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# THE LEGAL BULLETIN

VOL 12. JULY 2020

## Living Through the Covid-19 Apocalypse

So...this stinks. Like the children on Led Zeppelin's Houses of the Holy album cover, we emerge from our junk food fortified bunkers and squint at a bright, warm ball in the sky. We think back to what the world once looked like, and what just happened. I am happy to announce there have been no murder-suicides in my apartment other than my self-administered haircut. But if this is what living in the International Space Station is like I am recanting my lifelong promise of becoming an astronaut. And while hipster-beards, sweatpants and hairstyles with way-too-long roots made a regrettable comeback, I think most people are ready to throw these drool-inducing trends back into the dustbin of history.



The villain in the next Batman franchise reboot: Birdfaceman

The Coronavirus Pandemic of 2020 was (and still is) horrible and historic, and teaching us just how fragile our health, lifestyles and economies are. Like all disasters, there were heroes (health care workers and a handful of Netflix

actors), heartthrobs (suggestively winking at you Governor Cuomo) and of course victims. The Covid-19 pandemic and quarantine financially ruined so many families and took several loved ones before their due time. Funerals attended by two people (sometimes less), joblessness and long-term fiscal insecurity, fear of your neighbor or your mailman or your grocery clerk.

News anchors gave dire briefings on Asian Murder Hornets, 17-year Cicadas, and the rise of a virus that could even escape a black hole's event horizon. Soon state capitals first began swarming with a group of armed demonstrators and/or Civil War re-enactors (or both) being egged-on by the most polarizing president of our lifetimes. Governors, mayors and state legislators were burdened listening to citizens' ridiculous grievances of their "right to work" and "freedom of religion."



Your new neighbor. Letzzzz Bee friendzzzz

It was at this delicate moment, with Pestilence comfortably leading 28 to 3 going into the 4th quarter, that Racism made a dramatic (yet agonizingly familiar) comeback with a white police officer murdering a defenseless black George Floyd on video, and did so at a time no one could conveniently avoid watching his death. Soon another group of demonstrators began making even more annoying demands of their politicians, like having a "right to live" and being "treated equally."

Then yet another group of people, who said they were not like the armed militiamen, wanted to know why they couldn't go to their child's graduation or see friends or family in public while thousands of the demonstrators were allowed to congregate all over the place at will. This was followed by the most touching display of racial unity since the "I'd like to Buy the World a Coke" commercial of 1971, with another new outside group of White, Black, Asian and Latino youths coming together to loot and vandalize completely unrelated small businesses. Even the police, now in a no-win situation of their own making, were stuck between playing the villain yet being called upon to somehow maintain the peace, while an opposing group of people figured the best way to rectify under-qualified policing was by replacing it with people completely unqualified to police.

Enough was enough. Tired of being told what to do and not being listened to or respected, a bunch of people stopped wearing facemasks, became angry for their own (justified) reasons, and furiously denounced anyone else's (justified) reasons for being angry. The irony was that a common experience

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that might have brought us a little closer— a shared 3 month national struggle against an epidemic that killed people by suffocating them - was taken from us in 8 minutes by a man who was not suffocated by the virus but by another man. One would be forgiven for thinking our country was cursed.

We can at least all agree we have attained Miley-Cyrus-Twerking-Bad, and it is no easy task to place a humorous face on what we are going through. But I am hoping most of you are sick-and-tired of being sick-and-tired and have binge-watched every television show on your bucket list, meaning it's Dan's occasionally distasteful Newsletter or reruns of Dick Van Dyke and the 1985 Mets World Series highlight reel. Either start socially distancing yourself from yet another one of my screeds against hypersensitivity, or don your favorite facemask, administer a generous helping of hand sanitizer and get ready for some home schooling of your own.



Toilet Paper for President: "I will actually clean up Washington!"

## Virtual Witnessing & Notarization Becomes A Train Wreck Hit by an Iceberg

Aside from righteous demonstrators during the day, masked street rioters at night, a Medieval-level plague and a dating scene even more-awkward than your divorced neighbor uploading sordid photos on Tinder or Grindr 3 years ago, 2020 will one day also be remembered for all the sloppy legal documents and litigation it created due to "virtual" (i.e. remote) witnessing and notarization.

The first weeks of Coronavirus quarantine were uncertain times for estate attorneys: We rely on in-person notarization and witnessing of legal documents for their valid execution. Those practices became impossible literally overnight. Just to add to the bedlam, clients who had made creating their estate planning documents a little

less important than throwing out their unpaired socks were suddenly rushing at estate attorneys like that time your Aunt Milly threw herself at Elvis on the Milton Berle Show in front of a live studio audience.

In a nutshell - with special thanks going out to my colleague, **Shannon McNulty, Esq.**, for her efforts getting this legislation recognized - Governor Cuomo's office realized it would be impossible for Estatomaniacs to get their documents validated if their attorneys were stuck in their homes growing a fatty liver and morphing into armchair immunologists. So the legal world begrudgingly lurched into the 1990s and allowed for remote audio-visual notarization of legal documents. Belatedly realizing that witnesses are people too (or ingeniously disguised robots) and are required for many legal documents, the ability for witnesses to participate in audio-visual document signing ceremonies was passed a few days later.

Oh, you want to know what is required to successfully validate your virtually notarized and remotely witnessed documents? I'm glad you asked. Just follow these simple steps:



1. Attorney modifies the notary block on documents to state the signing is "virtual" (but not on certain documents, such as Deeds, Powers of Attorney, and who knows what else)

2. Attorney sends documents to the client via email so client can print out the documents (if they have a printer) or via mail (provided the mailman isn't sick at home)

3. Client and witnesses show Identification live on audio-visual app or computer with attorney (provided they know how to use a smartphone or actually have a camera on their computer)

4. Client signs their copy of the documents (if they can figure out where to sign, which – to all our surprise – turns out to be much harder than it sounds), (plus, no "Docu-Sign" app allowed, only handwritten signatures are permitted)

5. Witnesses sign their own separate copy of the documents (or the same documents during different conferences)

6. On the SAME DAY the client emails or faxes the now-executed documents to the attorney...provided all parties have a scanner or fax machine ("fax machines" were scanners originally used in the 1950s, except they sucked)

7. Attorney notarizes electronic copies and sends back the notarized copy to client via fax or email (or completely forgets this step)

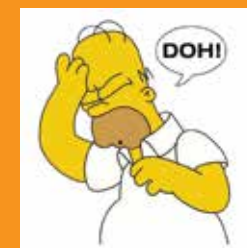
8. Client mails original documents to attorney within 30 days (or completely forgets this step)

9. Attorney notarizes the original documents as if on the date of execution (but should she reference the date or location of the actual "wet" notarization stamp anywhere?)



10. Attorney creates an explicatory affirmation describing the signing ceremony (which turns out to be more tedious than watching chicken soup heat to a rolling boil, is different almost every time, and possibly full of errors due to the many variables involved)

11. I bet your attorney forgot to mail the documents back to you



Yep, he forgot to mail the documents.

Problem Solved! **Yaaaayyyy!** What could possibly go wrong?!?

Needless to say, estate attorneys immediately began gouging out their eyeballs like that episode of Game of Thrones where The Mountain takes care of unfinished family business with Inigo Montoya's swashbuckling cousin from Narcos. Out of nowhere appeared a fortnight's worth of additional work, and mundane-yet-essential processes that an attorney's staff would normally do but were all now the responsibility of your lawyer, her cruddy laptop and her 12-year old copier / printer (*with fax capability, but no one cares*). Basically, attorneys doing virtual document signings now suffer "Amy Winehouse does a concert at a halfway home" levels of insanity.

But let's be fair: Would YOU want to spend 5 – 10 hours meeting with me in a 10 x 15 foot box thinking that at any moment I could sneeze and you will instantly break out in boils and some embarrassing illness you were somehow lucky enough to avoid contracting in college? Of course you would not, and if you would, yuck, my office is off limits to you anyway.

So yes, virtual notarization and remote witnessing was / is / will always be confounding, complex and confusing. And as a Grade AA Jerk opposing attorney once told me, "*Just because it is a bad lawsuit doesn't mean it is not a lawsuit.*" Yeah, that rascally punkster was a finger-wagging dog-faced pony soldier (I think), but he was right: Virtually witnessed and notarized documents have the best of intentions, but some awful execution requirements that are just begging to be contested in the future by litigating sycophants.



*The O.G.s of decrying people as Pony Soldiers. Also, grade school classmates*

The big takeaway here is: **If you signed any estate documents during the pandemic, sign them again when we return to personal-contact practices.** Especially if you disinherited a family member, you were

sick when you signed the documents, or you think you forgot to follow one of the steps above. Whatever, just sign your documents again, you will be glad you did.

## More Bad News: Beware Changes to Medicaid!

On the brighter side of things, New York is about to surgically disembowel the most-generous Medicaid planning regiment in the country (sorry, not a lot of good stuff going on right now). And they Pearl Harbored you in the dark of night and passed this legislation while you were in bed panicking about whether you had enough alcohol wipes to last you through Thanksgiving. So if you have a family member who wants to protect his or her assets in contemplation of qualifying for Home Care Medicaid, have a seat and get ready to swallow some Clorox-flavored Corn Flakes, because this will burn but not provide the relief you had hoped for.

For background purposes, you should understand the two time periods for Medicaid: (1) the planning phase, and (2) the application phase. Planning requires transferring assets to family members or Medicaid-compliant trusts, while the application process requires making tweaks to ownership of any additional assets or income that would otherwise preclude you from receiving Medicaid benefits.

	Medicaid Recipient	Spouse of Medicaid Recipient
Max Assets	\$15,750	\$128,640
Max Income	\$875 / month	\$3,216 / month
Planning Exceptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Retirement Plans</li><li>• Burial Trusts</li><li>• \$1,500 Cash Value of Life Insurance</li><li>• Medicaid Trusts</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Spousal Refusal</li><li>• Primary Residence Exemption</li><li>• Unlimited personal property</li></ul>

The next issue concerns the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program [a/k/a "CDPAP"]. Amongst other things, this Medicaid program allows an independent Managed Long Term

Next, most people are aware that Medicaid can provide recipients with two different types of care: Home Care (*technically called "Community Care" in legal circles, since benefits are paid for your continued care needs in your community*) and Nursing Home Care (*technically called "Institutional Care", because attorneys specialize in making the most horrifying concepts sound ten times worse*). We all know that Nursing Home Care is awful, and it is devastating to your finances if you haven't commenced 5-year "Look Back" planning. But currently, if you give yourself 1-months' time to transfer assets and prepare strategies for using your excess income correctly, you can procure Home Care Medicaid very easily, not to mention that you get to stay in your home. Thus Home Care Medicaid has simultaneously been both the most desirable care to receive, and the easiest care to obtain since you could get away without needing more than a 1 month planning phase.

The largest problem here is the new Look Back standard for Home Care. For example, I could unexpectedly suffer a stroke, have my home and excess assets placed in a Medicaid Trust the next week, and submit a Home Care Medicaid Application the following month. BUT, starting on October 1st, the Look Back for Home Care Medicaid is changing to Thirty (yes, 30) months, meaning that anyone who transfers an asset after September 30th won't fully protect that asset until April 1, 2023 at earliest.

Care ["MLTC"] company to pay your family members to care for you. While family members helping you poo might sound humiliating, be mindful that healthy family members often provide some care for their elderly family

members anyway, so why not have the government pay them? Sounds good to me. Consequently, it should come as no surprise that Medicaid will be making the following changes to the CDPAP Program:

1. There will be a new requirement that the applicant must require assistance with “physical maneuvering” as well as help with 3 Activities of Daily Living [“ADLs”], such as eating, bathing, dressing, transferring, toileting or walking in order to qualify.
2. If the applicant has an Alzheimer’s or dementia diagnosis, they will require “physical maneuvering” plus 2 or more ADLs in order to qualify.
3. The applicant’s plan of treatment must be prescribed by a qualified independent Medical Doctor (*not the applicant’s doctor*).
4. To determine the number of care hours the applicant will receive, there will be an independent assessment of the applicant; the MLTC will no longer make the assessment.
5. An additional heightened standard will apply for those receiving hours, meaning an extra review for those who receive 12 or more hours of care a day, and the review will include appropriateness of staying in the community (*versus going to a Nursing Home*)



*“Don’t even try it laddie: Jimmy Hoffa’s blood still drips off my cane”*

In a word: OUCH! So the new standards to apply for the sweetheart deal of Medicaid requires you to be seriously disabled, but if you are too disabled to stay at home they are going to say you need to be institutionalized, you must have your course of care prescribed by a doctor who is a complete stranger to you, and the care hours are going to be assessed by a party that is independent of the MLTC. And you still need to find an MLTC that actually thinks it can make a profit under this new regiment, which

will be only slightly easier than finding intelligent life at the bottom of a pack of Ramen noodles.

The only good news I have to report is that Spousal Refusal will remain intact. No, Spousal Refusal is not when you ask your spouse to do something and you are promptly reminded how good your life became once you met them (after which your request is implicitly refused), Spousal Refusal means that you do not have to pay for your spouse’s care and are permitted to continue receiving your own income, minus 20% of any monthly income you earn over \$3,216. It appears New York was wise enough to realize it can’t afford its Medicaid program’s favorable financial safeguards, but even wiser to realize it should not impoverish a second spouse in the process.

The takeaway here should be obvious: Do your Medicaid planning NOW! The increased Look Back period is based on the date of the transfer, not the date of the application. So if you transfer assets on September 30, 2020 and apply for Home Care on November 30, 2020 you qualify and protect all your assets, but if you transfer assets on October 1, 2020, you don’t protect all of your assets until April 1, 2023 and need to take more-extreme measures that won’t protect all of your money. Do it NOW!

## Yep, MORE Bad Stuff: The SECURE Act May Make Your Retirement Assets Insecure

Every few years the federal government passes some last-minute legislation at the end of December that completely ruins your estate plan. This year that change was the *Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act*, I.e. the “SECURE Act”.



While less-regrettably named than recent Hollywood starlet scented candles, the SECURE Act actually affects the pubic at large, and rewrote the post-mortem retirement plan landscape. First, it got rid of many opportunities to “stretch” Inherited IRA distributions through a beneficiary’s life expectancy. It also works independently of other retirement plan rules that were already in existence. Lastly, while it did provide some relief to people nearing their early 70s, the relief was limited. To economize your beneficiary’s tax deferral on your hard-earned retirement assets, you need to follow a 4 Step Test:

BEST IRA Beneficiaries	Why?
1. Spouse	1. Can transfer your IRA into his/her IRA and get best RMD treatment
2. Charities ONLY	2. Charities pay no income tax, so you are multiplying your donation
3. Minors / Disabled individuals (if left in trust)	3. Can still “stretch” Inherited IRA RMDs, but should be left to an “accumulation trust” for beneficiary’s benefit
WORST IRA Beneficiaries	Why?
4. Non-Spouse at peak earning years	4. Distributions must be taken out over 10-year period with income taxes owed while the beneficiary is at peak earning years (E.g. high taxes)
5. Mix of charities and human beings	5. Entire IRA must be distributed within 5 years, even if only a nominal amount is being left to charity
6. Minors / Disabled individuals (if NOT left in trust)	6. A financial guardianship or loss of Medicaid benefits may take place

## I. Required Minimum Distributions (“RMDs”)

For those of you age 72 or above, you must begin taking out RMDs from your retirement plans (*with a very few exceptions*). The older you get, the higher the minimum amount you are required to distribute from your IRA becomes.

### Required Minimum Distribution Table

Age	% to Distribute	Age	% to Distribute
72	3.91 %	86	7.09 %
73	4.05 %	87	7.46 %
74	4.20 %	88	7.87 %
75	4.37 %	89	8.33 %
76	4.55 %	90	8.77 %
77	4.72 %	91	9.26 %
78	4.93 %	92	9.80 %
79	5.13 %	93	10.42 %
80	5.35 %	94	10.99 %
81	5.59 %	95	11.63 %
82	5.85 %	96	12.35 %
83	6.13 %	97	13.16 %
84	6.45 %	98	14.08 %
85	6.76 %		

However, if you receive an Inherited IRA, such as from a parent after they die, you must begin taking RMDs the following year no matter what age you are. The logic is that you did not earn the IRA funds, you inherited them from someone else who earned them, so you should be taking RMDs almost immediately unless your spouse was the person who died.

## II. “Spousal” v. “Inherited” IRAs

When you die (*or are divorced*) your spouse may transfer your IRA into his / her own IRA, basically erasing your name from the IRA account forever. This is known as a “Spousal Rollover”, and only your spouse can do this. If my spouse is significantly younger than me, she may be able to avoid taking RMDs from the IRA (which was funded with my money) for several years longer than I may have been able.

Anyone else who receives your IRA when you die receives an “Inherited

IRA”. Example: When I die and leave my IRA to my good friend Billy, my IRA becomes “The Daniel Timins Inherited IRA f/b/o Billy Idol”. My name is forever attached to the IRA, and Billy must take distributions within either the next 5 years or 10 years, depending on whether I first qualify under the “5 Year Rule.”

## III. “5 Year Rule”: If You Have a Life Expectancy

The next issue is understanding what a “Designated Beneficiary” is. A beneficiary who has a life expectancy is considered a Designated Beneficiary, such as your friend, your child, your high school bully. Designated beneficiaries do qualify for “stretching” and the “10-Year Rule” below. Naming a charity or your estate as a beneficiary is bad, because they do not have life expectancies, meaning they are NOT Designated Beneficiaries and the IRA which they are a beneficiary of must be fully distributed to all beneficiaries within 5 years (*the “5 Year Rule”*).

The problem arises for people who want to leave IRA money to Designated Beneficiaries and charities: Even if you leave 99% of an IRA to your favorite nephew (*a Designated Beneficiary*) and 1% to your favorite charity, such as Save the Humpback Water Buffalo Foundation (*a “Non-Designated Beneficiary”*) the entire IRA has to be withdrawn within 5 years.

## IV. The SECURE Act, the “10 Year Rule”, and “Stretching” for some beneficiaries

We finally made it here! Go grab a box of Ring Dings or whatever you do to reward yourself for making it through Tuesday, you’ve earned it damnit. You (1) left money to a non-spouse beneficiary in an Inherited IRA, (2) and the beneficiary is a human and thus has a life expectancy, so (3) they avoid the 5 Year Rule, and (4) now they want to know what their RMD treatment is. And here is the answer:

### Who Can Still “Stretch” Inherited IRA RMDs?

1. Beneficiaries 10 years younger than you or older
2. Beneficiaries who are legally disabled
3. Beneficiaries who are minors (*but only until they turn 18 years old*)

### Who Must Withdraw All Funds Within 10 Years?

1. Everyone Else Who is a Designated Beneficiary (*except your spouse, who can do a Spousal Rollover*)

In a nutshell: The SECURE Act was created to avoid younger generations of beneficiaries “stretching” RMDs over the rest of their life expectancies. The bad news is that anyone who is the beneficiary of a newly created Inherited IRA and is 18 years old or older must withdraw the entire value of that Inherited IRA within 10 years. The good news is that they may choose how much to withdraw in any of those 10 years, as long as the Inherited IRA is completely depleted in 10 years. On a positive note, this flexibility can allow your beneficiary to plan on taking larger distributions in years they know they will have lesser income. The negative side is that since most people’s longest-living parent will probably live into their 90s, the beneficiary will likely receive their Inherited IRA right around the years they are making the most income of their working lives.

Looking at the chart above, you should also realize that the 10 Year Rule does not apply to certain beneficiaries: minors, disabled individuals, and beneficiaries who are only a few years younger than you. Minors may continue to receive stretch RMD payments (or, more accurately, to their trusts), but must have all remaining funds distributed within 10 years upon reaching age 18. Disabled beneficiaries may also continue to receive stretch distributions from an Inherited IRA but should likely have such distributions paid directly to their Supplemental Needs Trusts so that they may continue to be protected for Medicaid purposes. And anyone within 10 years of your age – such as a sibling or a best friend – may continue to stretch Inherited IRA RMDs based on their life expectancy.

Moral of the story: Sometimes your estate plan desires do not directly corollate with your intentions to minimize your beneficiaries' income taxes. If you want your child or niece / nephew to receive trust funds at ages 30, 35 and 40 but you die when they are age 20, your IRA assets will have to be distributed at an earlier age than your estate plan had directed them to be distributed. If you have significant IRA assets that are a large part of your inheritable assets, make sure to plan how to distribute these funds in the context of your estate planning.

## Will I Have to Pay Back my PPP Loan?

*(Thank you Eric Resnick, CPA for letting me know I can keep the money)*

Bureaucrats' penchant for knowing they know what is best for you is surpassed only by their love of acronyms. And we saw a whole lot of acronyms the past few months. From CARES to PPE, our federal pencil pushers were busy playing letter games to distract you from the fact your grandchildren will have to pay taxes for a decade to subsidize your government-sponsored reunion with your favorite childhood breakfast cereals during quarantine.

And if you were a small business owner you were likely more surprised to find out you were entitled to a Small Business Administration ["SBA"] loan than you were to learn that the Hamptons were going to endure a temporary shortage of imported French cheeses. And the loan was forgivable if you did not release any employees from employment. *Free Money!!!!* So you ran to your accountant and asked how much you were entitled to receive from your Paycheck Protection Program [*i.e.* "PPP"] loan.

What went wrong? For starters, the laws directing \$650 Billion of government spending were drafted in the time it took Congress to heat up their Cheeseroni Hot Pocket in the microwave. So figuring out how much you were entitled to was like asking Bernie Sanders to balance your checkbook: Anything is possible

## Dan Says

- If gifting IRA assets to your family and charities is part of your estate plan, have one IRA account naming humans as beneficiaries (Designated Beneficiaries) so they can avoid the 5 Year Rule, and a separate IRA being left solely to charities (Non-Designated Beneficiaries) who do not pay income taxes and withdraw their IRA funds immediately.
- While your IRA is protected from most of your creditors (except for your divorcing spouse and the IRS, punks), an Inherited IRA is not protected from your beneficiary's creditors. You may want to insulate these by leaving Inherited IRA funds to a trust for your spendthrift beneficiaries so your trustee can provide some creditor protection over the assets.
- When possible, maximize your contributions to pre-tax retirement plans at work (401(k), SEP IRA, 403(b), etc.) so you get the maximum income tax deduction now, then attempt to contribute to a Roth IRA.
- Do not be overly eager to convert your IRA to a Roth IRA. When you convert an IRA to a Roth IRA you are (1) realizing an absolute negative consequence (I.e. paying income taxes on the converted amount), in exchange for (2) betting on an uncertain future (you don't know how Roths will be treated in the future, future income tax rates, you don't know if Roths will required to make RMDs in the future, etc.).
- **IMPORTANT:** While you do not have to take RMDs from your Roth IRA, your beneficiaries DO have to take RMDs from their Inherited Roth IRA, AND these distributions are now subject to the SECURE Act's new 10 Year Rule. This is now another reason not to convert your IRA to a Roth IRA, since what used to be distributable over your younger beneficiary's life expectancy must now be distributed over 10 years.



because...wait for it...numbers should all be treated equally! *BWAHAHAH!* Even my own loan sponsors showed me three entirely different values, and it seemed like no one could agree which figure was correct despite them all claiming they were right. But hey, *Free Money Fridays, riiiiiiiiight?*



*"A HA HA! The period moves to the right and left of the numbers!?"*

All it took were a few megajillionaire corporations and Ivy League schools (*i.e. neither needy nor "small" businesses*) to get preferred panhandling positions at the gold

rush to end this keg party early. So the SBA made it clear certain companies would be landing on that maddening "Bankrupt" tile from Wheel of Fortune because stealing from the government is bad unless you have a lobbyist backing you up. So some loans would definitely have to be paid back. And small business owners, who never receive bailouts while megacorporations get paid during every recession taking place in a four-digit year, wondered whether they would get shafted yet again.

Remember that the proceeds of the loan were intended to cover certain expenses incurred by employers starting 60 days after you received the funds. Provided you used 75% of the loan for employee salaries and rent-related costs your expenses should qualify and the loan will be forgiven if you held onto employees. And if your loan is less than \$2 million (meaning you actually own a "small" business) the SBA will not subject you to a "full audit" and assume any mistake you made was unintentional (wink wink), so you will only owe minor interest. If you

did mess up the SBA may still forgive penalties and interest, though they have continued to provide more guidance as the depths of corporate greed slowly dawn upon public servants who assumed only governments were self-serving.

In summation: Who knows whether you can keep the money? Track every single expense you assess in 2020, if your revenue is close to invalidating your loan then give bonuses to employees now instead of the holidays, and when possible try to maintain reserves exceeding your entire loan amount. If 2020 has taught us anything, it is that uncertainty in the Age of Covid-19 is usually followed by a bad outcome.

## MATCH...THAT...SHOW!!!

Draw a line from the TV programs you binge-watched during quarantine with the thoughts / feelings they evoked in you! Then, regret all the sit ups you could have done instead.



*Binge-watching Archer makes your puns that much more awesome*

Governor Press Briefings	Too violent
The Office	Too stupid
Westworld	Watching this made ME feel violent and/or stupid
Star Wars: The Phantom Menace	The main actor(s) made me tear my hair out
24	How does a robot "die" 4 times in 2 episodes?
Stranger Things	How did people even watch black and white TV shows?
Game of Thrones	Are you sure I won't go to jail for using your member ID?
Leave it to Beaver	I almost forgot this one existed
Presidential Press Briefings	Guess I'll wait until next pandemic to finish watching this

## What Has Dan Been Doing?

Dan has been eating cookies and growing out of his wardrobe. But he was also rocking with you through his new webinar series:

**April 7:** Dan, Joseph DeMartinis and Matthew Heerde discuss the CARES Act, PPP Loans, 2019 and 2020 tax holidays, and virtual witnessing.

**April 20:** Dan, Michael LaMagna and Irina Yadgarova discuss the impending changes to New York Medicaid.

**May 5:** Stephen Cohen informs us on what you need to know about life insurance in the current marketplace.

**May 19:** Matthew DelPriore discusses behavioral investing and navigating your finances during a crisis.

**May 27:** Darrell Upson reviews building investment resilience over the long term.

**June 2:** Michael Luftman gives insights on where investment opportunities lie in the coming months.

**All webinars may be viewed on my website. Stay tuned for more informative programs in the near future!**

## SPECIAL THANKS: The People Who Sent Me New Clients

The last financial calamity I faced was the 2008 Great Recession. I had started my first law firm only 8 months earlier and when it hit I was at my lowest financial ebb. The ensuing year saw the break-up of that firm, my separation and eventual divorce from my first wife, health problems, legal problems, personal problems, and I was broke. You name it and I was suffering from it. It was a life-altering experience and one of the worst times in my life. During that crisis my firm was too new to have the luxury of people referring me clients.

What a difference 12 years makes. While many people have struggled to keep their jobs and make ends meet (I feel for you, I've been there), this time around I have been blessed with the chance to help a large number of new customers, because this time I have people who are generous enough to trust me with their needy friends, clients and family members. Words can hardly begin to express the depths of my gratitude to the following people (and those I may have accidentally

omitted) who helped me and my wife through this difficult period by referring me new clients during the Covid-19 crisis. THANK YOU!!!

- Gina DeCrescenzo, Esq.
- Michael Luftman
- Stephen Cohen, CFP®, JD
- Keith DeVisser, CPA
- Joseph DeMartinis, CPA, CFP®
- Matthew DelPriore, CFP®
- Sharon Yehoshua, Esq.
- Daniele Nodelman, Esq.
- Bob Rosenbloom, CPA
- Maureen McCarthy, Esq.
- Paul Share, Esq.
- Darrel Upson, CIMA
- Jason Advocate, Esq.
- Dafna Gorfinkle
- Brain Zimmet, Esq.
- Amy Jo Neill
- Cynthia Perthuis
- Stephen Reitano
- Adele Niederman
- Andrew Weltchek, Esq.
- Charles McBain, Esq.
- Cari Rincker, Esq.
- Mali Perl
- Jennifer Pade
- Pr. Bridget Crawford
- Phil Touitou, Esq.
- Brandon Cook
- Carleen Smith

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VOL 12, JULY 2020

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