



Sweet, Maier & Coletti, S.C.

114 N. Church St.
PO Box 318
Elkhorn, WI 53121
262-723-5480
www.wisclaw.com



Inside this issue:

You've Got The Power!	1
Walworth County Foreclosure Mediation Program	2
Wisconsin Entrepreneurs' Network (WEN)	2
Why Is It Called a Will?	2
Headliners	3
Top Costumes for Halloween	3
Happy Thanksgiving	3

You've got the Power!

We are coming down the home stretch for the Nov. 2 election, when an estimated 1/5 of the electorate will go to the polls to exercise their right to vote. We have a responsibility in choosing our leaders, yet millions of citizens did not vote in the 2008 presidential election. Our democracy is strong because citizens of the United States can elect officials of their own choosing, however, there are many reasons people don't take the time to vote.

One of the most often cited reasons people give for not voting is the old argument of just one vote not having any impact in an election. People don't think their vote makes a difference. That is so wrong!! There are too many examples where one vote made the difference. I have the following facts to share:

*In 1800, one vote decided the US Presidency in favor of Thomas Jefferson.

* In 1839, one vote elected the Governor of Massachusetts, Marcus "Landslide" Morton.

*In 1845, one vote brought Texas into the Union.

*In 1846, one vote started the Mexican-American War

Announcement

If you would like to receive the next newsletter via email contact me at tmaier@wisclaw.com
We will add your email to our contacts.

* In 1868, one vote saved Andrew Johnson from losing the presidency

*In 1876, one vote gave Rutherford B. Hayes the Presidency.

* In 1920, one vote gave women the right to vote. August 26th marked the 90th anniversary of women's right to vote and today there are more women registered to vote than men -- with a wide berth of nearly 10 million women.

*In 1960, a one vote change in each precinct would have defeated John F. Kennedy.

*In 1968 Richard Nixon won the presidential election by a margin of fewer than 3 votes per precinct.

*In 2004, one vote would have decided a Massachusetts Democratic State Committee woman election which ended in a tie.

But for all those that bemoan our current political state of affairs, I offer one more valid importance of one vote.

* In 2000, one vote decided the presidential election. The Supreme Court voted 5-4, in the case of Gore v. Bush, to stop recounting in Florida. Mr. Bush was declared the winner in Florida. One vote clearly makes a difference and voting is one of the most important rights of American citizens.

There are many places in the world where people do not have the right to vote. The "right to vote" is explicitly stated in the U.S. Constitution in the 15th amendment ("Race, color, or previous condition of servitude"), 19th amendment ("On account of sex"), 24th amendment ("By reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax) and the 26th amendment ("Who are eighteen years of age or older ..."). The path to full voting rights for all American citizens has been long and very often challenging.

Federal elections occur every two years, on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Every member of the House of Representatives and about one-third of the Senate is up for reelection in any given election year. A presidential election is held every fourth year.

I encourage all citizens to vote on Nov. 2. It is important! Whether the issue in question is taxes, jobs, education or women's rights, everyone has a stake in the election. How can you not have the time to do something that relates to your life and the lives of your family, friends and children. If you do not vote you are giving up the chance to make a difference! Make your voice heard! You've got the power!



Legal Bytes



"When black cats prowl and pumpkins gleam, may luck be yours on Halloween."

Happy Haunting!

Walworth County Foreclosure Mediation Program

There have been more than 600 foreclosure filings in Walworth County since the beginning of 2010, and more than 28,000 foreclosure filings in Wisconsin.

Attorney John L. Maier, Judge John Race and our other Walworth County Circuit Court Judges, have been working for a number of months on a proposed Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program for Walworth County.

The program currently being discussed, is that the Mediation Program would relate to owner occupied mortgage foreclosure cases, and there would be a coordination of efforts made in an attempt to work out an agreed upon solution by all parties.

In addition to a Mediator, there would be a Housing Credit Counselor working with the homeowner. The Housing Credit Counselor is

specially trained to take a look at the homeowner's budget and general finances, and see whether there are any federal or state programs available to them, or other means apparent to the Counselor that could lead to an agreed refinancing or other restructuring of debt.

Twelve Walworth County attorneys, including John Maier and Tony Coletti, of Sweet, Maier & Coletti, S. C., have volunteered to attend mediation training being done by law professors from Marquette University Law School. These attorneys will then volunteer their time to help homeowners who are in financial need.



Wisconsin Entrepreneurs' Network

Looking for business guidance? Attorneys John L. Maier and Anthony A. Coletti have recently joined the Wisconsin Entrepreneurs' Network. As members of the WEN's (Wisconsin Entrepreneurs' Network) Business Assistance Program, Sweet, Maier & Coletti will show their support of small, emerging businesses by providing up to two hours of legal counseling at no cost.

WEN's (Wisconsin Entrepreneurs' Network) mission is to provide seamless access to the statewide network of entrepreneurial resources and expertise to create new ventures, help grow existing business and move forward high

potential entrepreneurs to enable Wisconsin to be competitive in a global economic environment.

For more information on how you can participate in the program, call the Wisconsin Business Answer Line at 1-800-940-7232, or check out the WEN website at www.wenportal.org.

Why Is It Called a Will?

Remember the old adage *you can't take it with you*? A real truth, it seems. And if you die without a will, your assets will go somewhere, but your state will make that decision. A will is called a will for a reason. Your will is a way of expressing your desires and exercising control over what you want done with assets you have worked so hard to accumulate. Without a will, you are not only giving up your assets you are giving up *control* over those assets. For more information: call 262-723-5480 or check our website at: www.wisclaw.com



Sweet, Maier & Coletti: Headliners



John L. Maier, President of Sweet, Maier & Coletti, S.C. has been invited by his colleagues to become a member of The Fellows of the Wisconsin Law Foundation. This invitation is an honor and evidence of professional distinction. Only attorneys who have achieved significant accomplishments in their career and contributed leadership and service to their communities are considered for membership. John will be honored at a special reception and dinner on November 16, 2010.

Taking Care of Your Maintenance Costs by Giving Your Roads Away
“Maintenance and reconstruction costs associated with the ownership, use and operation of private streets, storm water collection facilities, sanitary sewer and water well and delivery systems serving our communities are big ticket items” began Attorney John Maier, in his July 19, 2010 address to the

Wisconsin Condominium Association, meeting in Milwaukee Wisconsin.

Local attorney John L. Maier, Jr., was the keynote speaker at the Wisconsin Condominium Association meeting, and he spoke on the topic “Taking Care of Your Maintenance Costs by Giving Your Roads Away”. This presentation gave community association owners’ a healthy peek behind the scenes of what you have to do to accomplish your goals.

Local attorney Lowell Sweet has been chosen by his colleagues as the recipient of the 2010 Wisconsin Solo and Small Firm Service Award. This award is presented annually to an individual showing leadership in furthering the mission of the Wisconsin Solo and Small Firm Conference, which is to educate and support solo and small firm attorneys in the areas of technology, legal education, practice management, ethics or quality of life. Individuals nominated are judged on their sustained, selfless service to projects, efforts or organizations of benefit to solo and small firm attorneys across

Wisconsin.



Sweet, Maier & Coletti, S.C. provides legal services throughout Wisconsin and Northern Illinois, and prides itself on small town legal services throughout Wisconsin and Northern Illinois, and prides itself on small town personal service, coupled with technical expertise developed over many years of practice. The firm maintains a website at www.wisclaw.com.



Happy Thanksgiving

Valued clients like you are the foundation of our success. We extend our best wishes for a happy holiday season filled with joy, peace and prosperity.

From the staff at Sweet, Maier & Coletti, S.C.:

John L. Maier

Deb Rueter

Anthony A. Coletti

Ferri Maier

Lowell E. Sweet

Judy Cota

Dawn Seufzer



Top costumes for Halloween

According to extremehalloween.com. here are the top costumes for 2010:

For babies: Baby Pea in a Pod and Baby Mini Mouse.

For girls: Hannah Montana, Avatar Neytiri and Tinker Bell

For boys: Avatar’s Jake Sully, Darth Vader and Ben 10 Spider Monkey.

Sweet, Maier & Coletti, S.C.
PO Box 318
Elkhorn, WI 53121

Email or call us to receive further information on topics below.

Email or Call: John L. Maier, Jr.
Sweet, Maier & Coletti, S.C.
262-723-5480
jmaier@wisclaw.com

Please send me information on the following topics:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hiring and Working with an Attorney | <input type="checkbox"/> Wills and Estate Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buying and Selling Real Estate | <input type="checkbox"/> Living Trusts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Limited Partnerships | <input type="checkbox"/> Starting a Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Durable Powers of Attorney | <input type="checkbox"/> Probate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other topic(s) of interest _____ | |