LAW OFFICE OF ATTORNEY JAMES P. HENTZ, P.C.

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The Legal Beagle

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special points of interest:

- Why is this new alcoholic drink already being banned?
- The Violent Crime Rate for Massachusetts is higher than any other New England state
- What can you do to help others this holiday season?
- Now available on Facebook and Twitter

Congress Asking for Changes

Democrat and Republican incumbents met on November 15th settled on making changes within Congress. Republican John Boehner states the mentality is to stop "job-killing policies" and "the spending binge." Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell acknowledges the new freshman Republicans to the senate and compares it to the two of the previous election and argues that the incomers will bring a huge improvement. Unfortunately, however, they must suffer through the lame duck session. While focusing on failing tax cuts and funds for evading government shutdowns, doctors are suffering a severe cut in Medicare reimbursement. Meanwhile, more than one hundred House and Senate newcomers begin to learn aspects including decorum, how to run office, and how not to get lost in the Capitol basement. Sen Harry Reid of Nevada will continue to run the Democratic majority and McConnell of Kentucky will continue to head the growing Republican Party. Pending the official vote for house leadership, Republicans will decide on Boehner as the next speaker and Rep. Eric Cantor of Virginia as majority leader. Speaker Nancy Pelosi from California would like to stay on as Democratic leader and Maryland Rep. Steny Hoyer is to become second in command. Whether or not both parties will work together during the lame duck session will become clearer when President Obama meets with the party's leaders next week.

Businesses Fined for Illegal Workers

The federal immigration officials are imposing fines of thousands of dollars all over New England for not proving that all of their employees are in the United States legally. These companies range from Fenway Park to small town Maine blueberry growers. From 2008, the fines have increased a major amount. In 2008, they were $14,534 and this year it is $118,000. These fines are part of Obama's new immigration plans. Instead of focusing on punishing the immigrants themselves, they are now focused on the businesses that hire them in hopes that it will decrease the number of job opportunities. Less people are getting put in jail through this plan. Two years ago, 6,000 immigrants were locked up. Last year only 1,664 were thrown in jail and this year, only 187. Nationally, there were over 2,000 companies audited for their employees I-9 forms that state the individual is legally in the US. There were $6.95 million in fines, which is ten times the amount of two years ago.

MA Has Highest Violent Crime Rates

Massachusetts is still leading the Northeast in violent crime. Evidence of this has been seen in a survey done by the FBI for New England, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The rate of violent crime over the past year has increased yet again to 457 per 100,000 residents from 449 in the past year and continues to be the highest rate. The next highest rate is far behind at 385 per 100,000 residents. The hospital emergency departments in Massachusetts have reported a 40% higher number than the average US emergency room. Boston has had a 20% increase from last year in homicides already, and the year is not even over yet. The Boston Police and other towns are cracking down and trying to prevent this violent crime number to increase even more.

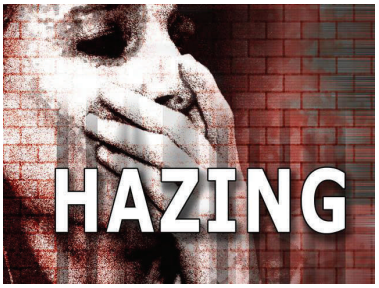
Four Loko is Loco

The fairly new craze among college students is an alcoholic drink called Four Loko. It is being banned in Massachusetts because it is blamed for deaths and serious illnesses. Starting November 22, 2010, the company will be banned from making any deliveries to any stores. This drink is a mix of an energy drink and alcohol and one can is equivalent to four cups of coffee and six beers. It is dangerous because you cant feel the effects of the alcohol until the caffeine wears out, which usually makes the individual drink too much. Many college students have been hospitalized from drinking these and some have even died. There is little research in the effects of mixing alcohol with caffeine but studies have suggested that people get more intoxicated and engage in risky behavior. This new law is protecting the safety of the college students and those who drink Four Lokos.

Housing Market Crisis Leads to More Problems

Massachusetts towns and cities have a rising problem on their hands. The housing market hasn't been great in the past few years and now there is an increasing number of foreclosures and auctions. Although much of the of the Real Estate industry has become digital, the tradition of foreclosure auctions are still around since its beginning centuries ago. Many people have personal experiences relating to this problem and express that housing foreclosures have increased more than half of the houses that were seized last by the end of September and remain a very embarrassing process for those who experience it. However, several people express that immediate foreclosures seem rather rash considering nobody else really has the money to buy in the market anyway. Also, banks are usually not willing to sell the house less than a certain price, still having a difficult time trying to get more to buy. Many suggest that banks with homeowners to work out payment plans to avoid settling for foreclosures.

What is Hazing?



Hazing is a very tough topic for many people. It is illegal, although many people still take part in it. There are In the state of Massachusetts there is an anti-hazing law in place from 1985. Hazing rituals have been a problem in almost every state for decades now. Participants and those in charge of regulating such hazing laws seem to be somewhat confused as to what the true definition is, some believe that acts are not meant to hurt anyone and sometimes things just go wrong. Hazing has been such a problem all over the country that forty four states have anti-hazing laws in place. Massachusetts is one of these states and has all high school teams sign contracts promising that they will not haze and also that they understand what constitutes hazing. It seems as though the gray-ness between what constitutes as hazing and what is considered rough play or inappropriate rituals seems to be unclear. Thankfully, this has been the first year in over thirty years that an individual has not died from hazing, but unfortunately there are still people being seriously hurt from hazing.

The Season of Giving

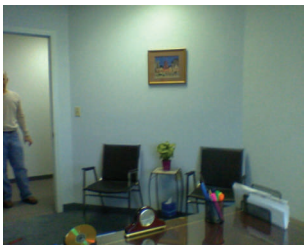
Tis the season… As the holidays come upon us, we are thankful for what we have around us. As our families gather for Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanza, we give gifts to show our love. But, because of the economy slump that we have been in, the holidays have become one of the most stressful times of the year, when it should be the happiest. People are having a lot of trouble giving gifts to show their love and spirit. So, if you are feeling extra generous this holiday season, and have a little extra spending money, think of those in need. Buy a toy for Toys for Tots. Donate to your local food pantry or home-less shelters. Sponsor a family through your church. Do what you can during this season of giv-ing and it will be greatly appreciated. A little giv-ing can go a long way in someone's life and you will be very appreciated.

From all of us to you,

Happy Holidays!

New Office!

We are officially moved into our new office! We are all settled in and we want to share our new office with you. Here are some pictures of it now that its is all furnished.. Thank you to everyone that has supported us and got us to be where we are today!



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6 Year Anniversary—Thank you!

We're on the Web!
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Law office of James P. Hentz

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To provide our clients with the highest quality in legal services; To provide our community with support without regard to compensation; To recognize our commitment to justice and fairness in our dealings with all; To recognize that each of us has worth that transcends our job descriptions and thus we must treat each other as we would have others treat us.

To be ever mindful of the fact that our client's welfare is paramount; To recognize that our system of justice is dependant upon each of us to abide by the Canons of Ethics and the rules of the various courts; and, To adhere to the highest standards of excellence and integrity within our conduct and services in both our professional and personal lives.

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