

# Shannon Law Group, P.C.

## Where Compassion Meets Justice

### Don't Get Burned by the Statute of Limitations

In most states, the time you have to file a claim after you were injured—the Statute of Limitations (SOL)—is generally two years from when you were hurt in an accident (there can be exceptions, though, and your best bet is always to reach out to an experienced personal injury attorney to review the facts of your situation).

Unfortunately, some folks that we speak with are under the mistaken impression that as long as they have initiated conversations with the insurance company, exchanged paperwork, or are actively negotiating with the adjuster, they're in good shape as far as the SOL is concerned. This could not be further from the truth.

Fact is, in order to meet the requirements of the SOL, your injury claim has to be filed in court within the timeframe allowed by the SOL.

Simply getting things rolling and chatting with the insurance adjuster are not enough. Remember, the insurance adjuster is not your friend and is not your buddy. His or her job is to settle your claim for as little money as possible...or to get it thrown out entirely or just make it go away (what better way for that to happen than to have the SOL run out).

To make matters worse, if the SOL does run out, you're out of luck. You can't file to get an extension or get an exception—your opportunity to collect compensation for your injuries is gone.

So, do yourself a favor: if you get injured in an accident and feel you may have a legitimate claim, give our office a call. •



#### May 2016 Important Dates

**May 8** – Mother's Day (Thank you Mothers!)

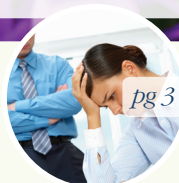
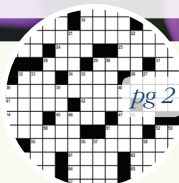
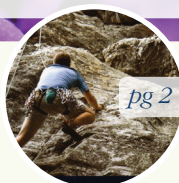
**May 13** – University of Illinois last day of classes

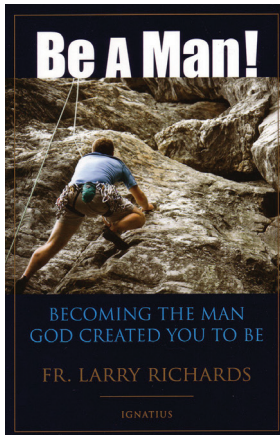
**May 15** – Emma graduates from the University of Notre Dame

**May 18** – Kate graduates from Naperville North High School

**May 28** – Patricia Zimmerman graduates from NIU Law School

**May 30** – Memorial Day





# Book Review

## BE A MAN, BECOMING THE MAN GOD CREATED YOU TO BE

By Father Larry Richards

"You are going to die! Nice way to start a book, huh? I know, but I want you to let this thought sink in: You are going to die. This is the truest reality there is. This is what makes us all the same. It doesn't matter how rich we are, or how popular we are, or how powerful we are: we are all going to 'kick the bucket' one day. Isn't that a nice thought?"

This is the first paragraph of Father Larry Richards' thought provoking book. This first paragraph sets the tone. All of us...poor, rich, Christian, atheist, Republican, Democrat.....whatever...all of us are going to die, and we don't know when.

I discovered this book published by Ignatius Press about 5 years ago. When I started reading it, I couldn't put it down. It is that good. I have been waiting for the opportunity to write a book review of this one as it is one of my favorite books. I try and re-read it every year.

Another quote from Fr. Larry:

"What will the people who talk at your funeral say about you? What we have to do is take some time to sit and meditate about taking our last breath. What do you want your wife to say about you? What do you want your kids to say about you? Or the people you work with? What do you want the people you just met to say? After you take some time in thought and prayer, write down what you want to others to say about you and then start to make that your goal. Once you've decided, 'Okay, when I am taking my last breath this is what I want', you can start living your life with your end goal in mind. You will start living in such a way that when the day of your death happens, the people who know you will say what you want them to say."

Gets you thinking, doesn't it? I've read a number of books that stress seeing the end is a good start. However, what I really liked about the book was that it provides practical step-by-step approaches for us to live our lives with the end in mind.

Although this book is written by a Catholic priest, I recommend that all men, Catholic or not, read this book and take away any good they can from it. After all, Fr. Larry grew up with no real religion in his life. He acknowledges being raised in a blue collar home as a "trouble-making son of a cop" and all of his friends getting arrested except for him because they know his mom and dad were cops. The book is a breath of fresh air to those who think that their lives cannot change for the better. Your life can change for the better, and there are some great practical ways to get started here in this book.

This book is so highly recommended. **I like it so much that if you write to me I will send you a copy of this book for free.** Take me up on it. •

### ACROSS

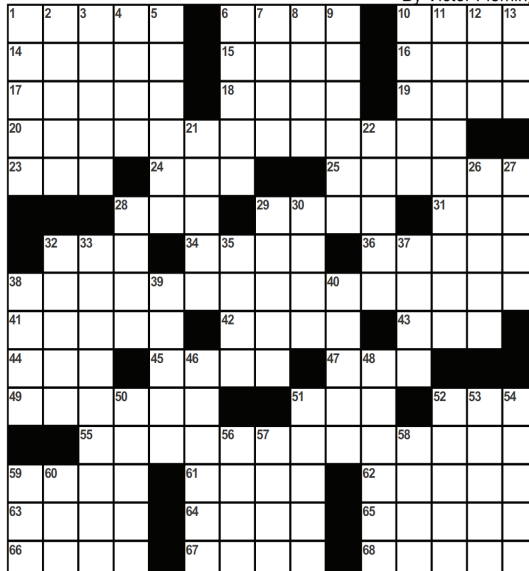
- 1) Washroom vessel
- 6) "Back in Black" rock band
- 10) Guffaw syllables
- 14) Where you live
- 15) Aesopian also-ran
- 16) In a bit, in poems
- 17) Allots, with "out"
- 18) Israeli airline
- 19) "Fancy" artist Azalea
- 20) "America's Dead Sea"
- 23) Sci-fi visitors
- 24) Long in the tooth
- 25) Cosigners for minors
- 28) Sign of a full house
- 29) Fling the horsehide
- 31) Airline-regulating org.
- 32) "J. Edgar" org.
- 34) River through Poland
- 36) Larger-than-life sorts
- 38) Literature in 16-point type, say
- 41) O. Henry literary device
- 42) \_\_ Minor (northern constellation)
- 43) Takes too much, for short
- 44) Sty female
- 45) Pet food brand
- 47) Op. \_\_ (footnote abbr.)
- 49) Flat occupant
- 51) Intended goal
- 52) Wimbledon do-over
- 55) Origin-of-the-universe premise
- 59) Meets with
- 61) Computer pioneer Turing
- 62) Alternative to "bottled"
- 63) Like some surgery
- 64) Hefty volume
- 65) Cursor controller
- 66) In the altogether
- 67) One-dish meal
- 68) Features of winding roads

### DOWN

- 1) Cub Scout's award
- 2) Scrap, as a mission
- 3) Does a cobbler's job
- 4) Creative spark
- 5) Trojan War sage
- 6) In the future
- 7) Match a bet
- 8) "Oh, fudge!"
- 9) Last place, in baseball lingo
- 10) 17-syllable poem
- 11) Spongy kind of cake
- 12) One who won't share
- 13) Your choice
- 21) Fore-and-aft-rigged vessel
- 22) Wing it
- 26) Aquarium array
- 27) Talk fresh to
- 28) Capricorn, e.g.
- 29) Will figures
- 30) Starbucks array
- 32) \_\_ Islands (autonomous part of Denmark)
- 33) Kodiak, for one
- 35) Conga or bongo
- 37) Old geezer
- 38) Letter to Santa
- 39) Looking over
- 40) Not said explicitly
- 46) Box score entries
- 48) Returnee's declaration
- 50) Flight seating option
- 51) Nixon's first No. 2
- 52) Yoga position
- 53) Demagnetize, perhaps
- 54) Does data entry
- 56) Oodles
- 57) "Hello" tag datum
- 58) Mireille of "The Killing"
- 59) Cry aloud
- 60) Newsworthy time

### STRONG START

By Victor Fleming



Courtesy  
FreeDailyCrosswords.com





# Whistleblower Protections Expanded in Illinois

A pair of recent rulings in Illinois courts have shaken up the landscape for employers by extending liability for retaliation against whistleblowers to individual supervisors.

The Illinois Whistleblower Act (“IWA”) protects employees who oppose or refuse to participate in unlawful activity ordered by their employers. Employers who terminate or discipline employees in retaliation for refusing to participate in unlawful activity can suffer compensatory and punitive damages.

Until recently, it was thought that this liability was limited to employers and not individual supervisors. Two recent rulings may change that assumption.

In *Bello v. Village of Skokie*, a police officer claims that he suffered retaliation for lodging complaints that a personnel policy violated the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. In addition to the village, he named individuals in the police department and village administration. The judge rejected the individuals’ motion to dismiss, finding that the IWA defines the term “employer” expansively to include individuals “acting on behalf of” the employer.

Likewise, in *Hower v. Cook County Sheriff’s Office*, a correctional officer suffered false investigations, was passed over for promotions, and was denied special assignments after complaining that the promotional process of his employer violated the Sheriff’s Employment Action Manual and Illinois statutes. His lawsuit named several individuals as defendants. Again, the judge refused to dismiss the individuals finding that they were acting within the scope of their authority when dealing with the plaintiff as an employee.

Whether these decisions are eventually upheld on appeal could change the landscape of employment retaliation and hold individual wrongdoers, and not just employers, accountable for demanding that employees violate the law. •



## Truck Rollover Crashes

Dangerous tractor-trailer rollover crashes—which occur when a truck flips over while moving—are frighteningly common on our nation’s roadways. Because the wheels have left the ground, the vehicle is totally out of control. Other motorists on the roadway are in jeopardy, as well as objects that happen to be in the runaway truck’s path. In addition, cargo may go flying, possibly striking other vehicles or posing obstacles on the road that may prompt evasive maneuvers...and more accidents. Not to mention, hazardous/toxic payloads can trigger widespread injury and property damage miles from the original accident site, and perhaps long after the incident has occurred.

The most common causes of tractor-trailer rollover crashes include:

**Improperly loaded trailer.** If a load’s weight is not evenly distributed or properly secured, it may shift while traveling and result in a rollover.

**Speeding.** The higher the speed, the more potential for rollovers. Rounding a curve or turn too quickly, a shifting load, or hitting an object on the road is all it takes.

**Wind.** Tractor-trailers are long and broad, making them more susceptible to the effects of wind gusts. High-wind warnings should be heeded.

**Careless and reckless driving.** This includes a driver’s lack of understanding how to drive his/her rig, impatience, or driving under the influence or while sleep-deprived.

**Improper maintenance.** Underinflated tires or a damaged suspension can cause a truck to tip over on sharp curves, steep downhill grades, or uneven road surfaces. •

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Don't Get Burned by the  
Statute of Limitations  
pg 1

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## Our People

This will be a big Spring in the Shannon family. Emma, our daughter (and part-time employee of the firm) will graduate from University of Notre Dame with a degree in English and from St. Mary's College with a degree in Education. Emma plans to be a teacher in junior high or high school. Our daughter Kate also will graduate this year from Naperville North High School. Kate plans to attend Marquette University in the Fall.



Basketball season is over. It's Spring soccer season and Joe is coaching seven year old Johnny Shannon's soccer team, the Mighty Gators. Joe has been "coaching" soccer at the 1st through 3rd grade level for over 15 years. This past season, Joe "coached" Nora's St. Joan of Arc Chargers basketball team and Johnny's Park District basketball team, the Lions.

Our law clerk Patricia Zimmerman also attended AAJ's national convention in Florida. Patricia will graduate from Northern Illinois University School of Law on May 28, 2016. •



Joe and our colleague Nathan Marchese are busy writing a book to help out our clients on issues relating to transportation law. We hope to have it published by Fall 2016.

Patrick Cummings announced his engagement to Caitlin Robinson. Patrick and Caitlynn will be married at St. Alphonsus parish in Chicago in September of 2017. Pat also attended the national convention for the American Association for Justice (AAJ) in Boca Raton, Florida from February 27 – March 2. These conventions keep us up to date on the latest developments in our nation's legal system and cutting edge strategies to help us zealously represent our clients. A life-long White Sox fan, Patrick attended White Sox Opening Day with his father Dan. It snowed.

