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Client Bulletin



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Dennis Pergram Serves as Judge for Mock Trial



On January 13, Dennis Pergram served as a judge during the 2017 Ohio High School Mock Trial Competition held in the juvenile and probate court at the Hayes Building in Delaware. The competition featured seven teams: one from Delaware Hayes, one from Big Walnut, one from Olentangy Orange, two from Westerville North and two from Village Academy. *Photo by Glenn Battishill, The Gazette. Reprinted with permission.*

Steve Martin Rated AV® Preeminent™ for 30 Years; Dennis Pergram for 24

For decades, Martindale-Hubbell® has rated attorneys using peer review rating surveys of attorneys and judges, whose names and responses are not disclosed to the attorney who is the subject of the ratings review. The firm was recently notified that for the 30th year, Stephen D. Martin would again be rated AV® Preeminent™, the highest possible peer review rating in Legal Ability and Ethical Standards, and that Dennis L. Pergram would also receive that rating, for the 24th year. Only a small percentage of attorneys in the United States are AV® Preeminent™ rated.

2017 IRS Optional Standard Mileage Rates

Internal Revenue Service Notice 2016-79 announced the following optional standard mileage rates effective January 1, 2017:

- ◆ Business standard mileage rate - 53.5 cents per mile (25 cents per mile treated as depreciation)
- ◆ Charitable standard mileage rate (mileage by someone rendering gratuitous services to a charitable organization) - 14 cents per mile
- ◆ Medicare care standard mileage rate - 17 cents per mile
- ◆ Moving expense deductible under IRC § 217 standard mileage rate - 17 cents per mile

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Maximum Amount for “Conventional Loans” Increases for 2017

“Conventional loans” are mortgage loans that meet Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac qualifications. In central Ohio, the maximum mortgage loan amount that meets these qualifications increases from \$417,000 in 2016 to \$424,000 in 2017. In some higher-cost housing areas, the maximum qualifying mortgage loan amount is higher. Mortgage loan amounts above the Fannie Mae/Freddie Mac maximum qualifying loan amount are commonly referred to as “jumbo loans” and carry a higher interest rate.

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Andy Wecker Serves as School Board President

The firm’s Andrew P. Wecker, who has served as a member of the Big Walnut Local School District for several years and served as its Vice-President in 2016, was sworn in as the Board’s President for 2017 at the January 19, 2017 meeting.

Congratulations-Staas Brewing Company

Congratulations are clearly in order to Liz and Don Staas as their Staas Brewing Company at 31 West Winter Street in Delaware was chosen by Yelp as the best microbrewery in Ohio.

Notice

This bulletin provides general information and is not legal advice. Please contact us if you need legal advice.

If you have friends or associates who you think would enjoy receiving a copy of this Client Bulletin, please feel free to forward it on. Thank you.