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Brando's Beneficiaries

HOUSEKEEPER SUED ESTATE OVER BROKEN PROMISES

Marlon Brando, considered by many to be the greatest actor of the 20th century, appeared in timeless classics like "Apocalypse Now" (1979), where he played the villainous Colonel Kurtz, and "The Godfather" (1972), where he stole the screen as Don Vito Corleone, the soft-spoken and poignant mob boss. However, in stark contrast to his illustrious film career, after Brando's passing in 2004, settling his estate — considered worth more than \$25 million — was a disaster. Near the end of his life, Brando reportedly made amendments to his will that favored business over familial connections — with allegations from some of his primary beneficiaries that he was not in the right state of mind to make these changes. Needless to say, the contents of his will caused considerable controversy, infighting, and numerous lawsuits.

Who Were Brando's Beneficiaries?

The problems with settling Brando's estate did not stem from a lack of preparation: He had a valid will they followed. Instead, those not included in the document created the issues. Marlon Brando was married three times and had 11 children and 30 grandchildren. However, he reportedly cut most of them out of his will, leaving the bulk of his estate to his producer and several associates.

Housekeeper but No House

In addition to his long list of progeny, Brando excluded his longtime (about 10 years) housekeeper and personal assistant, Angela Borlaza, from his will. According to Borlaza, her star employer had promised to leave her his home in Winnetka, California, after he died. However, despite Borlaza's insistence that he made his promise verbally, no record of it existed anywhere



in his estate plan. Regardless, Borlaza sued Brando's estate for \$627,000, the estimated value of the home at the time, but ended up settling for \$125,000.

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TOP 5 ESTATE PLANNING MYTHS TO FALL OUT OF LOVE WITH

Estate planning may not be the most romantic topic, but it's one of the most important ways to protect yourself and your loved ones. Unfortunately, many myths surrounding estate planning can lead to confusion, delays, or even costly mistakes. Let's debunk the top five myths!

'I don't need an estate plan because I don't have significant assets.'

Estate planning goes beyond distributing assets — it's about protecting you. Who will manage your finances or make medical decisions if you cannot? Naming the right people to step in during tough times makes sure your wishes are honored.

If you're a parent, it's essential to name guardians for your minor children. Without a plan, the courts may decide who raises your kids, which might not align with your preferences. Think of estate planning as a way to care for the people (and future) you value most.

'My family will know what to do without a plan.'

Spoiler alert: They won't. While it's comforting to believe your family will seamlessly manage your wishes, without a written plan, their hands are tied. Courts follow strict rules, not verbal agreements.

For example, if you plan for your child to inherit your home, you must have proper documentation to prevent taxes, probate, or disagreements from derailing your wishes. Additionally, an estate plan created with the help of an attorney can often identify tax-efficient ways to distribute your assets and save your loved ones time, stress, and money.

'I'm too young to think about an estate plan.'
Life is unpredictable. Whether it's an unexpected accident or illness, an estate plan acts like an insurance policy — you hope you never need it, but you'll be glad it's there when you do. Once you create an estate plan, you can tuck it away and revisit it when needed. But having it in place ensures you're covered, no matter what life throws at you.

'Once I have an estate plan, I'm done.'

Estate planning isn't a one-and-done task. Life changes and your plan should evolve with it. Did you acquire new assets, welcome a new family member, or experience a significant life event? Has estate law changed in your state? Reviewing your estate plan periodically ensures it remains aligned with your current circumstances; an outdated plan can cause unnecessary complications.

'I don't need an attorney to administer my trust.'

Having a trust is a smart move, but it doesn't eliminate the need for expert guidance. Trust administration involves legal deadlines and filings that must be handled correctly. For example, if you're passing your home to a child, there are often exemptions that require documentation with deadlines.

Acting as a trustee also comes with serious responsibilities and liabilities. Trustees are accountable to beneficiaries and can be held liable for missteps. An attorney can guide you through the process, ensure required disclosures are made, and help reduce your liability while making sure the trust is administered according to the law.

- Angela Klenk

SAFEGUARD YOUR LEGACY

The Benefits of Forming a QTIP Trust

Every family has a unique dynamic and history. If you have been married more than once, you may feel conflicted about the needs of your current spouse versus your children's needs from previous marriages. However, you can preserve your legacy and provide for all your loved ones in your estate plan without alienating your children or spouse. By incorporating a Qualified Terminable Interest Property (QTIP) trust into your estate plan, you can solve the issue equitably, giving both parties the security they need.

How QTIPs Work

Unlike other trusts, QTIP trusts allow you to name a life beneficiary and a final beneficiary for your property. For instance, you can name your spouse as your life beneficiary, who will have

limited rights to use the property set aside in the trust during their lifetime. Then, you can name your children as the final beneficiaries, who will inherit the property in the trust after you pass away. If your spouse passes away before you do, the property in the trust will be given directly to your final beneficiaries without needing alterations.

QTIPs also offer benefits for a surviving spouse. Any income from the trust can go to the surviving spouse for the rest of their life, and estate taxes are not assessed until after the surviving spouse's death.

The Advantages

QTIPs are a great way to meet the needs of two conflicting parties of beneficiaries. It is ideal for people who have been married more than once and have children from



previous marriages; few options offer such a flexible trust that allows your children to inherit your property after your living spouse no longer needs it. This can help ease tension and reduce disagreements when settling your estate.

Planning for the Unthinkable

Explore Funding Options and Pet Trusts

As a pet owner, the thought of your pets no longer being with you is something you don't like thinking about. After all, you've had them their entire lives. Now, imagine the roles are reversed. What if something happens to you first, and you can no longer care for your pet? It's a daunting thought, but pet estate planning is designed to ensure your



pet is well taken care of in the event of your passing or incapacitation.

Who will care for your pet?

Before discussing the legal and financial aspects of pet planning, the first step is to consider who will get physical custody of your pet. Like planning for children, you must be comfortable with the caregiver. Have they interacted with your pets before? How do they treat their pets? Family and friends will likely be your go-to, but never assume they will take on the responsibility of your pet. Whomever you're considering, be sure to have an intentional conversation with them about your wishes.

Determine the finances for the lifetime of your pet.

How much is enough? First, do the math to figure out how much you spend

caring for your pet now. Then, take that amount and project how long your pet is likely to live to determine a number. Also, consider reasonable compensation for the person caring for your pet. Life insurance and retirement plans are excellent financial sources for funding your pet's lifetime care.

Establish a pet trust and trustee.

Unlike life insurance and retirement plans as funding sources, pet trusts legally shore up the financial obligations of caring for your pet. Ultimately, the money you leave the caretaker isn't a lump sum they can spend anywhere; it provides accountability for how they spend it. Your caretaker can be the trustee, too, but it could create a conflict of interest. A professional trustee is probably best to ensure funds are distributed according to your wishes.

TAKE A *BREAK*



CHOCOLATE
DREAM
EQUALITY
GROUNDHOG
GRAMMY
KING
LINCOLN
PIZZA
ROSES
SUPER BOWL
VALENTINE
WOMEN



GINGER-GLAZED MAHI MAHI

Inspired by AllRecipes.com

Ingredients

- 3 tbsp honey
- 3 tbsp soy sauce
- 3 tbsp balsamic vinegar
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tsp grated fresh ginger root
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 (6-oz) mahi mahi fillets
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2 tbsp vegetable oil
- Cooked brown rice, for serving

Directions

1. In a shallow bowl, mix honey, soy sauce, balsamic vinegar, olive oil, ginger, and garlic.
2. Season fish fillets with salt and pepper, then place them skin-side down in the marinade. Cover and refrigerate for 25 minutes.
3. Add vegetable oil to a large skillet over medium-high heat. Remove fish fillets and add to skillet, reserving marinade. Fry fish for 4–5 minutes on each side, turning only once, until fish flakes easily with a fork. Remove fillets to a serving platter and keep warm.
4. Pour the reserved marinade into the skillet. Simmer over medium heat until reduced to a glaze. Spoon glaze over fish and serve over brown rice.

GHOSTS AND GOLD Weird Stories From World War II

World War II, the largest conflict in human history, saw millions of soldiers engaged in fierce battles across the globe, from the deserts of Tunisia and the muddy fields of Kursk to the streets of Singapore and the tropical atolls of the Marshall Islands. Some oddities go overlooked among the countless acts of heroism, savagery, desperation, stalemates, victories, and defeats. Bizarre events, characters, and plans that sound too outlandish to be true (but are!) prove reality is often stranger than fiction.

The Ghost Army

Deception is a prominent part of war, but the U.S. Army invented an entirely new way of misleading the enemy. The 23rd Headquarters Special Troops, nicknamed the "Ghost Army," was a unit dedicated to creating a fake army capable of drawing enemy attention and resources away from the rest of the front. Deployed on Jan. 20, 1944, the Ghost Army comprised of around 1,000 men, including artists, fashion designers, and geniuses. The unit utilized inflatable tanks and vehicles, sent out phony commands over the radio, and even created a landfill big enough to convince any aerial reconnaissance that a much larger force was camped at their location.

Operation Golden Eye

Following the Spanish Civil War, a fascist regime sympathetic to Nazi Germany, led by Francisco Franco, assumed control of Spain. While Spain was neutral during the war — partly due to skillful diplomacy by the Allies — the British Army prepared for the worst. If Spain entered the war and Germany invaded British Gibraltar, they needed a plan to repel the invasion and defeat the Spanish and German armies. The British tasked Commander Ian Fleming of the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve with this task. The plan was nicknamed Operation Golden Eye. If the name sounds familiar, it's because Ian Fleming went on to write a series of spy novels starring its titular character, James Bond.

