

Keep Up the Good Work

To the Editor:

I am grateful for the articles in the May 2008 *Bar Journal* about lawyers and judges assistance programs. As a criminal defense attorney since 1992 and a certified addictions therapist and social worker since 1997, I have counseled—legally and therapeutically—many clients who have struggled with addictions to alcohol, drugs, gambling, shoplifting, employee theft, and shopping/spending. As a recovering person myself since 1990, I know firsthand the shame that people—especially professionals—feel. I'd like others to know about the support group CASA (Cleptomaniacs And Shoplifters Anonymous). I would also appreciate if, in the future, you would cover in depth

some of the addictive behaviors in addition to alcohol and drugs that affect lawyers and others, such as compulsive shoplifting, employee theft, and shopping/spending. These

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behaviors are being increasingly recognized as addictions and also affect people legally, which is why I founded The Shulman Center for Compulsive Theft & Spending. We can help so many more through education and treatment. Keep up the good work.

Terrence Daryl Shulman
Southfield

Bravo!

To the Editor:

I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who was involved in getting the article about making marriage work into the recent *Bar Journal* ("Making Marriage Work," May 2008). As someone who witnesses the painful demise of marriage on a daily basis, it is breathtakingly encouraging to see a professional journal publish an article that calls to its readers' attention the importance of investing in one's marriage. Bravo!

Lori A. Buiteweg
Ann Arbor

Cheap Shot Against Marriage

To the Editor:

As we have endlessly been told, most recently by Thomas C. FitzPatrick ("Making Marriage Work," May 2008), "approximately one-half of all marriages in this country end in divorce." Please take a look at the following facts.

U.S. Census data show that there are (approximately) 50 million marriages in our country, and in a single year, there are approximately 900,000 divorces. The divorces come from the complete pool of marriages—old and new—and not only from the marriages that were created in that particular year. In other words, in any given year, it is statistically correct to state that the number of divorces will come to approximately 1.8 percent of existing marriages. Say it another way: each year, 1.8 percent of existing marriages will end in divorce. The cheap shot against the marriage institution is to cross the number of divorces in each year with the number of new marriages in that year, and, PRESTO, you can reach 50 percent.

If you can't follow this, review your old college statistics textbook. Next, we'll hear that while 50 percent of marriages end in divorce, the other 50 percent end in death.

Philip Vestevich
Bloomfield Hills

Thanks, Ron

To the Editor:

I was delighted to see SBM President Ron Keefe's recent President's Page ("Fifteen Who Stepped Up," May 2008). I had hoped for a paragraph mentioning the contribution the special fiduciaries made, but I didn't expect a whole column! That sort of recognition inspires emulation. I am sure that those who worked so hard are grateful that their contribution was noticed and appreciated. Thank you very much.

Linda A. Pohly
Flint

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