

“Let our advanced worrying become advance thinking and planning” – Sir Winston Churchill

# ELDER LAW TODAY

C. Dan Campbell, P. C.

4245 Kemp Blvd., Suite 800, Wichita Falls, Texas 76308 (940) 696-5015

Spring 2012

Spring has sprung! I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you about a couple of things and to extend an invitation to you for a free piece of pie and coffee (or tea?).

## **The Rotary Haiti “Vision Up” project.**

February 18<sup>th</sup> found 18 Rotarians (6 from Wichita Falls, the rest from the Metroplex) en route to Port-au-Prince and then to Titanyen where the Mission of Hope (“MOH”) is located for the vision project. Dr. Tom Sheriff organized the project. We had, thanks to many of you, some 3,000 pairs of glasses. We examined, over 4 days, about 1,000 people (from the very young to the very old) and dispensed about 250 pair of glasses. We were set up in the school at the Mission. I learned to use and then operated an “auto-refractor” which is the machine you look into at the optometrist that measures your acuity and determines your prescription. A young Haitian named Stanley was trained on using the auto-refractor and he is quite good. Our goal, subject to Haitian government approval of course, is to have Stanley continue to examine the students throughout the year and have him email “Dr. Tom” with the “acuity results” and then Tom can tell him which glasses (we left them behind, all catalogued as to prescription) to give to the patient. We left at the Mission the remaining glasses and the equipment.

**The MOH Hospital project.** The other project, you will recall, is the MOH hospital. Last year (January 7-10) we saw what would become a 90 bed hospital under construction (with approximately 40 Haitian men pouring the concrete roof). We asked MOH what we could do to help and they asked for help in raising funds for completing the hospital. Again thanks to you and others, we raised from January through June about \$65,000.00. I was most anxious

to see what progress had been made and we were so excited to see that they are nearly finished! They expect to be at least in partial operation by January of next year (only 9 months from now!). Talk about a blessing to people who desperately need whatever relief from human suffering we can offer.

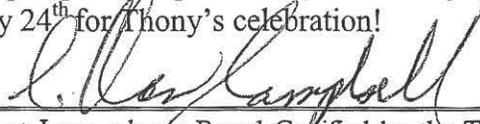
**The celebration\ save the date!** Thony Durand, the Haitian student at MSU (who really is indirectly responsible for what we have done in Haiti) graduates May 10<sup>th</sup> with his BBA. We (those of us who went to Haiti: Benay Ayers, Larry Petrash, Mike Crocker, Deb West, Blaine Purcell, Tom Sheriff, and I) want to honor Thony with a celebration at Luby’s Cafeteria at 6:00 p.m. on May 24<sup>th</sup> (Thursday). We also want to do a “show and tell” of our trip. I hope you can join us for this occasion. **So we will know how many pies to order, I would appreciate a call for your reservation at 696-5015. No gifts are expected by Thony and there is no charge for the pie! (Who says there is no such thing as a free lunch, or, rather, piece of pie! ha!)**

**VA Benefits Planning.** As part of our asset protection planning practice, we are now offering legal services in the area of V.A. Benefits Planning. For Veterans and widows of Veterans who meet certain criteria, the Veterans Administration provides little known pensions that are completely unrelated to war time injuries. For example, a veteran who served during the time a war was ongoing (even though he was not in the war) may be entitled to receive a VA pension for life. Also, if the Veteran was married at the time of his death, his widow may also be entitled to receive a VA pension for the balance of her life. As a matter of fact, the rather odd rules specify that a Veteran who is age 65 is automatically presumed to be disabled! It is particularly

suited for the Veteran who is at home (or in an assisted living facility) who is not contemplating entering a nursing home in the foreseeable future but could use financial help to pay for "in home" nursing services or to pay for the assisted living facility charge. The rules are fairly complex. There are income and assets tests.

**I am giving a seminar on V.A. Benefits planning on May 10<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) at 6:00p.m. at Lexington Suites (formally Hawthorn Suites) located at 1917 Elmwood North, Wichita Falls, Texas. Please call 696-5015 for a reservation.**

Well, that's it for now! I hope you have a great Spring and hope to see you at Luby's on May 24<sup>th</sup> for Thony's celebration!



**Elder Law Today** is written by C. Dan Campbell, Attorney at Law, who is Board Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in Estate Planning and Probate Law and Civil Trial Law. **This newsletter is not intended to be nor should it be construed as the giving of legal advice. Before taking any action referred to in this newsletter you should consult with an attorney who is knowledgeable in this area of law.** This newsletter is published as a service of C. Dan Campbell, P.C., 4245 Kemp Blvd., Suite 800, Wichita Falls, Texas 76308. Visit our website at: [www.cdancampbell.com](http://www.cdancampbell.com)

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