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**Volume XX
Issue 3**

A note from Tom . . .

This is one of my favorite times of year.

Spring has fully arrived, the days are longer, and everything just feels a little more alive. More time outside, the smell of backyard barbecues, baseball and the opportunity to play golf well into the evening are all such welcome changes after a long winter.



Attorney Thomas J. Diehl

And how much fun have the Cincinnati Reds been to watch this year? I am a lifelong fan and always a believer BUT—I think we've got a team that can make things interesting down the stretch.

Memorial Day is the unofficial start of summer, but more importantly, it's a time to remember and honor those who gave their lives in service to our country. That meaning is never lost, even as we look forward to time with family and friends.

However you choose to spend the coming weeks, I hope it's filled with good weather, good company, and a chance to slow down and enjoy it.

Stay safe and take care,

Tom

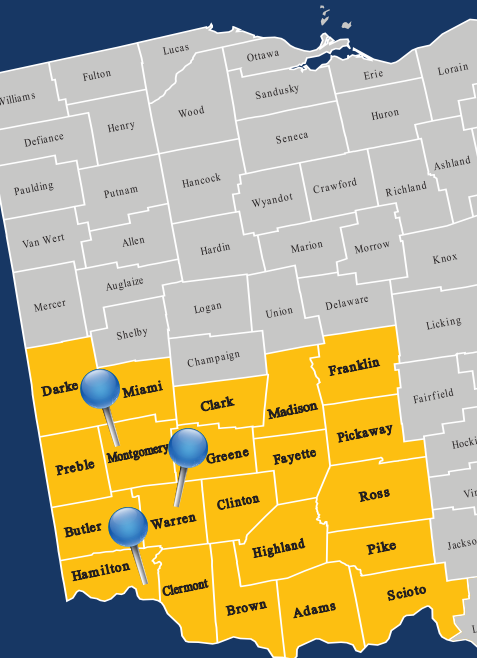
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NEW

ANOTHER 5-STAR REVIEW FOR THE FIRM!

Tom was great! I came to him after a bad car accident and he listened to me and made sure that I was healing okay along the way. In the end he fought for what I wanted and needed out of my case and I am very grateful for his help! -**Toria H.**

What We've Been Up To: A Recent Case

When a Good Deed turns Into a Serious Injury

She was just helping a neighbor—but it quickly turned into a traumatic injury and a case that highlights how Ohio law protects dog bite victims. Ohio Revised Code §955.28 imposes strict liability on the owner, harbinger, or keeper of a dog for any injuries that dog might cause. We recently represented a young lady who was bitten by a dog. She came into contact with the dog because neighbors had asked her to help while they were out of town. The dog became spooked and lunged out and bit her on the thigh leaving a painful and traumatizing open wound. She was taken to a local emergency room, and the wound was cleaned, debrided, and sutured. Our client did not need a lot of additional treatment although the wound was inspected over the next month. Eventually, the open wound closed and healed but she was left with a slight scar on her thigh about the size of two quarters. It was not terribly noticeable and after one year, for the most part, mostly invisible. We were able to negotiate a settlement with the dog owner's homeowner's insurance carrier for recovery in excess of \$150,000. We utilized the services of an independent plastic surgeon to examine the existing scar and to write a report as to potential curative treatment and the cost of this treatment. We were able to include that report, along with pictures of the traumatizing wound and statements from witnesses and other experts, to obtain a fair and full recovery for our client.

F A Q

What Happens if the At-Fault Driver Has No Insurance in Ohio?

Q: If the driver who caused the accident has no insurance, does that mean I cannot recover compensation?

A: Not necessarily. Many Ohio drivers carry **Uninsured or Underinsured Motorist (UM/UIM) coverage**, which may provide compensation through your own policy when the at-fault driver has little or no insurance. In some situations, coverage may also be available through a **family member's policy, an employer's policy, or another applicable insurance policy.**

Because about **1 in 7 Ohio drivers is uninsured**, investigating all possible sources of coverage can be critical after a serious crash.

Diehl Law Tip: Never assume there is “no insurance” simply because the at-fault driver is uninsured. There may still be coverage available.



W. Scott Russell, Esq.

3 Reasons Why Rushing Your Divorce Settlement Could Cost Millions

High Net Worth Divorce

When juggling a demanding career and a high-stakes lifestyle, the urge to finalize a divorce as fast as possible can be powerful. You want your privacy back and focus on scaling your business.

However, in the world of high-asset divorce, impatience can be a liability. The cost of convenience can leave you with wealth leakage.

Failing to conduct forensic accounting

An Affidavit of Financial Disclosure is vital in divorce proceedings, as this outlines the holdings of both parties. Unfortunately, this is often when either spouse tends to hide assets for their personal gain.

Without a proper accounting, you may miss hidden assets, underreported income and business valuation errors. This step is important to uncover discrepancies and build a paper trail. Under Ohio law, the court may compensate you with a distributive or a greater award of marital property if you successfully prove your spouse engaged in financial misconduct.

Overlooking taxes

Dividing assets without a tax-sensitivity analysis can leave you in trouble. You may think that accepting the primary residence is a fair win, but it comes with costs. Once you factor in taxes, you can end up paying more than what you expected, leaving you with a reduced net worth. Rushing prevents your team from calculating the after-tax value of every asset.

Deciding with emotions

During a divorce, you can feel all emotions at once. Your hurt, anger and sadness can coincide with your stress from work. As a result, your brain may not be at its best for making high-stakes decisions. Saying yes to anything out of pain or frustration can lead to irreversible financial damage in the future.

Moving forward with precise care

Your legacy deserves more than a hasty exit. High-net-worth divorces require patience and strategy. Seeking legal counsel can offer guidance in reviewing your settlement, ensuring you understand each provision.



Ohio's New Dog Bite Law & What It Means For You

By Jack Diehl

Ohio recently passed a major update to its dog bite and dangerous dog laws with HB 247, also known as Avery's Law. The Act was named after a young girl who was viciously attacked by two pitbulls in June of 2024. The 12-year-old spent about a month in the hospital and had six surgeries to reconstruct her face and ears. This new law impacts both dog owners and individuals who may experience, or have loved ones who experience, injuries resulting from dangerous dogs. The purpose of the new law is to hold irresponsible dog owners accountable.

Here is what you need to know. First, Avery's Law updated Ohio dog laws by introducing new definitions. Most notably, a dog may be classified as dangerous if that dog has previously caused any injury to a person (even if not serious); caused significant injury to a person even without physical contact; killed another dog; or seriously injured another dog resulting in euthanasia.

Under Ohio Revised Code §955.22, Avery's Law has expanded responsibilities for owners of dangerous dogs. Dog owners must:

- Ensure the dangerous dog is properly confined
- Keep the dangerous dog leashed and controlled when off property
- Register the dangerous dog with the county
- Carry liability insurance
- Post clear warning signs

Ohio Revised Code §955.28, the statute that holds dog owners strictly liable for damages to people on the owner's property caused by the owner's dog, such as a dog bite, remains unchanged. Even before Avery's Law, Ohio statutes already made Ohio one of the strictest states in regard to holding dog owners, keepers, and harborers liable for dog bites. However, Avery's Law may prove to expand who can be held liable for dog bites to include groomers, trainers, or anyone temporarily caring for a dog.



Additionally, Avery's Law is designed to ensure that more dog owners, especially those with a known propensity to be dangerous, have the proper insurance.

As this issue's "What We've Been Up To" shows, even an injury that heals physically can have lasting impact. Understanding your rights is the first step toward making sure you are fully protected. As always, if you have questions, we are happy to speak with you.

What Is the Bar Exam Really Like?

A Recent Law Graduate's Honest Experience by Jack Diehl



Wondering what the bar exam is really like? From study schedules to test day and the stressful wait for results, here's a real honest experience from a recent law school graduate.

The Bar Exam: What It's Really Like to Prepare For and Take It

One year ago on Saturday, May 17th, I graduated from law school. It was a fun day celebrating an achievement that my classmates and I had all worked so hard to obtain for the past three years. But everyone could feel that something was incomplete and felt a looming grey cloud not far in front of us. That looming dark grey cloud, of course, is studying for the bar exam. Just two days after graduating from law school, I began studying for the bar exam at 9 a.m. on Monday.

Preparing for the Marathon

The bar exam is a two-day test from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Like an athlete preparing for a game by practicing at the same time they will play their game, I knew that to be in the best mental state I could possibly be on test day, I needed to study during the same hours the test would be. Nearly everybody who planned on taking this exam, buys a bar prep package that comes with everything that they will need in order to prepare fully for this exam, at least in theory.

As I began my program, I started out by watching short animated videos to recap my studies. I thought, "this is going to be a breeze" but I was sorely mistaken. The videos did not last long and I was quickly engaging in more intense lecture videos and reading material. Slowly, the program began making me do practice tests – both multiple choice and written essays.

When It Gets Real

As I began seeing my multiple-choice scores and written essay feedback scores, I knew that this exam could only be passed by those who are fully prepared and knew nearly every nuance of the law. It is recommended to complete at least 80% of your bar prep package in order to have the best chance of passing. I didn't want to take any chances and have to wait another 6 months to retake the exam. So, I knew 100% was the only option. As I progressed through the program, I began making flashcards and taking additional practice tests to give myself the best chance possible on test day.

Now, I don't mean to overstate the difficulty of this exam. But it truly turned out to be a tougher beast than I ever could appreciate before taking it on.

The Sheer Volume of Material

What makes this exam so truly tough is how much material you are expected to know. The multiple-choice portion or day two of the exam covers seven major subjects:

- Contracts and Sales
- Constitutional Law
- Criminal Law and procedure
- Civil procedure
- Evidence
- Real property
- Torts

Day One of the test covers all those and five other topics:

- Family law
- Trust and Estates
- Secured transactions
- Conflicts of law
- Business associations

What's more, is you're not only expected to know the core aspects of these topics but also the nuances and exceptions which are tested on nearly every multiple-choice question and essay.

Test Day: A Blur

Two and a half months later, after that Monday morning when I began my studies, test day had arrived.

The first section is the MPT or practical test section, which involves two long written practical assignments ranging from briefs to motions to contracts and anything in between. Essentially you get about 90 minutes for each written test.

Snap! Your three hours are up. That's how fast this part of the test moves. I don't think there was a single person in that room who would tell you that that three hours was enough.

An hour later, we took the MEE portion, which involved six short essays, giving us about 30 minutes for each essay on each one on one or two of the twelve topics I mentioned earlier.

Snap! Three hours is up.

Day two consisted of two three-hour sessions of 100 multiple choice questions totaling 200 over the course of the day.

The Hardest Part No One Talks About Studying for the bar exam was grueling and tough. Taking the exam was nerve racking and stressful. But the part they don't tell you about, that is truly the worst, is the wait for the results; three months of dread and anxiety. Would I be able to enter the profession of law or would my career hang in balance for another six months?

The Moment of Truth: Thankfully, on Friday October 24th at 9:00 a.m. when I opened my emails, I had good news.



Congratulations to Our Teacher of the Month – Mrs. Melinda Springer!



Diehl Law is proud to recognize Mrs. Melinda Springer of Waynesville Elementary as our February 2026 Teacher of the Month!

Mrs. Springer was nominated by parent, Katelyn Magrino, who shared a powerful story about the life-changing impact she made on their child. After struggling academically following COVID and feeling discouraged, this student found confidence, encouragement, and belief in himself in Mrs. Springer's classroom. Katelyn shared that Mrs. Springer "turned on a light" in their son, helping him grow, thrive, and believe in his abilities both in school and at home.

Teachers like Mrs. Springer do more than educate — they inspire, uplift, and help shape the future of our community. Her dedication, compassion, and commitment to her students truly represent what this program is meant to celebrate.

As part of this recognition, Mrs. Springer received a commemorative plaque and a \$500 award for the tremendous difference she makes every day. Please join us in congratulating Mrs. Springer and thanking her for the incredible work she does for her students and our community!

Karen Eling – March 2026 Teacher of the Month

Karen serves as an intervention specialist and has earned high praise from parents, colleagues, and staff alike for her unwavering commitment to her students. Across multiple nominations, a few themes stood out clearly: advocacy, inclusion, patience, and a deep focus on helping students build independence and confidence.

Karen works with students who face a wide range of challenges, yet she creates an environment where each child feels safe, supported, and capable of growth.

Colleagues highlighted her positive energy, strong work ethic, and ability to balance structure with genuine care. From setting high expectations to creating joyful moments that help students feel comfortable and engaged, Karen's classroom is a place where students are encouraged to grow, connect, and thrive.

For her extraordinary efforts, Karen Eling received a \$500 check and a commemorative plaque from Diehl Law.



If you have an outstanding teacher who you think deserves some special recognition, please visit DiehlLaw.com and click on our Teacher Appreciation tab at the upper right of the home screen, or scan the QR code at the right with your phone's camera and tell us who you are nominating and why he/she deserves some special recognition!



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FUNNIES & GAMES ...

Judge: "Where do you work?"

Defendant: "Here and there."

Judge: "What do you do for a living?"

Defendant: "This and that."

Judge: "Take him away."

Defendant: "Wait! When will I get out?"

Judge: "Sooner or later."

WORDS: A LAWYER'S STOCK IN TRADE "DEAD AS A DOORNAIL"


If something is "dead as a doornail," it is **completely finished, absolutely lifeless, or beyond revival**. You might hear someone say a car battery is dead as a doornail or that an old computer has finally reached that point.

But why a **doornail**?

The answer likely comes from **medieval door construction**. In earlier centuries, large wooden doors—especially those on homes, inns, and castles—were reinforced with heavy iron nails called doornails. These nails were driven all the way through the thick wood so that the sharp end came out the other side. The protruding tip was then **hammered flat or bent over**, a process known as **clenching**.

Once a nail was clenched in this way, it could **never be removed or reused**. It was permanently fixed in place and had served its final purpose. In that sense, it was effectively **"dead."**


The phrase is very old. It appears as early as the **1300s** in the medieval poem *Piers Plowman*, and it was later popularized by **Charles Dickens** in *A Christmas Carol*, which famously begins, "Old Marley was as dead as a doornail." So the next time you hear someone say something is **dead as a doornail**, you're hearing a phrase that has been part of the English language for more than **six centuries**.



Barbeque Ribs

Homemade rib marinade is used in this barbecue ribs recipe that's easier than it looks. I usually cook the ribs the day before and grill them for a quick dinner the next night. The sauce is much better after it is cooked; it is not a dipping sauce.

Prep Time: 15 mins Cook Time: 2 hrs
Additional Time: 1 hr Total Time: 3 hrs 15 mins
Servings: 8



4 pounds baby back ribs
1 cup brown sugar
½ cup chile sauce
¼ cup ketchup

¼ cup soy sauce
¼ cup Worcestershire sauce
¼ cup rum
2 cloves garlic, crushed

1 teaspoon dry mustard
1 dash ground black pepper
cooking spray

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

Cut the ribs into serving-size portions, then wrap the entire slab in a double thickness of foil. Bake in the preheated oven for 1 hour to 1 hour 15. Unwrap and drain drippings. Place ribs in a large roasting pan.

Mix brown sugar, chile sauce, ketchup, soy sauce, Worcestershire sauce, rum, garlic, mustard, and pepper together in a bowl. Coat ribs with sauce and marinate at room temperature for 1 hour or refrigerate for 8 hours to overnight.

Preheat the grill to medium heat, grease the grate with cooking spray, and cook ribs on the preheated grill for about 20-25 minutes, basting with marinade. *Hint: You can do the baking part either the day before or earlier in the day!*





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