

Staff Spotlight – Daniel McDowell

Daniel has been a Legal Assistant at the Firm since 2010. He brings the same dedication to his job that he applies “on the track.”

Daniel has been a competitive runner since 1991, participating in various marathons throughout the eastern U.S.

Serendipity led Daniel to his running career; he stumbled into it when vehicle trouble caused him to use his feet to get to and from work. After that, running became a fulfilling part of his daily life.

With a gentle sense of humor and strong commitment, Daniel diligently serves the community through his position at the Firm and by helping organize 5K races to raise support for the local food pantries.



Attorney General McGraw and Congressman Rahall Warn WV Consumers To Be Aware of Fraudulent Phone Calls

West Virginia Attorney General Darrell McGraw and U.S. Representative Nick Rahall have issued a warning to West Virginia consumers to be on the lookout for fraudulent calls from criminals impersonating United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) special agents and other law enforcement personnel, as part of a continuing international extortion scam.

According to FDA officials, the criminals call the victims, who in most cases previously purchased drugs over the Internet or telephone, and identify themselves as FDA special agents or other law enforcement officials. The criminals inform the victims that purchasing drugs over the Internet or the telephone is illegal, and that law enforcement action will be pursued unless a fine ranging from \$100 to \$250,000 is paid.

The criminals always request the money to be wired to a destination usually in the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica or Canada. If victims refuse to send money, the caller will threaten to search their property which would likely result in an arrest.

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Victims of this scam are encouraged to file a consumer complaint with Attorney General Darrell McGraw's Consumer Protection Division by calling 1-800-368-8808 or visiting his website, www.wvago.gov, for a complaint form. Complaints that are received will be forwarded to the FDA's Office of Criminal Investigations.

Debt Collection Harassment

Every day at our law office, we meet people who are harassed by debt collectors. They get calls day after day, night after night. Debt collectors don't care if they have the money or not; don't care about from whom or where the money comes. Debt collectors that try to make these innocent people feel guilty about their misfortune. It's not right; it's not fair; and it's often not legal.

No one should ever feel guilty for taking care of themselves and their family's well-being.

Most people don't choose to incur overwhelming debt. Often the choice is made for them by circumstances beyond their control. Losing a job; family problems, such as divorce or taking care of grand kids; or a medical catastrophe, can leave anyone swimming in debt. We all have to prioritize, but when the decision is whether to pay a credit card bill or feed the family, the decision is an easy one. No one should ever feel guilty for taking care of themselves and their family's well-being.

We help these folks. We can answer questions about what it really means to file bankruptcy, but many of our clients are able to avoid filing bankruptcy altogether because their bill collectors are breaking the law. You can always call our office with questions, or to schedule an appointment at no cost to you.

Bottom line: If you have bill collectors calling you, then you call us. We can help. We are professional consumer protection attorneys who have filed and settled hundreds of cases. As always, our initial consultation is completely free, and we receive no fee unless you get an award or settlement.