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## 2021 - A TIME TO ACT IF THERE EVER WAS ONE!

If we learned anything at all from the year 2020, it is we are not able to predict what the future holds. Unfortunately, this includes your health, as well as retention of your capacity to establish an Estate Plan (the one you have been putting off for, well, a long time now) and 2020 was your wake-up call and in no uncertain terms told you – it is time to act!

“A new year a new you!” is what I heard proclaimed on the radio earlier this year. Of course, they were discussing new-year’s resolutions and the sense of a new opportunity many of us have when the clock strikes midnight on December 31 each year.

My primary New Year’s Resolution has to do with putting aside time to train for the 2021 Atlantic City 70.3 Ironman event while maintaining my status as a good husband and father (I hope the world opens-up for business by then). What is your New Year’s Resolution?

This writing is intended to encourage those of you who have been putting off setting up an estate plan for years, or even decades, to grab this new opportunity to plan. I am writing to those who have thought about conducting estate planning (or having your plan reviewed/updated/amended) on many occasions over the years and have even discussed this topic with their spouse and friends. This is for the person who in the context of a discussion on the topic would be agreeable and say “yes, I need to get that done” and mean it, but somehow still lets it fall by the wayside. If you are not that person, perhaps your New Year’s Resolution should be to become that person.

Well, here I am, another voice beating the estate planning drum, hoping to awaken your desire to protect yourself, spouse, and family by establishing an

estate plan (if you do not know what I mean by “protecting” your family, then there are things you do not know, but should). It is a new year, a fresh start for you, and a meaningful resolution for you would be to get your affairs in good order, if not for your own sake, then for your loved ones (a significant part of planning is about them after all). Will you follow through? I hope you do and wish the new you luck in accomplishing this and any other goals you have for 2021.

If you do not know what an estate plan consists of, or do not know what questions to ask in a consultation, do not concern yourself – we make it our business to explain much of what an estate plan should consist of in our consultations and are always happy to respond to all questions our clients have.

Another great resource for knowledge on this topic is at your fingertips. I have been writing articles for the Bow Times on a monthly basis (more or less) since the early 2015 and if you were to take the time to read them all you would be well on your way to knowing the topics of most concern. I invite you to go to: <http://thebowtimes.com/news> to view all of them.

Also, if you are considering setting aside time to come in and see us, it may be useful to review my December 2020ast month’s article, which contains a basic checklist of items to discuss. Feel free to print off the checklist to help facilitate our conversation. I look forward to assisting you in achieving one of your most important New Year’s Resolutions.

The information provided in this article does not constitute legal advice. Really, it is more of a call to action, a form of encouragement to move you to act.