

Legal Connections



POWERED BY THE COLUMBUS BAR ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 3, 2017



"The Columbus Bar Association upholds the ideals of the legal profession, invests in the future and improves the community we live in."

Jill Snitcher McQuain, Esq.
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WINTER DRIVING: SLIP SLIDING AWAY

In 1825, Thomas Jefferson was asked to provide his thoughts on the principles by which a young man might live a moral and virtuous life. Jefferson responded with a "Decalogue of Cannons," known colloquially as Jefferson's Ten Rules of Conduct. First and foremost, Jefferson advised, "[n]ever put off until tomorrow what you can do today."

Though the third president could not have envisioned driving automobiles through the snow, his admonition to prepare yourself and your car in advance applies just as well. Perhaps the following could be considered a Decalogue of Winter Driving Cannons.

1. Pack a winter survival kit. Have on hand a scraper, shovel, sand or salt, jumper cables, LED flashlight, and most importantly, a cell phone charger for your specific device. The time to pack is now.

2. Know the weather before you leave. With a myriad of weather resources available online, there is no excuse for not



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knowing the weather conditions for any given location or route of travel. Check out the app Road Trip Weather.

3. Don't put off maintenance. Self-imposed stranding due to a malfunctioning car in winter weather provides cold comfort indeed.

4. Clear all snow and ice from windows before driving. Although it's easy to rush when we are in a hurry, nothing makes driving in winter weather more dangerous than less-than-full visibility of our surroundings.

5. Keep at least half a tank of gas in your car at all times. Being stranded is bad, but being stranded without heat is worse.

6. Leave more room between vehicles. While three seconds following distance may be safe normally, ten seconds in the winter better accounts for the greatly increased stopping distance caused by snow and ice.

7. Drive slowly. Speed limits are designated for dry roads. Every phase of driving – starting, stopping, turning – happens slower when roads are slick.

8. Leave cruise control off. Be alert for sudden and unexpected changes in weather and road conditions.

9. If you become stuck in snow, make sure the tailpipe is clear. Snow piles can block car exhaust and redirect it inside the cabin.

10. Stay home. The only guaranteed method for avoiding winter driving dangers is not to venture out in the first place. If it's not critical, wait it out. Besides, in the age of Facetime, Netflix and Amazon Prime, is it ever truly necessary to leave the house anyway?

LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP: HOA RULES ARE BINDING

It is a fact in real estate life today that most new homes in a suburban subdivision are part of a pre-established homeowner's association. This happens for several reasons: land which is not suitable for building is added to the association because the developer does not want to continue to own it; local governments require that the subdivision have an association; and common amenities like bike paths, ponds, entranceway facilities and clubhouses must be maintained and insured by the association.



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Ohio law requires all lot owners to follow the restrictions placed on the use of the lot and to comply with the association's rules of behavior and governance. The association is empowered to enforce the deed restrictions under ORC 5312, the planned communities act passed by legislature in 2010. If the association wins a dispute with a lot owner, the owner will have to pay the association's attorney fees and other litigation costs, which can be substantial.

It is important to review the restrictions before you buy so you will know what you can and cannot do on your lot. The restrictions, among other things, will regulate pets, fences, out-buildings, street parking, holiday decorations and home construction details. In the end, a well-administered association will maintain the uniform appearance of the lots in the subdivision and preserve property values. But the last thing you want is to find out you cannot do the very thing that you bought your home to do.

EDUCATION AND EVENTS

Tuesday, Feb. 21 • 9:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Domestic Relations PREP, Classes 9 & 10
3.0 NLT CLE Hours

Tuesday, Feb. 21 • 9:00 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Master Class in Law and History: Ulysses S. Grant
3.5 CLE Hours

Thursday, Feb. 23 • 12:15 – 1:45 p.m.
P.R.E.P. – Session 3, Interacting with the Courts
1.5 NLT CLE Hours

Friday, Feb. 24 • 6 – 10:00 p.m.
Women Lawyers of Franklin County 75th Soirée

Saturday, Feb. 25 • 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Notary Public Seminar & Test

Monday, Feb. 27 • 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Counseling Clients in the Entertainment Industry, TV

Monday, Feb. 27 • 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Counseling Clients in the Entertainment Industry, Music

Tuesday, Feb. 28 • 9 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Domestic Relations PREP, Classes 11 & 12
3.0 NLT CLE Hours

Thursday, Mar. 2 • 12:15 – 1:45 p.m.
P.R.E.P. – Session 4, Interacting with the Courts
1.5 NLT CLE Hours

All classes listed are offered at the Columbus Bar Associations offices, 175 S. Third St. Ste. 1100. To register, call 614-221-4112 or enroll online at www.cbalaw.org.

The right call for the right lawyer – contact our lawyer referral service today • (614) 221-0754

COLUMBUS BAR FOUNDATION AND ASSOCIATION

Gala 2017

Saturday, March 11, 6:00pm
@ the Hollywood Casino of Columbus

Gala 2017: "Cruisin' with the Columbus Bar" will support the mission of the Columbus Bar Foundation.

Tickets:

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