



Compassionate Advocates for the Injured and Disabled

The Christie Report

Social Security Disability

March/April 2012

www.SharonChristieLaw.com

201 W. Padonia Rd.
Suite 101
Timonium, MD 21093

Phone: 410-823-8200
Toll-Free: 800-218-7062
Fax: 410-823-8208

Sharon@SharonChristieLaw.com

www.facebook.com/SharonChristieLaw



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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

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Personal Message - from Sharon

You Can't Do It Alone

From the moment I opened this law firm I knew that I could not do it alone. Over the last six years I have been blessed with great staff members who are dedicated to the work that we do. The business is growing, allowing us to serve more clients. But there is a problem. Because I am the only attorney here, our ability to schedule disability hearings is limited to my schedule. This does not serve you well. I do not want you to wait any longer than necessary to have your hearing scheduled. I need another lawyer! But not just any lawyer. I need a lawyer who is skilled at analyzing medical evidence and presenting cases in court. I need a lawyer who is kind and compassionate. I need a lawyer who is dedicated to helping the underdog. Fortunately, I knew that lawyer, and have known her for many years! I am pleased to announce that Mary Gately Bodley will be working with my firm, handling disability hearings.

Mary and I first met many years ago (I won't say how many) when we were both starting out as associates at Whiteford, Taylor & Preston, a big law firm in Baltimore. She has been trying medical malpractice and personal injury cases for the last 20+ years and is a perfect fit for Social Security Disability cases. I am excited to be working with her again. You can read more about Mary on page 2 of this newsletter.

What does this mean for you? I will remain involved in every case. I will handle some hearings, but not all of them. However, I will oversee all of the cases and will now be able to communicate with you on a more regular basis. This is a win/win for you because you will have 2 lawyers working on your case, not just one. We all remain dedicated to putting you and your case in the best position to get the disability benefits you need and deserve.

*May your mornings bring joy
And your evenings bring peace
May your troubles grow less
As your blessings increase!*



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.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Morris Balsler, Esq. | Stanley Benn, MS | Frank Cahn, Esq. | Joseph Chester, III |
| John Christ | Ruth Ennis | Vickie Grace, Esq. | Staci Kincade |
| NAMI—Baltimore | Christine Nielson, Esq. | Stephen Nolan, Esq. | Chris Owens, Esq. |
| Saiontz & Kirk | Sinai RETURN! Program | Beverly Wallace, Esq. | Weinstock, Friedman & Friedman |



Sun., March 11th



March 17th



Passover, April 6th to 14th



Easter, April 8th

Welcome to Attorney Mary Gately Bodley



Mary Gately Bodley, Esq.

Attorney Mary Gately Bodley recently joined Sharon in handling Social Security Disability cases. Sharon and Mary have been friends since clerking together at a large firm more years ago than they would care to admit!

Mary will be a natural fit for these cases. She is an experienced trial lawyer.

Mary and her husband Dennis have three teenagers and live in Catonsville. Their oldest is a senior at Mt. St. Joseph High School and keeps his parents busy with college applications and visits. The middle child is a trail blazer, being the only student with Down syndrome attending St. Clement Catholic school. Her younger sister attends St. Mark Catholic school. All three kids give Mary and Dennis different reasons to be proud and, at times, exhausted. With this background, Mary has a special empathy for clients facing difficult challenges and views her role as an attorney as being in a helping profession.

Three Things You Can Do To Help Win Your Disability Case

We work with you as our partner in developing your disability case. That means that we each have a job to do to help win the case. What can you do to help? There are three things:

1. Make sure we know if you move or change your phone number.

This sounds basic but you would be surprised how many times clients forget to tell us about these changes. Obviously we need this information to stay in touch with you. But we also need to notify the Social Security Administration of these changes

to make sure you get any correspondence they sent to you.

2. Tell us when you see any new doctors or stop seeing any of your current doctors.

Why? Your medical evidence is the key to receiving disability benefits. If we do not know about your new doctor, we cannot get any records from him or her. We reorder records from your doctors every 90 days. If you are no longer seeing a certain doctor, please let us know so that we can stop bugging that office for records! As you may already know, the staff here is very persistent and they will not

give up on a search for records, so it will help us a lot to know if you are no longer seeing a certain doctor.

3. Let us know right away if you start working.

The amount that you work will have an effect on your case and I want to talk to you about that as soon as possible. Working does not necessarily negatively affect the case but I cannot talk to you about it if I don't know what you're doing.

Following these guidelines will allow us to build a strong case for you. We look forward to hearing from you!

The Lighter Side Irish Style

An Irish man shows up in a pub one day and orders 3 pints of Guinness. He takes sips from each glass until they are empty and calls the bartender for 3 more. The bartender says, "Sure it's up to yourself, but wouldn't you rather I was bringing them one at a time? Then they'll be fresh and cold."

"Nah..", your man says, "I'm preferrin' that ye bring 'em 3 at a time. You see, me and me 2 brothers would meet at a pub and drink and have good times. Now one is in Australia, the other in Canada and I'm here. We agreed before we split up that we'd drink to each other's honour this way."

Time goes on and your man's peculiar habit is known and accepted by all the pub regulars. One day, he comes in and orders only 2 pints. A hush falls over the pub. With a heavy heart, the bartender brings 2 pints and says, "Here's your pints...and let me offer my sincerest condolences. What happened?"

The Irish man looks extremely puzzled for a moment and then starts laughing.

"Oh, no, no, no! 'Tis nothing like that. You see, I've given up drinking for Lent..."

Tax Time

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8
9				10				
11				12				
13			14				15	
	16				17			
18	19		20				21	22
23		24				25		
26						27		
28						29		

Across

- 1. Holiday month
- 4. Grave marker
- 9. Formal vote
- 10. Coil
- 11. Antiquity, in antiquity
- 12. Poets' feet
- 13. Mrs. Butterworth's & maple
- 15. Peruvian terrorist group in 60s, for short
- 16. Host
- 18. Part of 'to be'
- 20. Robin's partner
- 23. Gain knowledge
- 25. U.N. workers' group
- 26. TV, radio, etc.
- 27. Mary's boss (Mary Tyler Moore show)

28. Cheers

- 29. Dusk, to Donne

Down

- 1. Salon supplies
- 2. Hard to grasp
- 3. Close-knit group
- 4. Suez, for one
- 5. Afternoon service
- 6. "A Nightmare on ___ Street"
- 7. Ad ___
- 8. Branch angle
- 14. Central Italian region
- 17. "South Pacific" hero
- 18. Charity
- 19. Docile
- 21. Balm ingredient
- 22. It may be proper
- 24. Big fuss



FREE Seminars
- Social Security Disability -
 Sessions Each Month!
 See website for days, times, and locations

Baltimore Events

St. Patrick's Day Parade
 March 11th | 2pm
 Starts at the Washington Monument and continues to Pratt St. and Market Place.

Decanter Wine Festival
 April 21 & 22 | 12 - 6pm
 Pimlico Race Course
 5201 Park Heights Ave.
 Baltimore, MD 21215
 A Celebration of Maryland Wine & Racing. The second annual event to highlight the heritage & tradition of Maryland wine and horse racing. \$30 general admission
 410-252-9463

8th Annual Privateer Day
FREE
 April 21 | 11am to 6pm
 From Thames Street Park & Ann Street Pier to Broadway Square, Broadway Pier & Bond Street Wharf.
 A day full of fun-filled activities for kids and adults. 410-675-8900
www.fellspointmainstreet.org/privateerday.html

Family Sundays at the BMA!
FREE
 All year | 2-5pm
 Baltimore Museum of Art
 10 Art Museum Dr.
 Activities the entire family will enjoy!
 443-573-1700



Want to be Healthier AND Save Money? Garden!

When June and July come around, gardeners will be rewarded as they wander through their gardens and view the fruits of their labor.

To plan a garden, pick a location that gets at least 6 hours of sunshine each day and is well-drained. It should be close to the water supply and have a fence to keep dogs and critters out. The fence can serve as a trellis for vegetables like peas, cucumbers and tomatoes. Some vegetables, like beans and carrots, should be grown from seed. With others, like tomatoes and cabbage, you can extend the growing season by starting with potted plants.

Very wet soil shouldn't be worked or planted so you'll probably need to wait another month or so before actually working in your

garden. The soil should crumble in your hand, not stick together. When it's ready, you can improve the soil by working in organic material like compost.

Now is the time to start seeds indoors for the summer garden, as well as for the cool weather, spring garden.

Mulching between rows helps to control weeds, conserve soil moisture and it gives you a path to walk on.

If you don't have a yard, think about growing your garden in pots or, perhaps there's a community garden in your area.

If you have access to a computer, you might enjoy and be inspired by this video: <http://tinyurl.com/subversivegarden>

