

# The Legal Beagle

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## Attorney James P. Hentz Presents First Annual Christina Toala Memorial Scholarship

The Christina Toala Memorial Scholarship presented by the Law Office of James P. Hentz, P.C. was awarded to Miss Stephanie Young of Upton on July 26<sup>th</sup>. The Nipmuc Regional High School graduate won the award for her excellence in academics, passion for community service, and dedication to her extracurricular activities. The Christina Toala Memorial Scholarship will be available to both Nipmuc Regional High School and Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School seniors this upcoming fall. We are excited to extend this meaningful scholarship to the

students of BVT to ease the financial burden of one student's higher education. For more information on

this scholarship, go to [www.JHentzLaw.com](http://www.JHentzLaw.com) or check with your school's guidance office.



## Special points of interest:

- Who won our Christina Toala Memorial Scholarship?
- Why did a human smuggler get off with 20 years?
- How can you commemorate on September 11th?
- What's happening to HIV/AIDS Prevention in MA?
- What's in store for the Patriots?
- Why did we raise the debt ceiling?
- Why can't you wear white after labor day?
- What's happening in Libya?

## Human Smuggler Sentenced to 20 Years

Illegal immigrant and human smuggler, Pedro Marcos-Marcos, has been sentenced to twenty years in federal prison and five years of probation. The Guatemala native could have been sentenced to life in prison, but he plead guilty to all five counts of accused trafficking. Although charged in Los Angeles, California, Marcos-Marcos crimes reached as far as Massachusetts. In 2009, a Salvadoran was rescued from a house in



Lancaster where Marcos-Marcos ordered someone to beat him with a cattle prod

and starve him for days until his family members paid \$6000 in ransom. In San Bernardino, California, Marcos-Marcos kept a house full of smuggled women captive where they were raped until their smuggling fees were paid. Marcos-Marcos' attorney tried to get him off with ten years in prison, claiming that the "primitive circumstances" he grew up with in Guatemala made him in capable of realizing the severity of his actions.

## The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of September 11<sup>th</sup> Attacks

September 11, 2011 will mark the ten year anniversary of the terrorist attacks that have forever changed America. Back in 2001, al-Qaeda suicide attackers hijacked four US planes in a plan to destroy strategic American buildings: the two World Trade Center towers in Manhattan, the Pentagon in Virginia, and possibly the White House in Washington D.C. The crashes killed thousands of people, both American citizens and international visitors, and were the first attacks on US soil since Pearl Harbor. The most notable of the anniversary



memorial ceremonies will be the Hands-In-Hands demonstration to be held September 10 in lower Manhattan. Commemorators are invited to come out and hold hands in a chain down NYC to symbolize both unity and tolerance. This demonstration is also being used in part to counteract the rumored protest of the proposed Islamic community center near ground zero. Critics of the protest say that the anniversary not supposed to be centered on hate, but instead on loving those who were lost.

## HIV/AIDS Prevention Services Face Budgets Cuts

Extreme decreases in Massachusetts's federal funding has forced Deval Patrick to make cuts in health services crucial to the prevention of HIV/AIDS. The The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC] has decided that, instead of distributing the federal HIV/AIDS prevention budget evenly among that states, the money will be concentrated in areas with higher levels of infected people. MA Department of Public Health announced that prevention measures will be reduced by roughly four million dollars, a quarter of the annual

budget, because of Massachusetts's low infection rate. What the CDC did not take in to consideration was the fact that MA's infection rate is so low because of its prevention measures. Over the past decade, the rate of people infected annually with HIV/AIDS in MA has dropped by fifty percent. Officials are foreshadowing the budget cut to mean a decrease in the distribution of free condoms to schools and health facilities, programs that provide clean needles to drug users, HIV/AIDS education counselors, and awareness ads.



## Patriots For the Win!



On Thursday August 11<sup>th</sup>, the New England Patriots won their first preseason game against the Jacksonville Jaguars, giving football fans high hopes for the upcoming season. The 47-12 win shows that the Patriots are back with a vengeance after their crushing defeat in the first round of last year's playoffs. Quarterback Tom Brady sat out the game, allowing second string quarterback Brian Holder to show New England what he can do. Also sitting out was he much anticipated new addition to the team,

Chad Ochocinco. Coach Belichick is not assured by the Patriots easy win, feeling that it was because the Jaguars were having a bad day, not because the Patriots have superior abilities. Regardless of the coach's feelings, the Patriots set a personal preseason scoring record, reiterating how strong of a team they really are. The Patriots will be playing Tampa Bay, Detroit, and New York in the upcoming preseason games.

## Federal Debt Ceiling Raised

After a major Republicans versus Democrats battle, the federal debt ceiling has been raised from 14.29 trillion dollars to about 16.5 trillion dollars. The debt ceiling is the amount of money that Congress allows the United States' government to borrow in order to pay for its fees and programs. Raising the debt ceiling weakens the US credit rating, making it harder to borrow money and causing increases in home mortgage rates. However, without the raise, the US government would have to immediately cut back on trillions of dollars of

spending, a virtually impossible feat. The final decision involves a 2.4 trillion dollar debt ceiling increase, a two trillion dollar spending cut over ten years, and nine-hundred billion dollars in immediate spending cuts. Neither party is completely happy with the compromise. Democrats are angry that there will be significant spending cuts without any revenue increase, whereas Republicans are angry because raising the debt ceiling further weakens the US economy. The new debt bill will last until 2013, when it will have to be reevaluated.



## Wearing White After Labor Day



end of summer. Labor Day is a time for family barbeques and last hoorah beach trips, but it is also oddly the last day etiquette experts would be caught wearing white. Everyone has heard the rule never wear white after Labor Day, but does anyone know why? One possible explanation has practice reasoning: white clothes keep you cooled off in the hot summer months, whereas darker clothes will keep you warmer in the winter. Some believe it has more to do with economic standing.

People rich enough to vacation to suburban areas during the summer would typically swap out their dark suits and black dresses in favor of the lighter colors they could not normally wear. Many, however, think that it is just a silly rule used to keep the trendy separated from the rest.

## Libyan Rebels Close in on Tripoli

The conflict between the Libyan government and those seeking freedom from Colonel Gaddafi's regime has been an ongoing struggle since February of this year. Gaddafi claims that the Libyan government is run democratically by the people and that he is just a figurehead similar to Queen Elizabeth. However, the rebels hold that Gaddafi is an authoritative leader who has abused his powers to gain control. Rebel forces have made strong advances to overthrow the gov-

ernment ever since they started receiving reinforcements from NATO



separation from the government. If confirmed, this separation could be

the beginning of the government crumbling.

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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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