

New Developments in Social Security Law: Benefits for Same Sex Couples



On June 26th, 2013, Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) was ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. With this ruling, Social Security can now recognize same-sex marriages when determining benefit amount and eligibility. Recently, Social Security published new policies for processing claims for individuals that are in same-sex relationships. These new policies permit Social Security to process claims in states that do not recognize same-sex marriages or non-marital legal relationships. The new

policy also addresses how SSI (Supplemental Security Income) benefits may be affected by same-sex relationships; same-sex marriage may affect SSI eligibility or benefit amount.

However, these new policies may create some tension with the Social Security Act, which the Department of Justice has determined requires the agency to follow state law in Social Security cases. The Khaki Law Firm will continue to observe these new trends in the law so that we can continue to advise our clients on how these legal changes may affect their Social Security Benefits.

Tip of the Month: Eat that Frog!

Mark Twain once said that if you eat a frog every morning you will have the satisfaction of knowing that it will probably be the worst thing you have to do all day. I recently read a book, *Eat that Frog!*, that was inspired by Twain's simple, yet extraordinary, observation.



The book uses Twain's frog as a metaphor for your biggest, most important task on any given day and defines efficiency as the ability to prioritize. By encouraging us to "eat that frog," we are able to maximize our efficiency, developing the habit of starting and completing important tasks. The key to doing so is setting priorities.

One of the most genius points made in the book is that the list is always too long. Being efficient does not necessarily mean that you will mark everything off your list. There is never enough time in the day to get everything done, but sticking to your priorities means that the important things will get done. We do not need to worry over the entire list. We just need to focus on the most important things one at a time. With the right priorities and the appropriate follow through, there is always enough time to complete the most important things on your list.

I love the advice and practical, easy to implement solutions that were offered in this book. I am recommending it to all of you because it is the most helpful book I have ever read on spotting ways to improve day-to-day efficiency. I was introduced to the book at my Georgia Association of Women Lawyers Mentor Circle, which is run by the fabulous Elaine Levine, Esq. If you have ever wished you were more effective and could more quickly realize your goals, this is the perfect book. But even if you do not read it, I have shared my favorite lessons learned with you right here. If you take nothing else away from this book recommendation, take this: eliminate procrastination and focus on your key, most important tasks by waking up and simply "eating that frog!"

Happy 4th of July: Thank You, Michael Zimmermann



The Khaki Law Firm hopes all of you had a wonderful, fun-filled, and safe Fourth of July. In honor of the birth of this country we want to thank Michael Zimmermann for the service he is committed to provide his country. Michael is married to our wonderful office coordinator,

Stacey Zimmermann; and he has recently accepted an internship with the military in Augusta where he will be working on base as a Military Psychology Intern, and upon completion of the year, will earn his PhD. Michael will be treating active duty soldiers, sailors and airmen for a host of mental health concerns. He will also be helping warriors who are transitioning out of the Army due to combat-related health concerns. Thank you Michael for serving our veterans, who have committed their lives to serve their country.



Calendar of Events:

July 2014

- July 2: in Court, Atlanta GA
- July 4: Independence Day
- July 5: Happy Birthday to our office coordinator, Stacey Zimmermann
- July 8: in Court, Gainesville GA
- July 11: in Court, Atlanta GA
- July 12: speaking engagement for [Veterans Transitioning 2 Business](#) Event
- July 14: speaking engagement for [Veterans Transitioning 2 Business](#) Event
- July 15: in Court, Chattanooga TN
- July 22: in Court, Montgomery AL
- July 23: in Court, Atlanta GA



Contact

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