

## **GIVING THANKS: A CURE FOR CYNICISM**

Lawyers are problem solvers. Personal injury lawyers make a living helping people who have been harmed, and that is rewarding. But, we have an adversarial legal system in America, and that means attorneys deal with conflict 24/7. It can lead to a negative attitude about lawyers. I have found that gratitude is one good way to counteract cynicism.

Enjoy these interesting Thanksgiving and turkey facts (selected from various Internet sources) as we ponder our gratitude for our many blessings, not the least of which is getting to live in this great country of ours.

### **THANKSGIVING FACTS**

- Benjamin Franklin wanted the turkey to be the national bird of the United States.
- Abraham Lincoln issued a 'Thanksgiving Proclamation' on the third of October 1863 and officially set aside the last Thursday of November as the national day for Thanksgiving.
- In 1939, President Roosevelt proclaimed that Thanksgiving would take place on November 23rd, not November 30th, as a way to spur economic growth and extend the Christmas shopping season.
- Congress passed a law on December 26, 1941, ensuring that all Americans would celebrate a unified Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday of November every year.
- Black Friday is the Friday after Thanksgiving in the United States. It is the beginning of the traditional Christmas shopping season, and the name connotes the point at which retailers begin to turn a profit getting out of the "red" and "in the black" in their ledger books.

### **LET'S TALK TURKEY**

- Since 1947, the National Turkey Federation has presented a live turkey and two dressed turkeys to the President. The President does not eat the live turkey. He "pardons" it and allows it to live out its days on a historical farm.
- Male turkeys are called gobblers, because they are the only ones that can make that funny sound. Female turkeys are called hens and communicate through clicks and small, chirp-like noises.
- Wild turkeys can fly for short bursts at speeds of up to 55 miles per hour, and they sleep

perched atop tree branches where they are safe from predators. However, they aren't often spotted soaring through the sky or perching in trees because they prefer to feed on the ground.

- A part of the turkey's stomach, called the gizzard, contains tiny stones that the bird has previously swallowed. These polished stones aid in the breakdown of food for digestion, since birds do not have teeth.

## OUR THANKS

Thank you for reading our columns throughout the year. We are grateful to our clients, for our country, and for the right to trial by jury.

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*Nothing in this article should be construed as legal advice. You must consult with an attorney for the application of the law to your specific circumstances.*

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