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# LEGAL *focus*

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*This is our first newsletter. We are so excited about some new changes in our practice that we wanted to share them with you.....*

## BRAD JOHNSTON JOINS US

We are pleased to start off our first newsletter by announcing that Brad Johnston has joined our firm from his solo practice in Loveland. This addition should complement our practice as Brad brings significant experience in general business law, bankruptcy and litigation from his time at some of the larger firms in downtown Cincinnati.

Brad, a Navy officer during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm also has practical business experience as a manager and contractor sales

representative for a large privately-owned building products supplier. He is able to use this "real-world" experience by giving practical legal advice that businesses can use.

Brad has been living in the Loveland and Miami Township area for nearly 15 years and is active in the community. He is married to Arlene and they have three young children. Please welcome Brad to our firm the next time you call.



## OLTA Presidency Concludes

Doug Thomson recently completed his term as President of Ohio Land Title Association, a trade group representing over 1000 members in the title industry throughout Ohio. It was an active year for Doug, addressing the many legislative issues facing the industry as well as planning for two state-wide conferences during his presidency.



# Taking Advantage of New Options in Estate Planning

*Can I keep my children from moving in with me?  
Will they really scatter my ashes?*

Several new options are available in Ohio to further secure your estate plan.

**DEEDS:** For many people, their family home is one of the largest assets considered in estate planning. Ohio law now allows anyone to avoid probate on his or her real estate by creating a Transfer on Death (TOD) Deed. A Transfer on Death Deed is simply a real estate deed with a special provision to directly

transfer the ownership at the owner's death to whomever the owner designates by name. However, no ownership rights exist until the original owner's death.

**FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS:** Ohio law now allows you to make a formal declaration of your funeral wishes that are required to be carried out. If either of these options is of interest, contact us for more details.

**Careful planning, taking full advantage of Ohio's laws can give you peace of mind that your wishes will be carried out.**

ELIZABETH W. ZIMMERMAN

## BRIEF NOTES



The Ohio legislature recently passed House Bill 416 which will make significant changes to the law concerning trusts, trustees and their relationships with beneficiaries. If you have created a living or revocable trust, or if you are the beneficiary of such a trust, you may wish to review its provisions. Call us to discuss this further .

### Services We Provide:

- Litigation
- Business Planning
- Real Estate
- Business Startup
- Debt Management Strategies
- Estate Planning
- Succession Planning
- Disability



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