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CLIENT NEWSLETTER

You are hereby notified that E. Ronald Bradley has retired from the active practice of law and is associated with the Firm only as "Of Counsel". John E. M. Ellis has continued his law practice as a sole proprietor, but continues to use the former partnership name of Ellis & Bradley (as a registered fictitious name, as permitted by law).

Following Mr. Bradley's retirement, and upon the demolition of the Bank of America five story building at 3839 – 4th St. N., Ellis removed his office two blocks south to the former Wachovia Bank building at 3637 – 4th St. N. The firm has recently given up its downtown post office box of 50 years and now receives mail only at 3637 – 4th St. N., Suite 412, St. Petersburg, FL 33704.

The firm still maintains client files going back to 1962 and beyond and holds numerous client original Wills in free safekeeping, subject to client re-call at any time.

Another purpose of this letter is to advise firm clients there has been a massive amendment to the Florida Durable Power of Attorney Statute (Ch. 709) effective 10/01/2011. The new statute renders most Power of Attorney instruments prior to that date ineffective as to a number of specified grants of authority. A number of authorities pertaining to gifts, trusts, disclaimers, etc are now effective only if the specific grant of authority in the document is initialed in the margin opposite the enumerated grant. (Prior Powers of Attorney remain valid except as to the enumerated authorities now requiring initials.)

Since the Durable Power of Attorney is one of the most important of all estate planning documents, it is highly recommended that you review your existing Power of Attorney documents, Trusts, Living Wills, and Designation of Healthcare Surrogate documents to see if they require amending. (Our old 3 page Power of Attorney is now 8 pages and includes new provisions pertaining to Medicaid planning and also serves as a Healthcare Surrogate Designation document, as well as a designation of a Pre-Need