ISSUE #13

Monthly Newsletter

LEGAL JOURNEYS, LLC
January 2026 ✦

Christmas Party 2025

Welcome, 2026!

Anyone else having a hard time believing that another year is gone, and we are beginning a new one? I can hardly believe how quickly 2025 flew by. My parents and grandparents always told me that time goes by faster the older you get, and I now believe them!

This year, we will have more events, more chances to win, and most importantly, more protection for you and your family through estate planning. Staffing changes and life events are inevitable, but what won't change is our commitment to you, our clients. Now more than ever, you are why we do what we do.

Many of us make New Year's Resolutions this time of year. Maybe it's a goal you're shooting for, a word you want to work on living by, or a trip you want to take in 2026. That's why, in this issue of the Legal Journeys Newsletter, you'll find out our staff's New Year's Resolutions, as well as why this is a great time to stop putting off your estate planning and meet some new faces.

Here's to a New Year full of hope, happiness, and prosperity for you and yours. No matter what this year brings, Legal Journeys is here with you and for you.

Legal Journeys Team - XO

In this newsletter you can expect:

Why the New Year is the BEST time to stop procrastinating

New Year's Resolutions

Funding Spotlight, Events, & More

Common Myths of Estate Planning + the Truth

Joke of the Month + TLDR

Why the New Year is the BEST Time for Estate Planning

As we turn the page into a new year, many of us feel a renewed sense of energy and possibility. There's just something about January that makes us want to reset, reorganize, and recommit to the things we know will improve our lives. And if you've been putting off creating or updating your estate plan, there is no better time than right now to take action.

In his bestselling book Atomic Habits, James Clear explains a concept known as the "Fresh Start Effect." It's the idea that certain moments in time—like the beginning of a new year—create a natural psychological break from our past selves. These moments boost motivation, making us more likely to take action on the things that matter.
A new year symbolizes a clean slate. It gives us permission to finally tackle important tasks we've pushed aside, especially those that feel big or emotionally heavy—like estate planning.

Atomic Habits also reminds us that lasting change comes from small, consistent steps. Estate planning often feels overwhelming because people assume it has to be completed in one giant leap. But the truth is:
✔ The first step is simply scheduling a consultation.
✔ The next step is gathering a few documents.
✔ Then we clarify your wishes, create your plan, and sign with confidence.
Each step is manageable. Together, they add up to something incredibly meaningful: protection, clarity, and peace for you and your loved ones.

Estate Planning Belongs on Your Priority List Because:

1. Life changes quickly—your plan should keep up.
New babies, marriages, relocations, new homes, blended families, aging parents—January is when people naturally reflect on how much life has shifted.

2. Procrastination is risky.
Without an estate plan, the state—not you—decides what happens with your assets, your children, and your medical decisions. Taking action now protects your family from stress, uncertainty, and potential conflict later.

3. You'll start the year with confidence and clarity.
Imagine crossing this off your list in January rather than carrying it as a mental burden for another year.
New Year, Better Habits—Including Protecting Your Loved Ones

James Clear writes, "You do not rise to the level of your goals; you fall to the level of your systems."

Estate planning is a system—a structure—to ensure your intentions become reality, no matter what life brings. This year, instead of setting resolutions that fade by February, **choose something with lasting impact.**
Create a plan your family can rely on.

Ready to Make 2026 the Year You Get This Done?
Starting your estate plan now is simple, empowering, and one of the most thoughtful gifts you can give your loved ones.

We're here to guide you through every step with clarity, compassion, and confidence.

Let's make this the year you say goodbye to procrastination and hello to peace of mind.

-Levi & Amanda

Call or Click for your appointment today!

www.legaljourneys.com	256-850-3431

New Years Resolutions...2026

New Year's resolutions usually don't survive past the second week of January...but the protection you put in place for your family can last a lifetime.

As we help you start the year strong with your estate plan, here's how our staff is starting theirs — with their 2026 resolutions/words of the year:

Levi: Health and wellbeing.

Elaine: Intentionality. I want to be "all there" wherever I am. 100% in, not distracted by the noise of life. Focused on what really matters. ❤️

Karen: Time.

Brandy: My word is Open Heart: open to feedback, open to the Holy Spirit, and open to becoming more like Jesus this year.

Max 🐾: I promise to welcome more humans this year... unless they knock. Or carry packages. Or wear hats..

Amanda: I have many personal goals this year...I'd say helping more people.

Elijah: Being a good fiance and better me.

Laura: Health.

What is on your Christmas list? Whatever it is, we hope you get it, and then some. Reply to this email and let us know! Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you and yours.

Special Dates

1 - Happy New Year! 🎉🥳🎊

5 - Office reopens from Holidays

8 - Clarity & Confidence Event
Pappo's Pizzeria - Huntsville

13 - Clarity & Confidence Event
Offices at Spenryn - Madison

18 - Brandy's Birthday

19 - MLK Jr. Day - Office Closed

Upcoming Events

- **Wills & Trusts 101 In-Person Events**
  Our in-person events are back in full force! Clarity & Confidence kicks off January 8th at 5:30 p.m. at PaPPo's Pizzeria in Huntsville. To register for this or future events, visit www.legaljourneys.com/events.
- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday**
  Our office will be **closed on Monday, January 19th** in honor of MLK Jr. Day. We will reopen on Tuesday, January 20th.
- **Office birthdays, anniversaries, etc.**
  Happy birthday to Brandy, our Marketing and Relations Queen! Here's to another trip around the sun!

Funding Spotlight, To-Do, & More...

Funding Your Trust

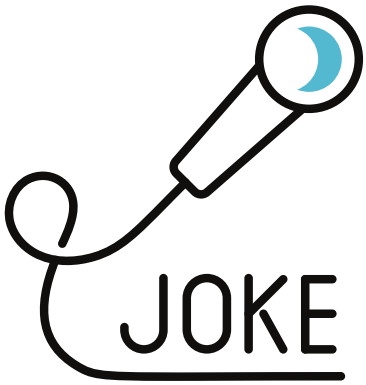
One of the **most important things** you *must* do with your trust is **MAKE SURE IT'S FUNDED.** It's like buying that gym membership you bought. If you never actually **use** it, then you won't see the results. Without funding your trust, your family won't get the intended benefits of the trust you paid for. They'll still be left trudging through probate, and it's all avoidable. This year in the newsletter, we will be checking in on your funding to make sure your family is covered, as intended.

How do I fund my trust?
We provide a **self-funding checklist** for clients at signing to help make this process easy. If you can't find yours, or would like another copy, **simply respond to this email to request another.**

What assets do I need to fund my trust?
Bank accounts, life insurance, retirement accounts, TSPs, real property, personal property, home insurance, businesses, and investment accounts, including stocks and bonds.

Client To-Dos

Check your Estate Plan for the date it was signed. We currently provide **complimentary 3-year reviews** for clients to make sure your plan is up-to-date and will work when you need it. Have changes you want to make? No problem! We will be happy to do an amendment. We only charge a **small fee for small changes, up to a mid-range fee to make many changes.** Your **consultation with an attorney** to determine changes and fees is **complimentary.**



Joke of the Month

Why did the seagull fly over the sea?

Because if he flew over the bay, *he'd be a bay-gull! (Get it? Bagel??)*

What are cows' knees called?

Burger joints.

Think these jokes are terrible? Submit better ones to brandy@legaljourneys.com!

Staff Spotlight

This month, we would like to highlight some staff changes that have happened at the beginning of the year. Kay Siniard is leaving to pursue more time in her role as "Honey" to her four sweet Grands. Macie Beavers is leaving to focus on her schooling. We are so sad to say goodbye to them here at Legal Journeys, and wish them well in their future endeavors. We will be highlighting future staff members who will be their replacements in the coming months.

TLDR

- **Respond to this email** with anything you'd like us to know. We **love** hearing from you!
- The new year is the **perfect time** to **stop procrastinating.** Check out a few reasons why you should **start your planning in the New Year.**
- What's your word or new year's resolution? **Reply and let us know!**
- We offer **complimentary reviews every 3 years.** Changes that you want made range from a small to mid-range fee, depending on the amount you want changed.
- **Send us your best jokes!** We love hearing from you.
- **Check out one of our events** this year, and bring a friend who needs our services! Knowledge is power.