



**Sharon Christie Law**

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# The Christie Report

Social Security Disability

September/October 2014

## Personal Message - from Sharon

### Help Us Solve the Cruel Mystery

This personal note will be different from my usual messages. As you may know, I have been on the Board of the Lupus Foundation: DC-MD-VA Chapter for several years. I have also represented many disability clients who have Lupus. You many have heard of Lupus if you watch the TV show "House." I have never seen the show but I am told that, when Dr. House is confronted with a disease that cannot be identified, he says, "Maybe it's Lupus." Well, that captures the nature of the disease very well.

Lupus is a terrible autoimmune disease affecting primarily women, although I have represented men and children who suffer from this disease. (About 10% of Lupus patients are men.) Lupus is characterized by pain, severe fatigue (cannot get out of bed and do anything type fatigue), brain "fog" and a host of other symptoms. It takes most people 5-7 years just to get a diagnosis. Patients frequently are told "it's in your head." The disease is bad enough, but not having medical people take you seriously makes it even worse.

Lupus takes an active person and reduces her/him to someone who struggles just to get out of bed and make breakfast. It is a "cruel mystery" because we do not know the cause and there is no cure. In fact, in the last 50 years, there has been only one new drug developed to treat Lupus. The CD-MD-VA chapter of the Lupus Foundation (LFA-DMV) is dedicated to solving this cruel mystery. LFA-DMV actively supports lupus sufferers with extensive educational programs, support groups, Patient Navigators, Emergency Assistance funds, and much more.

Every year the Lupus Foundation sponsors walks all over the country. This year **the Maryland walk is on Saturday, Sept. 27**. If you suffer from Lupus or know someone who does or want to support this cause, please consider making a donation to the Walk. I am sponsoring a team: **Christie's Crusaders**. You do not have to walk! Just make a donation at my fundraising page: <http://tinyurl.com/christiescrusaders>. I am hoping to raise \$1000. As I write this newsletter, I am 25% of the way there. AND anyone who makes a donation will be entered into a **drawing for an iPad mini!** We WILL solve this cruel mystery.

Thanks for your support!

*I know God will not give me anything I can't handle.  
I just wish He didn't trust me so much.*

*~ Mother Teresa*

## 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 since our last newsletter.

<b>Ruth Ennis</b>	<b>Chandra Fishman</b>	<b>Victoria Grace, Esq.</b>	<b>Ben Glass, Esq.</b>
<b>Jinger Poppe</b>	<b>Mike Pulver, Esq.</b>	<b>John Seeberger, Esq.</b>	<b>Paul Spence, Esq.</b>
<b>NAMI—Baltimore</b>	<b>Mosaic Community Services</b>	<b>Sinai RETURN Program</b>	<b>Lupus Foundation—DMV Chapter</b>

**Brain Injury Association of Maryland**

**Weinstock, Friedman & Friedman**

# How the Judge Will Determine Whether You Are Disabled



**HOW THE JUDGE WILL DETERMINE WHETHER YOU ARE DISABLED**

© Jones Publishing



**THE DISABILITY DETERMINATION PROCESS MAY SEEM ILLOGICAL**

In preparation for your hearing before an administrative law judge (ALJ) you should understand how the ALJ will decide whether you are disabled. This process is more complicated & technical than you might imagine & does not necessarily involve common sense.

**YOUR INABILITY TO GET A JOB DOESN'T MATTER**

You may think that the judge will decide you are disabled if you can prove you can't get a job because of your medical problems. Although this statement sounds logical, it is incorrect. Proving you can't get a job will not win your case.



**DISABILITY IS A "HYPOTHETICAL" DETERMINATION**



Disability determination has very little to do with the real world of work. The judge will consider only whether you are capable of doing a job, "hypothetically" assuming you were offered it. The judge will not consider whether any employer would ever actually hire you for a particular job.

**THE 2 THINGS YOU WILL PROBABLY NEED TO PROVE**

**1** Your medical impairments prevent you from performing any significant job you've done in the past 15 years.

**2** There aren't many other jobs you are capable of doing considering your age, education & work experience.

**PROVING YOU CAN'T DO YOUR PAST JOBS**

Think about all the jobs you've had in the past 15 years & select the easiest. If you did that easiest job long enough to learn how to do it & earned a minimum amount of money from that job, you have to prove that you cannot do that easiest job. You have to prove it even if you are dead certain you'd never be hired for that job again. You have to prove it even if the company where you worked no longer exists & even if the job is no longer available elsewhere.

**PROVING YOU CAN'T DO OTHER JOBS**



Proving the second thing - that considering age, education, & work experience, you're unable to do many other jobs - is even more complicated & opposed to common sense. To be found disabled, you may have to prove you are unable to do jobs that you (& your attorney & the judge) know you would never be hired for.

**YOU DON'T NEED TO PROVE YOU ARE TOTALLY AND PERMANENTLY DISABLED**

Many people incorrectly assume that total & permanent disability is required. You don't have to be "permanently" disabled; you only have to be disabled for 12 months. Of course, with a temporary disability, you will be able to get benefits for only a temporary or "closed" period. Although you have to be totally disabled in the sense that you are unable to perform jobs existing in significant numbers in the economy, this does not mean that you have to be unable to do anything.

## The Lighter Side

A man and his wife entered the dentist's office.

"I want a tooth pulled," the woman said. "We are in a big hurry, so let's not fool around with gas or a shot or any of that stuff."

"You are a brave woman," remarked the dentist. "Which tooth is it?"

"Show him your bad tooth, honey," she said to her husband.



## The "Right to be Forgotten"

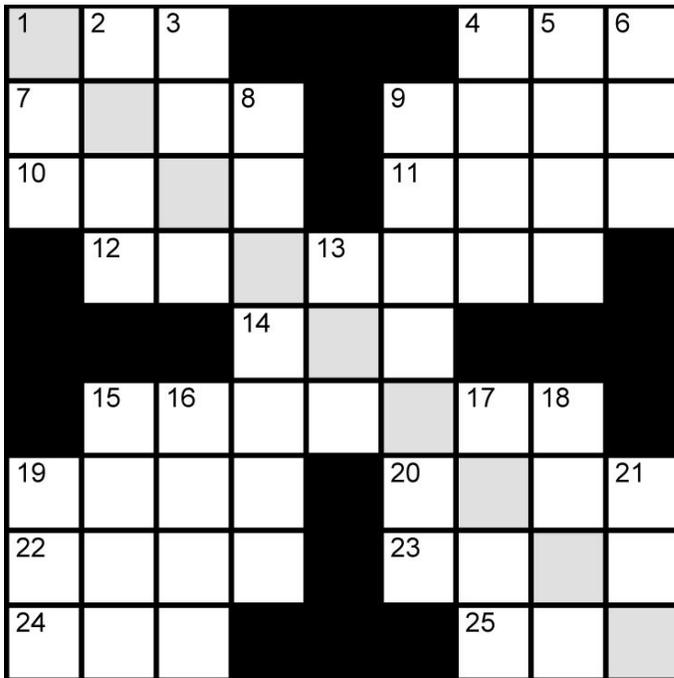
Recently, Google started removing results from its search engine as a result of Europe's "right to be forgotten." The landmark ruling by the European Union's top court gives individuals the right to request removal of results that turn up in Internet searches for their own names. The ruling also said Google must weigh individuals' rights to privacy against a public interest in having certain information available. Before the removals team started working to evaluate each request, Google had more than 41,000 removal requests that came via a Web form it had set up.

One of the first links removed involved a 1998 newspaper advertisement that mentioned an individual's debt. The result no longer appeared after the first day of removals. According to The Wall Street Journal, privacy regulators praised Google's fast implementation of the court ruling, but said some elements of the process could still create conflict if the search results indicate that something has been removed. As a result of that concern, Google added a blanket notification that appears on the bottom of most results for individual name searches on its European search websites. It says, "Some results may have been removed under data protection law in Europe."

Where does Google draw the line between the public's "right to know" and an individual's "right to be forgotten"? Deciding is not an easy or straight forward task. What if a public figure asks to have information removed?

There is speculation that this ruling will eventually cover the U.S. also. Until then, though, what happens when a person who is a citizen of a European country lives in the US...does the ruling apply to them? What if a person living in the U.S. has dual citizenship?

## Most Important Meal



**Across**

- 1. Get in a pool
- 4. Farm female
- 7. Flower with a bulb
- 9. Black cat, maybe
- 10. Cut the fat
- 11. Warm hearted
- 12. Back to school purchases
- 14. Island strings
- 15. Fir or pine
- 19. Ancient ornamental collar
- 20. Debussy subject
- 22. Sound of relief
- 23. Gaelic language
- 24. Thickness
- 25. Allow

**Down**

- 1. "One no," in bridge
- 2. Iroquoian Indian
- 3. Wedding cake feature
- 4. Arabic for commander"
- 5. Cysts
- 6. Conclude
- 8. Firm
- 9. Painter Georgia
- 13. Schuss, e.g.
- 15. Helix
- 16. Spree
- 17. \_\_\_ of Sandwich
- 18. Trick
- 19. Cooking meas.
- 21. After expenses

# Halloween Oct. 30

## FREE Seminars

- **Social Security Disability** -

See website for info & to register  
[sharonchristielaw.com/events/seminars](http://sharonchristielaw.com/events/seminars)  
 Or call 410-823-8200

**Sep. 10, 1-3pm Bel Air Library**  
**Sep. 11, 6-8pm White Marsh Library**  
**Oct. 30, 6-8pm White Marsh Library**

## Baltimore Events

### Baltimore Raven's Schedule

Sep. 7	1PM	Bengals
Sep. 11	8:25PM	Steelers
Sep. 21	1PM	Browns
Sep. 28	1PM	Panthers
Oct. 5	1PM	Colts
Oct. 12	1PM	Buccaneers
Oct. 19	1PM	Falcons
Oct. 26	1PM	Bengals

### The Original Fell's Point Ghostwalk

Fridays & Saturdays | 7PM  
 Max's Taphouse, 731 S. Broadway  
 Baltimore, MD 21231  
 410-357-1186  
[www.BaltimoreGhostTours.com](http://www.BaltimoreGhostTours.com)

### 13th Annual Pigtown Festival

Oct. 11 | All Day  
 Pigtown Neighborhood  
 763 Washington Blvd.  
 Baltimore, MD 21230  
 \*FREE \*

### Free Fall Baltimore

Oct. 1 to Oct. 31 | Various locations & times  
 All events are FREE  
[www.FreeFallBaltimore.org/events](http://www.FreeFallBaltimore.org/events)

## It's Not Your Parents' Greyhound!

To mark its 100-year anniversary, Greyhound is upgrading their buses with new decor and features that appeal to both seniors and millennials.

"It's the remaking of an iconic brand," says David Leach, who rose from working as a baggage handler to become Greyhound's president and CEO. This is no longer the Greyhound of generations past. The company offers free Wi-Fi on board and has sped up the ride with more non-stop routes. It's also rolling out mobile apps for more convenient booking.

Gone are the seedy depots and the slow crawl from one small town to the next. Passengers now ride Greyhound for the comfort and convenience it offers, not because they can't afford to go any other way. "Today's travelers are customers of all income levels. They are simply trying to get more bang for their buck, and bus travel is one of the safest, most convenient modes of transportation," Leach reported in USA Today. Greyhound ferries 18 million passengers a year, many of whom are affluent and well educated. Some 15 percent of Greyhound's riders are on a business trip.

By the end of this summer, all Greyhound buses will have leather seats, power outlets and Wi-Fi. The buses are running on time and exceeding passenger expectations.

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To receive a FREE copy of  
Sharon Christie's

### ***Unofficial Guide to Social Security Disability Claims***

Call 410-823-8200  
or visit our website at  
[www.SharonChristieLaw.com](http://www.SharonChristieLaw.com)

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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 Christie's Unofficial Guide to Social Security Disability Claims***

or register for one of her upcoming webinars or seminars!

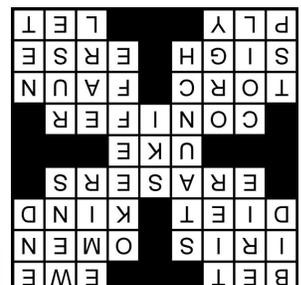
For more information, visit our website at:  
**[www.SharonChristieLaw.com](http://www.SharonChristieLaw.com)**.

#### **Office Hours**

**M-F 9am to 5pm**

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#### **Social Security Disability**



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