

Get Your Ducks in a Row!

Estate & Long-Term Care Planning News
from Carolina Family Estate Planning

November 2018

Why 'modern family'?: The saga continues

As we're unpacking from our move, we're getting ready to launch our series of blog posts about the challenges (and, of course, solutions) of planning for the extended Pritchett family. Since we announced this admittedly ambitious project a week or so ago, we've often been asked why we chose the Modern Family.

After we answered that very good question it hit us that the name of the show more than adequately answers the question. Modern Family is perfectly titled – it's modern, up to date and presents virtually every issue an estate planning law firm like ours can and will run across in the normal course of our practice.

The television show Modern Family presents three generations of one family, three marriages – one same sex – children, grandchildren, an adopted child, ex-spouses, a naturalized citizen, pets (yes, really, sometimes very much part of planning), and a family business where only one child is involved.

The Pritchetts are perfect for our purpose – to illustrate the ins and outs of effective estate planning in 2018 with real world considerations.

We had the idea to use a fictional family a while back but couldn't really decide what movie/TV show/novel to turn to. It took a while for us to decide on Modern

Family, maybe because it's on network television and easily overlooked in this age of prestige cable and Netflix.

So, it wasn't a quick decision, especially since we had to ensure the issues we wanted to cover were inherent in the show's backstories. Modern Family, we assure everyone – and will show over the next weeks – is perfect.

We're writing this because over the last weeks we have received a few gentle suggestions we should have gone in another direction, used another fictional family.

In response: Yes, The Sopranos was great, no it would not make much of a blog post as it would have been a pretty straightforward plan for Tony and Carmela, especially since almost all their assets were in cash.

The Brady Bunch presents the same issues as The Sopranos except they have three times the kids and instead of cash their only asset appears to be a split-level with artificial grass in the backyard.

Gilmore Girls, Full House (even the reboot), The Wonder Years, I Love Lucy, The Honeymooners, Everybody Loves Raymond, The Simpsons, and a host of others simply didn't have the depth or complexity for our purposes. No family in Game of Thrones tends to live long enough to even begin to plan around . . . besides, Cersei would just take everything anyway, despite whatever the wills and trusts had to say.

All that to say, we did our homework. We've seen so many unique situations come through our office, filled with the complexity and nuance that make our jobs challenging. But we love it. Families are important, and estate planning is critical to preserving the welfare of your family into the future. So, here we are. Grab your own modern family, and give us a call. In the meantime, check out our blog at www.carolinafep.com/blog

Jackie Bedard is the founder of Carolina Family Estate Planning. She loves leading the CFEP Team in caring for the concerns of the modern families of North Carolina, while hanging with her own modern family--her husband Dan and their dogs Nala and Nelly.



Carolina Family Estate Planning

201 Commonwealth Court, Ste 100, Cary, NC 27511

919-694-4437 • CarolinaFEP.com

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Growth & Gratitude on a Grander Scale



In October we attended the awards ceremony for the Law Firm 500 annual competition in Las Vegas. For the second year in a row, Carolina Family Estate Planning has been named one of the fastest growing small law firms in America. We decided to extend our trip to meet up with my parents in Phoenix and explore Sedona, the Grand Canyon, Historic Route 66, and the Hoover Dam before the ceremony.

What did we learn on this trip? My dad continues to demonstrate that age is just a number--is 75 the new 50? The Grand Canyon truly lives up to its name. The Hoover Dam is its equally impressive man-made cousin. All that was before the ceremony, where keynote speaker Erin Brockovich shared her journey from anonymous legal assistant to lion of public advocacy, and she showed how technology is changing the future of public health reporting. As always, the Law Firm 500 ceremony coincided with How To Manage a Small Law Firm's Q3 Live Quarterly Meeting, where we explored how you must be willing to risk the comfort of the status quo if you have hopes of achieving something better.

We have been told that personal growth always precedes professional growth. Before going on this trip, we had contemplated canceling it; a couple of weeks before the trip, the government rolled out its changes to the VA pension rules, which went into effect on October 18th. I have to thank our amazing team, who even while we were away, ramped up and accelerated VA pre-planning to help our clients swiftly and effectively, and while helping our clients, helped us recharge and learn how we can continue to make our firm better. We are blessed and grateful.

-Dan

Dan Bedard is the Executive Director of CFEP where he keeps busy building up the CFEP team for growth and flourishing.



Dan & Jackie at the Grand Canyon



Erin Brockovitch, Keynote for Law Firm 500 Ceremony

Thank you

For introducing your Friends and Family to Carolina Family Estate Planning!

We're devoted to delivering first-class service to our clients. As a result, our valued clients, partners, and friends refer their friends, family, and associates to us.

- Jay & Daisy Allmann
- Simon & Ginger Bate
- Chris Cabaniss, Western Wake Law Group
- Cary Senior Center
- Fred Cunningham
- Paul Delaney, CFA, Capital Endurance Group
- Herb & Kay Elting

- Carrie Garrity, First Citizens Bank
- Robert & MaryAnne Hamilton
- Jeffrey Leach, Morgan Stanley
- J Brian Morgan, Edward Jones
- Gordon & Shirley Olsen
- Thomas Schaffer, New York Life
- Robert Villareal, Charles Schwab & Co.

Nala's Nook

Nalsworth Doggleshorp, III, Esq. here (but you can call me 'Nala'). I'm full of gratitude (especially for treats) and ready for some holiday excitement...



2018 Holiday Toy Drive



Benefitting Raleigh
Toys for Tots



Donate new, unwrapped toys at the
Carolina Family Estate Planning Office
201 Commonwealth Court, Suite 100
Cary, NC

Gifts must be new, in original packaging with a receipt. Don't have time to shop? Order on Amazon and ship directly to our new office!

DEADLINE:
December 10, 2018

holiday flourishing 101

1) Take time for yourself before the guests arrive, the meal prep begins or the kids wake up. Solitude and silence can help you focus on the joy of the holiday season, even amidst the bustle.

2) Let everyone toast, including the small people around your table!

3) Use butcher paper in lieu of a tablecloth, and encourage your dinner crowd to write their gratitude list on the paper. Hang on to the paper or take a picture for future years!

4) Take a long walk after the big meal. At that point, everyone needs the fresh air and exercise.

5) Communicate your expectations for family clearly on the front end and ask others to do the same. The best way to avoid miscommunication is to be proactive!

Planning for the Second Half of Life in These
Political and Economic Times...

11 Threats to You, Your Family, and Your Assets

AT THIS SEMINAR, HERE'S SOME OF WHAT YOU WILL DISCOVER:

- How to avoid the common mistakes Baby Boomers make when planning for the second half of life.
- How to avoid having your life savings or retirement plans wiped out by the cost of care as you get older.
- Uncover the secret sources of paying for long-term care costs that may lie hidden in your retirement plan.
- Important differences between Estate Planning and Long-Term Care Planning and how they coordinate.
- How to care for yourself and your spouse and how to maximize the assets you leave to your children...plus how to protect their inheritance from divorce, less-than-trustworthy spouses, creditors, and other wealth wasters.

Upcoming Free Seminars (RSVP Required):

Thursday, November 29 6:30 pm • Wednesday, December 5 10 am
Wednesday, December 12 6:30 pm

Register by Phone: **919-694-4437** or at **seminars.carolinafep.com**

*Can't attend? Call us! Additional dates may be offered upon demand.
We'll keep you apprised of future offerings or other resources to assist you.*

CAROLINA FAMILY ESTATE PLANNING

201 Commonwealth Court, Suite 100

Cary, NC 27511

P: 919-694-4437

www.CarolinaFEP.com

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What's New at Carolina Family Estate Planning?



Jakara Smith is the latest addition to CFEP team, bringing tremendous experience to the office. Originally from Lafayette, Louisiana, Jakara earned her bachelor's degree in Political Science and Pre-Law from North Carolina Central University after transferring from The University of New Orleans following hurricane Katrina! She has experience working for in political campaigns, personal injury law firms, and the Department of Defense in an legal administration role. After attending a CFEP seminar, she "was drawn in by the culture of excellent client service and astounding business savvy." Now Jakara is a part of the team creating that experience for every CFEP client and associate.

Jakara has been married to her "favorite Jamaican," Omar, for over twelve years. They live in Durham, where they are raising their two beautiful children, Omayah and Omar II. She enjoys attending church, cooking, working out, and watching any Louisiana team sport (especially the Saints!) with her family.