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**MAY 2022 NEWSLETTER**

## My Mother Was an Amazing Person

by Attorney, John M. Goralka



Mom with my sister, Mary Jean, and me as an infant.

Sunday, May 8th is Mother's Day and it has me thinking back about my own mother.

My mother was an amazing person. In an era when women typically did not have professional education or careers, she had a degree in

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Chemistry and worked for a number of years in a lab. The laboratory was located close to a residential neighborhood. She liked to tell the story of when there was an emergency drill and the entire facility was evacuated. She did not know this was a drill. She said the residents close by were shocked to see all these people in white coats sprinting as fast as possible out the front gate.

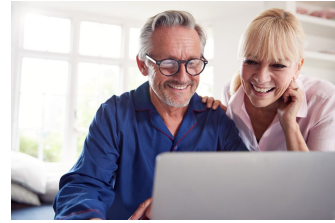
My mom's father and his four (4) brothers were all policemen in Chicago. Pictures of them reminded me of the pictures you saw of gangsters in those days. They must have been very tough individuals to be police officers in those times.

My mom had two (2) sisters who were both teachers. My mom also taught for a short time. They taught in some of the most dangerous areas of Chicago. Their colleagues might leave school to find their car on blocks with no wheels. My mom was a petite lady, but she was exceedingly protective of her kids. You always knew she had your back, even if you were punished in private at home for your questionable adventure (such as throwing pomegranates at passing cars).

My mom taught all of us to read long before we started formal school or kindergarten. A love of reading and a good story is shared by myself and all my siblings.

My mom also raised nine (9) kids. If you have not had the privilege of growing up in a large family, you will never understand that experience. We lived on a ranch with our nearest neighbor about 2 miles away. We played a lot of board games which developed unique house, or Goralka, rules over the years. Heaven help a visiting friend trying to play.

## COVID-19 UPDATE



We are continuing to provide our legal services over the telephone and by Video Conferencing. We have limited in-person meetings at our office, by appointment only.

## THOUGHT OF THE DAY



***“If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude about it.”***

– Maya Angelou

***“Change begins at the end of your comfort zone.”***

– Roy T. Bennet

***“We cannot become what we***



**Mom with my siblings (I'm in the blue overalls on the right)**

***want by remaining  
what we are.”***

– Max de Pree

One of my favorite memories was an Easter upon which we all woke up to find a numbered string next to the bed. We each followed our string crisscrossing throughout the house, in and out of closets and various obstacles to find our easter baskets.

My parents found ways for us all to have fun together. Christmas was particularly memorable. Decorating the tree together was a tradition with many homemade, family ornaments along with fancy heirloom ornaments. That was in the day of the sparkling tinsel to throw on the tree over the lights. If there was something you needed (such as socks, underwear, paper, etc.) after about July, you would expect to find that wrapped and under the tree at Christmas. With 9 kids, the tree appeared to be in an ocean of presents.



**Mom with all 9 of her children**

This year is particularly poignant. My parents are both gone now. We sold the ranch a few weeks ago, but the memories remain. The smell of garlicky spaghetti sauce or other favorite dishes remind me of my mom. My kids, when much younger, were enamored with my mom's tuna fish salad. We still treasure those family recipes.

My parents did a great job. My siblings and I remain a close-knit family. Each of them holds an advanced degree of some kind. Each of my brothers and sisters are intelligent, kind and caring people. Education and maintaining family relationships were important for my mom. A great legacy for my mom. Thank you, Mom!



Happy Mother's Day!

***John Goralka***

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**Mom in blue with some her grandchildren.  
Lots of kids means lots of grandkids!**

## What if Johnny Depp and Amber Heard Had a Premarital Agreement?

Intro: Oh, the gritty details we're learning from the latest court battle between Johnny Depp and Amber Heard. This unfortunate airing of dirty laundry may have been avoided with a prenup. Should you think about getting one yourself?



As we observe the very public \$50 million defamation lawsuit Johnny Depp brought against his ex-wife Amber Heard, we realize that this all seems to be related to or carried over from on their very public divorce proceedings. The couple were married – without the benefit of a prenuptial agreement – in 2015 after meeting in 2011 on the film set for *The Rum Diary*. They split up when Heard filed for divorce in 2016. That divorce was final in 2017, but it certainly didn't end their legal battles.

At the time of their divorce, Depp's net worth was estimated to be more than 18 times larger than Heard's. She initially sought \$50,000 per month in spousal support to maintain her marital lifestyle. The property settlement provided for Depp to pay her \$7 million. Heard declared that she would donate the divorce

proceeds to charity. So, Depp paid a portion of the divorce settlement to the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles and to the ACLU. Heard's attorney then demanded that Depp donate \$14 million to charity to reflect a net payment of \$7 million for Depp after the projected \$7 million in tax savings from the charitable contribution deduction.

Amber and Johnny's dispute still rages on now, five years after their divorce was final in 2017. Note that the marriage itself lasted only 16 months, yet it appears to have inspired six years of litigation and controversy. The couple is currently back in court, with Depp suing over an op-ed Heard wrote in 2018 alleging she was the victim of domestic abuse.

## **How a Prenup Could Have Helped**

A premarital agreement could have made a world of difference. It would almost certainly have... [READ ON](#)

# Calling All Margarita Mixologists!

Cinco de Mayo is almost here, and we still need to find the perfect margarita.

Do you have a recipe to share?

Tell us about it, we'll pick our favorites to try out, vote and then announce the winners and top recipes for everyone to enjoy!

Submit your recipes to:  
[goralkateam@goralkalawfirm.com](mailto:goralkateam@goralkalawfirm.com)



## CLIENT TESTIMONIAL: The Difference

This documentary explores the 20-year experience that Ed and Georgette Stormo had growing from a small entity to over a \$30 million corporation with over 225 employees. It demonstrates the critical role a competent attorney

plays through a business owner's life-cycle from start to sale including protecting the wealth with asset protection and solving the "unsolvable" problems that often cause businesses to fail along the way. The Stormo family had a multi-generation business and lived in both California and Nevada during the time-frame that this film covers. This film contains interviews with the family as well as our own, John Goralka of The Goralka Law Firm.

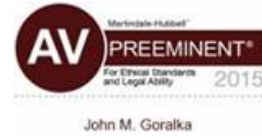


Also, thanks to all of our clients for their business and referrals over the years. Reviews like these are a reminder about why we do what we do and reaffirms that we are not simply just preparing legal documents, but we're cultivating relationships and really helping families and their loved ones with transformational changes for generations to come.

If you are a client with The Goralka Law Firm, we encourage you to take the time to leave us some feedback and a review online at one (or more) of the following:







## RECIPE OF THE MONTH: Chicken Tortilla Soup

Keeping with the Cinco de Mayo theme, here's another soup recipe that you're going to love! It's both a family and Wine Down Wednesday favorite! Not only is it super tasty, but it's also very easy to make!



### INGREDIENTS

- 4 chicken breast halves
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 2 Tbsp margarine
- 2 14.5oz cans of chicken broth
- 2 14.5oz cans of chopped stewed tomatoes
- 1 cup of salsa (mild, medium or hot, whichever you prefer)
- 1/2 cup chopped cilantro
- 1 Tbsp (or more) ground cumin
- 8oz Monterey Jack cheese, cubed
- Sour cream
- Tortilla chips (or strips)

### DIRECTIONS

1. In a slow cooker, cook, debone and shred chicken
2. Add minced garlic to margarine in slow cooker, saute
3. Combine all ingredients except cheese, sour cream and tortilla chips/strips
4. Cover and allow to cook on low for 8 to 10 hours

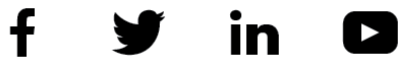
5. Divide cubed cheese among 6 individual bowls
6. Ladle soup over cheese and sprinkle tortilla chips/strips
7. Top each bowl with a dollop of sour cream
8. Optional, add sliced avocado and additional shredded cheese on top
9. Stir in more vegetable broth to thin as desired. Serve warm topped with Romano cheese.

Enjoy! 😊

## CONTACT US

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*NOTE: The client testimonials featured in this newsletter and on our website are from actual clients of The Goralka Law Firm, PC. Their last names have been redacted to protect their privacy. These client testimonials do not guarantee your particular results.*