



FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

Love Stories for Valentine's Day

by The Goralka Law Firm

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February 14th is Valentine's Day and we went around the office and asked members of The Goralka Law Firm

to share some fond and some funny Valentine's Day memories. Enjoy!

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My Funny (Embarrassing) Valentine

When I was in 3rd grade, I had the biggest crush on this boy in my class and thought it would be a great idea to confess my dying love to him through a heart-shaped note I left in his desk (that should have been anonymous, but I was feeling bold and confident that day). I pictured him reading it and then coming to me confessing his love for me too but instead he busted out laughing with his friends and ran away. So moral of the story, confess your love to people anonymously.

But, I've learned from these lessons and am now enjoying my Valentine's with two of my newest forever Valentines!



—Jillian Ashby,
Legal Assistant

A Sentimental Valentine's Day Memory

**JANUARY
SURVEY
RESULTS**



Last month, we asked what is your 2023 New Year's Resolution— here are the top 5 answers!

25.8%
Eat healthier

19.4%
Other / Something else

16.1%
None (these things never stick anyways!)

12.9%
Retire

12.9%
Exercise more

**THOUGHTS
OF THE DAY**

My husband, Johnny, took me out for dinner and had the Mariachi band play a song for me, it was one of my abuelita's favorite songs so it was very special to me. The song is called "Sabor A Mi". There is something about hearing a Spanish ballad that is so beautiful and especially live and in-person! ♥

—Hannah Garcia,
Office Manager

A New Favorite Valentine's Memory

My favorite Valentine's memory is a trip to Monterey with my wife, Ainur and her sister Dana. Monterey is a favorite destination for me as I took my kids there many times over the years when they were young. We walked along the ocean every day, went to the Monterey Bay Aquarium and had dinner at the Sardine Factory. The Sardine Factory is an interesting blend of a very high-end restaurant with a very casual bar for locals. There is something very calming about the ocean. It's become one of my favorite memories and trips.

—John Goralka,
Attorney & President



"In a world where I can be anything, I just want to be yours."

—The Heart Speak 2020

"Eat at a local restaurant tonight. Get the cream sauce. Have a cold pint at 4 o'clock in a mostly empty bar. Go somewhere you've never been. Listen to someone you think may have nothing in common with you. Order the steak rare. Eat an oyster. Have a negroni. Have two. Be open to a world where you may not understand or agree with the person next to you, but have a drink with them anyways. Eat slowly. Tip your server. Check in on your friends. Check in on yourself. Enjoy the ride."

—Anthony Bourdain

To make a difference
in someone's life you don't
have to be brilliant,
rich, beautiful, or perfect.
You just have to care.

—Mandy Hale





THINGS GOT A BIT WINDY

As many of you know, California was hit with some wild weather last month—Northern CA and Sacramento County, in particular. The weather made its way to the Goralka Law Firm and knocked down one of our trees! 🤔😱



My Forever Valentine! 😍

A couple years ago my Husband asked me out on our first date on Valentine's Day, we went to a bowling alley, and it had indoor games which we participated in. We talked and played for hours on end. After midnight we went to Denny's after the bowling alley and almost witnessed a fight, regardless of that we were happy to be in each other's presence. We ate some breakfast food and talked some more, slowly falling in love. It was our first and memorable Valentine's Day and has become a tradition for every Valentine's Day.

—Emily Orokos,
Receptionist

How to Use Your Estate Plan to Save on Taxes While You're Still Alive!

How to Use Your Estate Plan to Save on Taxes While You're Still Alive!



Shout out to the contractors that helped us clean up after the storm.

We hope that you and your loved ones did not have too much damage or run-ins with the storms. We'd love to hear any stories you may have about our wild winter weather last month!

First, upstream basis is not about fishing! It is about using your estate plan to reduce capital gains or income tax.

While estate taxes only affect the wealthiest of the wealthy, with the runup in stock prices and real estate values, capital gains taxes can be a real issue for many people. One possible solution involves using a tool called an upstream power of appointment trust.

At its core, this strategy requires someone to include an elderly and much less wealthy relative, such as a parent, as an additional trust beneficiary. But there's much more to it.

[READ ON](#)

Happy Birthday, John!

On January 18th, John celebrated his 33rd birthday (for the second time 🥳🎂).

John celebrated both at home, with his wife and step-daughters, as well as with his staff and associates at the office. He received an outpouring of birthday wishes and love on his special day!



WATCH THIS VIDEO: End of Life Planning – Where to Begin

When you stop and think about all of the major life milestones that we go through during our lifetime, rarely do people have conversations about the care they wish to have around the end of their life. While certainly not a happy or desirable topic to discuss, it's certainly a necessary one and one that can eliminate a lot of confusion, disagreements, and stress. Check out this video about where and how to begin these difficult, but necessary, conversations with your loved ones.



CLIENT TESTIMONIALS

“I was referred to John Goralka by a business associate of mine.

What I found out was that Attorney John Goralka is certified by the State Bar of California's Board of Legal Specialization in both Taxation Law and Estate Planning, Trust, and Probate Law.

There are only a handful of attorneys within the state who have earned these dual certifications, which means that John and his team are able to handle any tax-related questions. He was great to work with and we didn't know until we met him how much help we really needed.”

—Cynthia B.

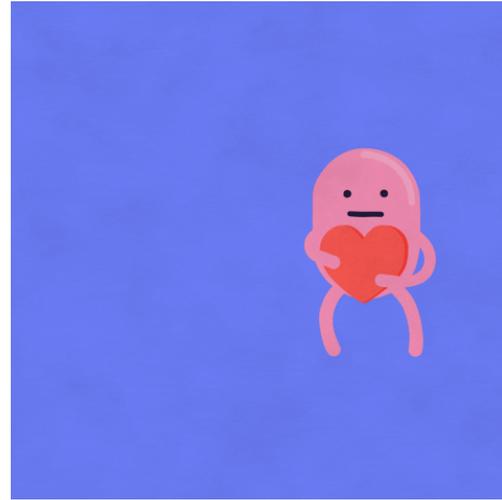
“John and his team were great. They helped us navigate our way through this process of settling the estate of my parents who have multiple properties. We live in Florida and he was very very helpful remotely for us. We would highly recommend his services. Great communication and made this process go smooth. Thank you again for all your help John. It is very much appreciated.”

—Dennis Y.

“Mr. Goralka's professional yet personal demeanor assures clients that their best interests are

protected. Mr. Goralka has handled my legal affairs for the past few years. He was a source of comfort and serenity at a time when emotions were running high. He is trustworthy, thorough, and dependable. He is very personable and takes a personal interest in the health and well-being of his clients. 😊 😊”

—Jenna K.

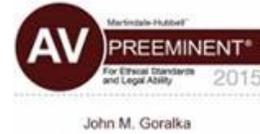


Thanks for these lovely reviews, Cynthia, Jenna and Dennis. It's a reminder of why we do what we do!

And 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.

Can you do us a huge favor and take a couple minutes of your time to leave us some feedback and a review online at one (or more) of the following websites:





RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Quick Seafood Linguine

Pasta is always a great Valentine's Day meal idea and what better way to "spice" things up than with Dave's Spicy Marinara and Heirloom Tomato Sauce. This is a favorite of John's and he has even customized the recipe to make the sauce a bit on the thicker side and garnish it with shaved Parmesan cheese.



INGREDIENTS

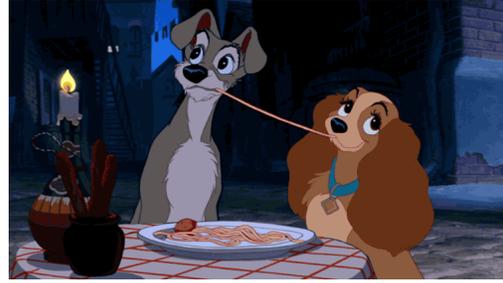
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 garlic clove, chopped
- 1 tsp paprika
- 400g can chopped tomatoes
- 1l chicken stock (from a cube is fine)
- 300g linguine or spaghetti, roughly broken
- 240g frozen seafood mix, defrosted
- Handful of parsley leaves, chopped, and lemon wedges, to serve

DIRECTIONS

1. Heat the oil in a wok or large frying pan, then cook the onion and garlic over a medium heat for 5 mins until soft. Add the paprika, tomatoes and stock, then bring to the boil.
2. Turn down the heat to a simmer, stir in the pasta and cook for 7 mins, stirring occasionally to stop the pasta from sticking. Stir in the seafood,

cook for 3 mins more until it's all heated through and the pasta is cooked, then season to taste. Sprinkle with the parsley and serve with lemon wedges.

Enjoy! 😊

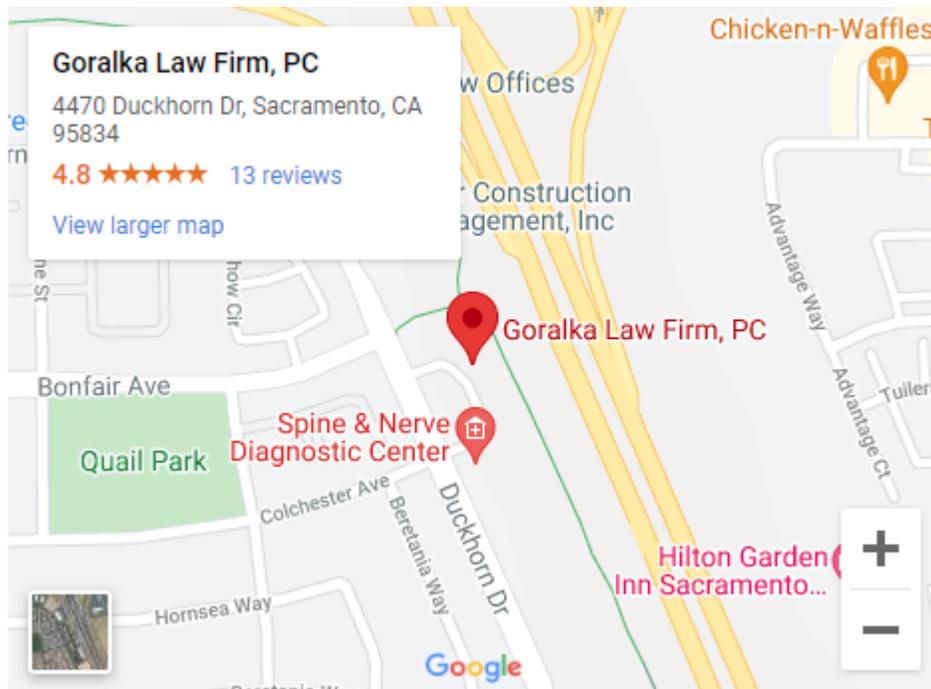


SOURCE: www.bbcgoodfood.com

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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, APC. Their last names have been redacted to protect their privacy. These client testimonials do not guarantee your particular results.

