

"We Have One Thing in Common – We Like To Win"

Practice Areas

Criminal
Traffic
Personal Injury
Uncontested Divorces
Estate Planning
Landlord/Tenant
Contract Review

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New Driving Laws in VA

There are several new driving laws in Virginia that are very important for drivers to know. The first law pertains to people under 18 years old who hold driving permits. The law used to prohibit driving between midnight and 4am unless they were coming from work or a school sponsored activity. However, now those who hold a driving permit under 18 years old can driving during those times if they are coming from an activity

that is supervised by an adult and sponsored by a civic, religious or public organization.

The next new driving law affects those who are driving under the influence. If a person has been convicted of involuntary manslaughter, leaving a DUI victim with a permanent injury or a previous DUI felony offense, then any other subsequent DUI related offense will be treated as a Class 6 felony with a one year mandatory



minimum incarceration and a mandatory minimum fine of \$1,000.00.

Another very important driving law is that of texting and driving. Before, a police officer could write a ticket for texting if it was accompanied by another driving offense. Now, drivers will be punished with a \$125.00 fine. The two exceptions to this rule are for GPS usage or cars that are lawfully parked.

Do You Have an Estate Plan?

There is a common myth in our society that only elderly individuals or people with disabilities need wills. The fact is that anything can happen, at any time, and we must ask, "Will everything be in order if something happens to me?"

In Virginia, as in most states, there are certain types of documents that people create in order to plan their estate. First, the most common document is a will. A will distributes a

person's property upon death and carries out their last wishes. If a person wants anything to be distributed before their death, a will is not the appropriate document. Instead, a trust is used to carry out a person's wishes before or after death. In addition, a trust eliminates some of the tax consequences that can accompany a will.

Next, a power of attorney is a document used to allow another person to handle

assets, debts and property for a person at any time for as long as stated, but not beyond death. Finally, an advance medical directive is a document that handles issues such as resuscitation, organ donation and cremation.

This is just a brief overview of estate planning. Stop in our office for a complete brochure and schedule your appointment with one of our attorneys to help you plan today!

Tips for the New Year!

1. Find your motivation and stay positive.
2. When you wake up in the morning, complete the following statement: My purpose is _____.
3. Make daily goals.
4. Eat breakfast every day.
5. Exercise.
6. Focus on things that make you happy.
7. Be prepared for lapses. Have "back-up" plans.
8. Mentor someone.
9. Demonstrate the 3 Es: Energy, Enthusiasm, Empathy.
10. Stop complaining!
11. Get more sleep.
12. Smile and laugh at least 5 times a day.
13. Each night before you go to bed, complete the following statement: Today I accomplished _____.

Get ready for your best year yet!!!!

NEW YEAR WORD SEARCH

D F H R N B R X M U Y T Y Y Q
 E I A E E E R A U Q S I B A S
 S R W M T S K W D D A M A D W
 I E J N I E O C O N Z E B I I
 O W U E R L P L O R E S Q L N
 N O B S E Z Y H U L K L Q O T
 C R P A R T Y E A T C S A H E
 W K C E L E B R A T I O N C R
 Z S T H G I N D I M S O E V E
 K C O N F E T I R A E Y N O V

word list

Family
 Winter
 Fireworks
 Holiday
 Midnight
 Resolution
 Clock
 Year
 Celebration
 New

Calendar

Confeti
 Baby
 Hats
 Noise Makers
 Eve
 Count down
 Party
 Fire works
 Times square





This dip has been handed down for many generations and is sure to be a crowd-pleaser!

The Best New Year's Crab Dip

TOTAL TIME: Prep: 20 min. Cook: 2 hours **Yields 9 Servings**

Ingredients

- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 2 green onions, chopped
- 1/4 cup chopped sweet red pepper
- 2 tablespoons minced fresh parsley
- 2 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 2 cans (6 ounces *each*) lump crabmeat, drained
- 2 tablespoons capers, drained
- Dash hot pepper sauce

Directions

1. In a 1-1/2-qt. slow cooker, combine the first nine ingredients; stir in crab.
 2. Cover and cook on low for 1-2 hours. Stir in capers and pepper sauce; cook 30 minutes longer to allow flavors to blend. Serve with crackers.
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We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.cooperlawva.com

Employee Highlight Corner



Phyllis Gibson is the paralegal to Attorney Wanda Cooper.

areas of criminal, traffic and federal law.

She is a native of Norfolk, Virginia and received her paralegal training at Old Dominion University.

If you need to make an appointment to see Attorney Cooper, call our office and allow Ms. Gibson to meet your needs. She is an asset to our office and after speaking with her, we are sure you'll feel the same way!

She has been with our firm for a number of years and has experienced training in the

New Features

Be sure to follow us on social media sites, Facebook and Twitter. We constantly update these sites with new events and articles. We also have an interactive website featuring our News/Blog

page and we would love to hear your comments.

We realize that in 2013 our clients made it the best year thus far. We further believe that because of your feedback, referrals

and confidence in our firm that 2014 will be even greater. Thank you for being the best supporters we could ever imagine!



Wanda Cooper, Esq.



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