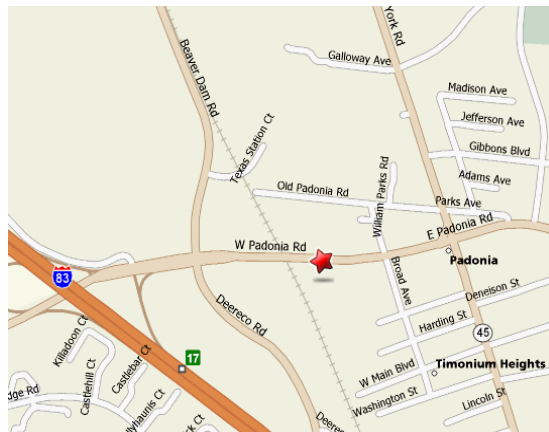
Sharon's clients receive the benefit of having their cases handled by a firm that knows the medicine AND the law.

If you have applied for Social Security disability benefits and need help, call the firm today. If you need more information about the process, go to the website and order a FREE copy of:

Sharon's Unofficial Guide to Social Security Disability Claims

or register for one of her upcoming seminars!

For more information, visit our website at:
www.SharonChristieLaw.com.



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Practice Area:
Social Security Disability

