



Quarterly Newsletter

12 April 2024

Introducing ILF's Quarterly Newsletter!

With all the growth and crazy happenings at ILF, we are thrilled to share our first quarterly newsletter with our fantastic staff, incredible clients, and the whole community. We hope you enjoy flipping through the pages to see all our new faces, get the scoop on our exciting office expansion plans, and dive into the fun growth we have in store for 2024!

In this newsletter
you can expect:

Practice Area
Updates

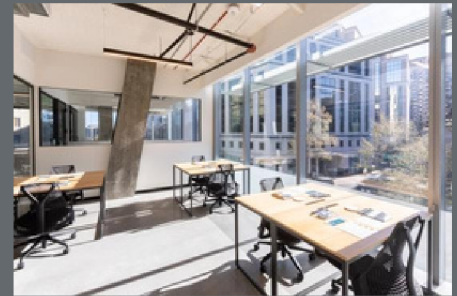
Community
Participation

Client Shoutouts

Firm News

Bar Association
Participation &
Leadership

Pet Profiles



Office Expansion: ILF is Growing

Exciting news alert! We have officially secured our new lease for our second office space! Starting May 1, 2024, ILF will be opening an additional office in Arlington, specifically at 2311 Wilson Blvd, conveniently situated across from the Arlington courthouse. Fernando will base his federal criminal caseload here. He will also begin taking Mandamus and Habeas cases associated with clients struggling with delayed relief from the Department of Homeland Security/ Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

We expect to bring on a Family Law attorney to spearhead the Arlington Family Law branch by Q3-Q4 this year. The Arlington office will focus on establishing clientele and professional relationships in Arlington and Alexandria and actively engaging with the George Mason School of Law. Get ready for an exciting new chapter at ILF!

Community Participation



Model Judicial Program '24

ILF's very own Mark Branca is the President of the Prince William County Bar Association. He recently donated his time welcoming local students to the Model Judicial Program at the Prince William courthouse. Special thanks to the [Prince William County Bar Association](#) for putting on this excellent program for 275 of our local young people

Since 1975, the Model Judiciary Program, in partnership with the Young Lawyers Division of the Virginia Bar Association, has offered high school students the chance to experience Virginia's judicial system firsthand. Students participate in trials and appeals in real courtrooms, presenting arguments to judges and justices. The program includes three rounds - trial, appellate, and Supreme Court - with students having time to prepare with a local attorney before each case. Exceptional students may advance to argue before the Court of Appeals and potentially the Supreme Court of Virginia.



Youth for Tomorrow: Heart-2-Heart Gala

ILF was delighted to be a Gold Sponsor for Youth for Tomorrow's Heart-2-Heart Gala this past weekend, supporting the critical mental health, residential placements, and other care services they provide to the at-risk youth and families struggling across Northern Virginia.

Youth For Tomorrow's goal is to empower children and families by offering them the chance to cultivate confidence, skills, intellectual capacity, spiritual awareness, and moral values rooted in principles of faith. This leads to transformative positive impacts on children, families, communities, and the nation as a whole.

Community Participation

So You're 18 Initiative

ILF's beloved COO, Angela Morehouse, participated in the "So You're 18" initiative. The Prince William County Bar Association annually presents this initiative in all public high schools in Prince William County and Manassas and Manassas Park. As part of this program, high school seniors receive a helpful booklet called "So You're 18," created by the Virginia State Bar Conference of Local Bar Associations. The booklet covers a range of legal rights, limitations, and duties that come into effect when an individual reaches the age of 18.



Old Photo Alert!

Fernando and Taylor's Community Service

Thank You to Taylor and Fernando for volunteering as Trial Advocacy Coaches for a George Mason University Trial Ad team in the 2024 American Association for Justice's Student Trial Advocacy Competition (STAC). Each year, the AAJ hosts a national competition that allows current law school students to simulate a live courtroom experience, crafting and arguing Motion(s) in Limine and conducting an actual trial. Taylor and Fernando worked with their team for several months before the March 8 competition event, sharing their vast courtroom experience with the students to help mould and shape our next generation of trial litigators. The competition was remote but still competitive and exciting for our ILF staff and their school team.





Special Feature:

ILF Goes All Out for St. Paddy's Day: A Shamrockin' Time at the 2024 Greater Manassas Parade!

The ILF team was thrilled to serve as Grand Parade Sponsor at this year's Greater Manassas St. Patrick's Day Parade. We had a blast getting our float ready, and the parade itself was a wild and wonderful ride! Despite the damp and chilly weather, we all had an amazing time. Our crew, including John, Angela, Beth (with her pup Shadow), Miranda, Corey (with his girlfriend Savannah), Reghan, Mark (with his girlfriend Kelly and their furry friend), and two of Mark's pals (and their dogs!), spread cheer along the route by handing out ILF-themed goodies like bottle openers, coozies, calendars, beads, and tattoos. The rain couldn't dampen our spirits as we reveled in the festive atmosphere with the enthusiastic crowds. After the parade, we raised a glass (or two!) to toast to a successful St. Paddy's celebration!



Practice Area Updates



Family Law

The family law division has been very excited to increase Beth's Legal Assistant work in the field; she is working on drafting discovery, learning to respond to discovery, and coordinating discovery deficiency analyses. This represents a massive growth for her, and she is on track to complete her Paralegal certificate later this Spring. Sharing this load has allowed Miranda to expand her direct client meetings and training for courthouse attendance/ witness management support for hearing dates. Rachel had a phenomenal ruling in Winchester on a case she handled from the start, through an emergency hearing, through a Juvenile Court trial, and finished with a fantastic result at a Circuit Court trial. She did so well that the Guardian ad Litem on the case asked to send future referrals to her! Rebecca completed (many... many... many) trials this cycle and received a significant attorney fee award on a case she's been working with for nearly two years. The Family Law division has enjoyed active discussions with several highly qualified candidates to join the family law team, and we expect hiring announcements coming out soon.

Personal Injury

The Personal Injury division is now fully official! Our initial focus will be soft tissue automobile accidents. We are trying out a several new processes to determine if a virtual support person or someone in-house is the best fit to assist with the intake process and to provide administrative support to communicate with insurance companies, medical providers, and all others necessary to help our increasing personal injury caseload. We are now actively running Facebook advertisements and Local Service Ads through Google to support this growth. It has been a pleasure to see substantial income this quarter from the results of an outstanding case settlement that John negotiated at the end of 2023 Q4 and we look forward to increasing these cases throughout the year!

Estate Planning

We are successfully and actively building out our Estate Planning division, where Angela has been taking new consultations each week. All divisions are encouraged to support their clients in identifying whether they need to prepare or update their Last Will and Testament, their Medical Power of Attorney, Financial Power of Attorney, or Living Trusts! ILF anticipates actively spending marketing dollars in the next two quarters to continue growing this division. Please begin spreading the word amongst colleagues in the bar that we offer Estate Planning services. Angela continues to take guardianship and conservatorship cases and maintains an estate administration practice. Reghan completed her Virginia State Bar exam this quarter (great job, Reghan, and fingers crossed for a positive result!), which will allow her to actively practice and grow with Angela in the Estate Planning division.



Practice Area Updates



Criminal Law

While we believe in serving our indigent communities, we were saddened to recently pause our appointments on many of the court-appointed criminal indigent defense cases. However, this change is beneficial to the firm as it supports the opportunity for our attorneys to provide even more excellent services to our retained clients in the Criminal Law field and other areas of law. To this end, Mark and Fernando have completed their withdrawals from the court-appointed Circuit Court and General District Court lists. Fernando submitted his Criminal Justice Act (CJS) Attorney application to the United States District Court in Alexandria. We hope to hear his approval for these appointments soon, where he will begin supporting clients against federal criminal charges like RICO, conspiracy, and other serious federal charges. Mark is branching into Civil Litigation (more on this below!). Taylor continues to focus on criminal and traffic defense in both the General District and Circuit Court, where she has made such a name for herself that she now receives referrals from satisfied clients and others who have observed her outstanding work at court. This quarter saw an adjustment for Corey's duties, as he has focused more heavily on the Legal Assistant duties involving drafting pleadings, maintaining the criminal attorney's calendars, and increasing his duties associated with ongoing/ active case file management for the criminal team.

Civil Litigation

Mark has expanded his civil litigation practice, including contractor liens and unlawful detainer actions. We look forward to his continued growth and development in this arena and expect to provide quite a few more updates on this division next quarter.



Bar Participation

Rebecca is the co-chair for this year's **Bar Dinner Dance**, which has involved substantial planning and coordination to support this exciting annual event. The Dinner Dance occurs in Q2, and we will be excited to share photos and memories from that event in our following newsletter.



Bar Participation

Angela and Rachel continue actively participating in the Virginia Women's Attorney's Association Prince William County chapter, where Angela serves as Secretary and Rachel as the Entertainment and Programming Chair. In Q1, Angela enjoyed attending a weekend VWAA retreat event at Lake Anna, where she enjoyed professional development, socializing, and some enthusiastic karaoke!

Birthday Spotlight

Rebecca turned 40 last January 19!



Fernando had his birthday on March 31!

Happy Birthday Fernando!
Although his birthday was March 31, we celebrated in April and will reflect that excitement in our next newsletter!

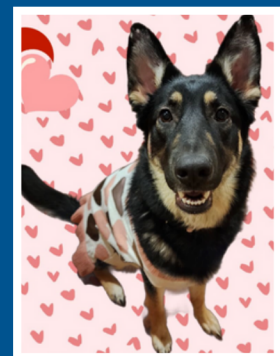


ILF Pets of the Quarter



Meet Salem! She works with our legal assistant, Beth, and is an Australian Kelpie rescue mix who loves snuggling on the couch with her people and doggy siblings.

Cammie Sue – She is our Intake Paralegal Angie's most recent rescue puppy, a German Shepard who may be nervous meeting new people but looks fantastic modeling for us online!



Rachel Gets Married!

On March 23, The Irving Law Firm joyously attended the wedding of Rachel Gries and Adam Goldsher in Leesburg, VA. Colleagues warmly congratulated the happy couple, with love and excitement. Rachel, a valued member of the firm, looked radiant as she said "I do" and officially became Mrs. Goldsher. The firm was honored to celebrate this special occasion with her.



A big welcome to Kristel and Raymond!



Kristel


Kristel joins us virtually from the Philippines, supporting ILF Management in analyzing and cleaning our marketing data, phone analytics, Clio CSM, and learning to take on some billing and back-end financial duties. She's a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Accounting Technology. She has seven years of corporate experience in practicing accounting in the Philippines and four years of experience in teaching Grade 9 - 12 Business Courses in a private school in Ontario, Canada.




Raymond

Raymond joined us physically at ILF's main office, supporting us daily and part-time as an administrative assistant with file closeouts, scanning, shredding, and office housekeeping tasks. From tackling the frightening stack of old file closeout boxes in Angela's office to learning the Roomba maintenance and beginning to learn criminal law file closing duties, it is a joy to have someone here daily to support us in these critical steps.


Client Shoutouts

 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 📍 The Irving Law Firm
Tamara Smith • Dec 31, 2023 • 1 custom field • Featured


I love my lawyer Mr .FERNANDO VILLAROEL so down to earth and he tell you like it is, no sugar coding, I'm tell you like this I hope like hell I do not get myself n trouble if I do I will be call him asap ☐☐☐☐!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I have nothing bad to say at all You are the best keep up the good work !!! Lol

 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 📍 The Irving Law Firm
Terry Cerda • Jan 21, 2024 • Featured


Mr. Irving and his team really made the difference in the out come of this case. The opposing insurance company was trying to pressure me into taking nothing, or accepting a fraction of what Mr. Irving was able to get in my settlement. I am very grateful and happy that Mr. Irving was able to work with me. His paralegal Angie is very professional and always available whenever I had any questions too. Thanks so much for everything that you did.

 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 📍 The Irving Law Firm
Skarleth Peña • Jan 22, 2024 • Featured

Great Lawyer, 100% I recommend this Firm with you all, thank you Mark Branca, fo helping me with my case. Everything went smoothly

 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 📍 The Irving Law Firm
Melanie Abley • Feb 6, 2024 • 1 custom field • Featured

Angela Morehouse is a very intelligent, compassionate and consciousness lawyer. She led me through a very challenging custody case and with her expertise we achieved an amazing outcome.

 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 📍 The Irving Law Firm
Sallay Kanu • Feb 16, 2024 • 1 custom field • Featured

I was represented by Taylor A. Sanders. She was so pleasant to deal with. She listened,she kept in touch and did her very best. My case was dismissed thank you.

Updated Headshots

We completed part 1 of two photo sessions to update our headshots this quarter; many of us have rolled these out in our email signature blocks, but we will finish everyone else and then fully update our website soon!
