

WALT SHURDEN LAW

May 2015

611 Druid Road East, Suite 712 • Clearwater, FL 33756

In Pursuit of Good Character

By Walt Shurden

What is good “character”? Is it forged from hard times? If so, does it leave us as we succeed and live an easier life? Is it a natural characteristic for some while others just didn’t get that gene? Can a person’s character be measured by who shows up at their funeral?

With a series of books, David Brooks is keeping a conversation about character alive and on the best-seller list. You may know him as a political commentator for the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal. Maybe you have seen him on Meet the Press or the PBS News Hour. One reason I pay attention to David Brooks is because of his ability to compare the political nastiness of the day to similar situations in the past. He provides context and ranks the current political mess with what has come before. His knowledge has always impressed me.

Recently David Brooks has published the Book The Road to Character. It’s not a topic you would assume a professional political pundit would write about in a presidential election cycle. Instead, it’s a book about the tension between pursuing our own success and pursuing our own good character.

A central point, told through several chapters on recognizable Americans, is that your character matters to you personally because it leads to internal happiness. Today we are trained to focus on our own strengths so that we can compete successfully in the world. But the rewards of developing the attributes of good character, David argues, are the only rewards that we receive that make us satisfied with ourselves.



There is a big message in the book - that you should engage in conscious character building every day. Start by forcing yourself to examine your weaknesses (pick one, this isn’t fun). Keep a journal and write down those things that you would be happy to improve. Introspection leads to humility and greater happiness. More people at your funeral, Ha!

The story of good character is not new, but will always be relevant. Reading rich historical examples of how others developed their character, and how we can develop ours, is a hopeful message.

Our Goal

To provide exceptional legal service to our clients.

Estate Planning • Fiduciary Services • V.A. Benefits • Irrevocable Trusts • Medicaid Eligibility

Who We Are

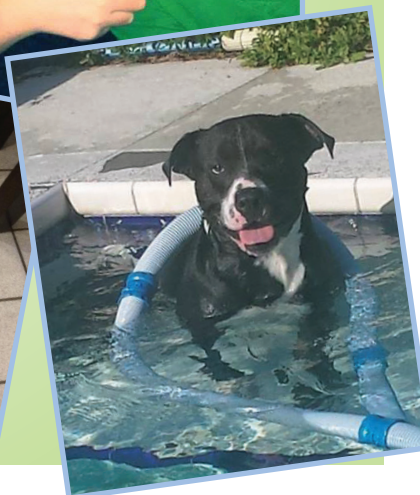


Jennifer Ake

Jennifer was born and raised in Pinellas County. She attended Seminole High School and graduated in 2001. She received her AA degree at St. Petersburg College and continued on at USF. She started working for Walt in May 2004 as a legal assistant and is currently studying for her Paralegal Certificate.

Jennifer bought a house in Holiday in 2011, and she enjoys remodeling her house to make it "home." She recently married her best friend, Scott, and spent a week in Aruba on their honeymoon. She has two step-children, Kali who is 15, and Trent who is 13. Jennifer also has two dogs, Tucker and Dixie, and a cat named Daphne.

Jennifer enjoys going to Rays games, going to shows with her mom, reading, and spending time with her family in Seminole, and with her in-laws in Daytona Beach and Panama City.



How to Give Your Opinion

Do you have opinions about restaurants and other businesses? In an effort to shop smart people are sharing their ex-

periences at on-line review sites. The most popular site is probably YELP. Go to www.yelp.com to see what other people think about your favorite restau-

rant, dry-cleaner, lawyer or doctor, or to check opinions on a business you have been wanting to try. Some websites other than yelp where you can leave a review are: City Search, Judy's Book, and Yellowbot. And almost every business site on the web has a place for you to leave a review of your experience with them.

People want to hear about your experience to help decide if they want to try the business you are reviewing.

ATTENTION



Donuts for Docs

How is your doctor? GREAT!?! Does your doctor go the extra mile for you or your loved one? How about your doctor's office staff? Have you ever wanted to do something to say thank you for the exceptional service?

WE WOULD LIKE TO HELP YOU SAY THANK YOU TO YOUR DOCTOR!

Just call our office with the name of your doctor and we will hand deliver Donuts to their office. We will let them know that this treat is because of your appreciation for their special care.

CALL US NOW 727-443-2708

Summer Book Giveaway Update

A FREE BOOK WILL BE GOING TO:

Gisela Bennie who will receive a copy of What Alice Forgot, by Liane Moriarty. Gisela saw in our April newsletter that we were giving away books to individuals who called and let us know what book they wanted to read this summer. She called and will be receiving the book.

CONGRATULATIONS GISELA!

Italian Picnic Pasta Salad

4 cups (12 oz) Penne Rigate,
* uncooked
2 cups chopped fresh tomato
1 cup (8 oz) Italian salad
dressing (Ken's is the best)

1/4 lb each sliced deli ham and
salami cut into strips (I ask the deli
to give me 3 slices of each always
going over, of course)

1/4 lb provolone or mozzarella cheese cut into cubes
(guilty, I use both)

3/4 cup sliced pimiento-stuffed green olives (you can buy them
sliced already)

3/4 sliced celery

2 teaspoons chopped fresh garlic (or as much as you want, I use
more)

1 1/2 teaspoons dried oregano leaves (they sell a really good Greek
oregano @ a local produce stand in Palm Harbor).

Cook pasta according to package directions; drain. Rinse with
cold water to cool quickly; drain well. In large bowl toss cooled
pasta and remaining ingredients. I add some of the Italian dress-
ing now, but end up adding more just before serving. I also find
that most people like it better with the tomatoes added just
before serving. Cover and refrigerate. Makes somewhere around
10 servings. As usual, this is much better the next day.

* or use Bow Ties, Gemelli, Cavatappi, Mediums Shells or Tri Color
Rotini, we have used a lot of different pastas and have never been
disappointed. Enjoy! I am making this for Memorial Day.



This Month's Spotlight

The daughter of our client Joseph Gressick, Tina Evoy, raved about how wonderful her father's care giver is at Cypress Palms, so we searched out his caregiver and here he is.



Roberto Preciado

Roberto was a professional soccer player in Peru before moving to Florida 12 years ago. He has been a Certified Nursing Assistant for 5 1/2 years and loves working with the elderly.

While Roberto has only worked on the memory unit at Cypress Palms for six months, he looks forward to continuing for many years.

Thank you Roberto for caring.

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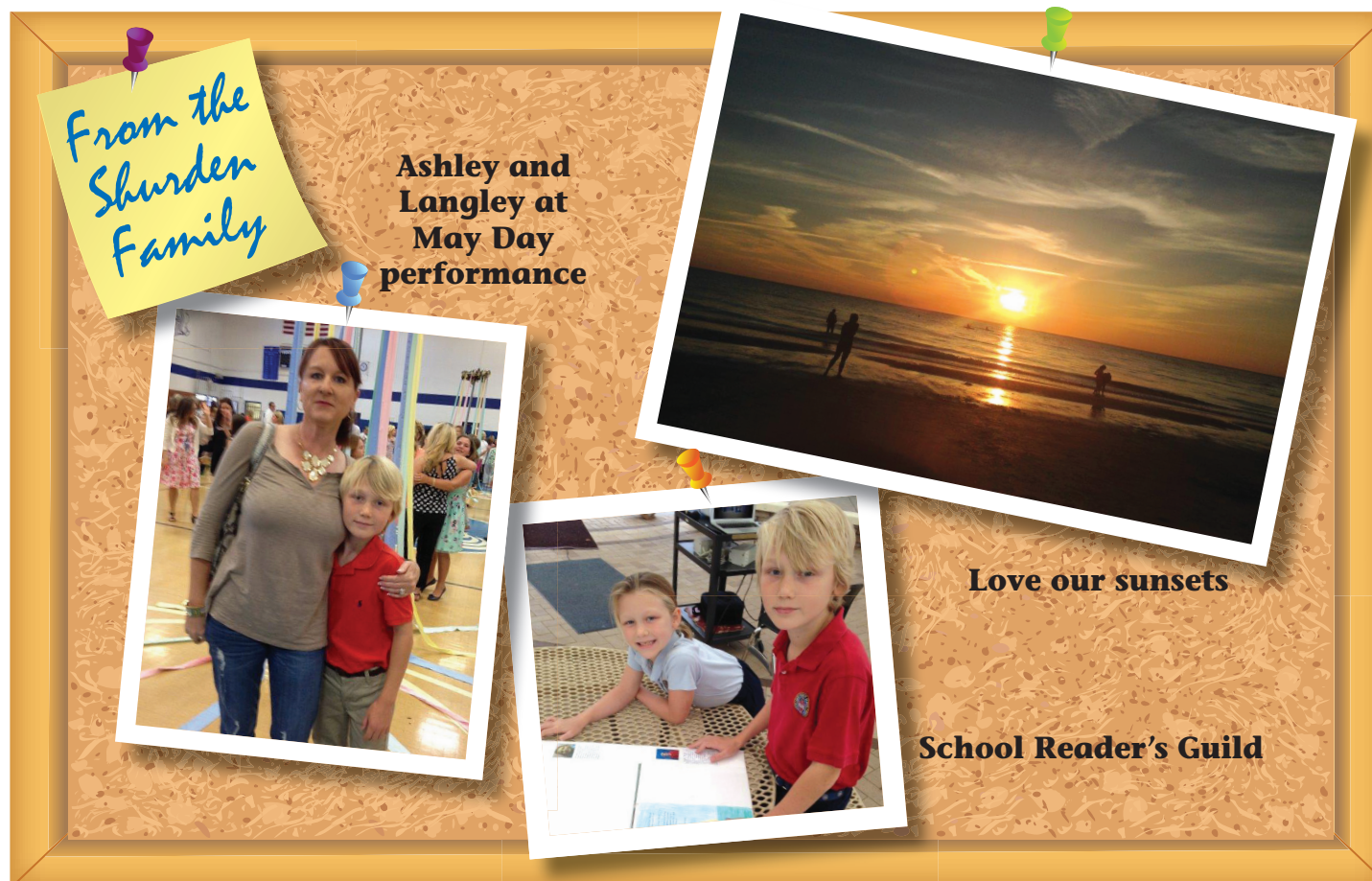
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Legal Term of the Month

Probable Cause – Reasonable belief in certain alleged facts. Having more evidence 'for' than 'against.'



Published for informational purposes only and no legal advice is intended. Each case is different, you are invited to discuss your legal issues with Mr. Shurden with no obligation.