

Showers Quarterly focuses on emerging legal issues affecting churches, nonprofits, and businesses.

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The Showers Quarterly

Welcome to the Showers Quarterly for the second quarter of 2018. This mailing is a compilation of the last three articles our firm has published. Our firm also published three legal alerts in the second quarter, included below. The Showers Quarterly provides information on emerging legal issues facing churches, nonprofits, and businesses. These articles are designed to summarize legal hot-spots and trends. We hope these issues help your organization begin the conversation on how to best protect your ministry or business and lead you to the correct resources.

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Legal Alert: New European Union Law Affects U.S. Businesses and Nonprofits

The European Union's new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) goes into effect on May 25, 2018. This new directive is far-reaching and imposes steep penalties for non-compliance. Moreover, its scope extends to any entity gathering personal data (defined broadly) from EU citizens, regardless of the entity's location. This means that **U.S. companies are required to comply**. If your company, for any reason, gathers personally identifying information from EU citizens within the EU, you must implement policies which comply with the GDPR.

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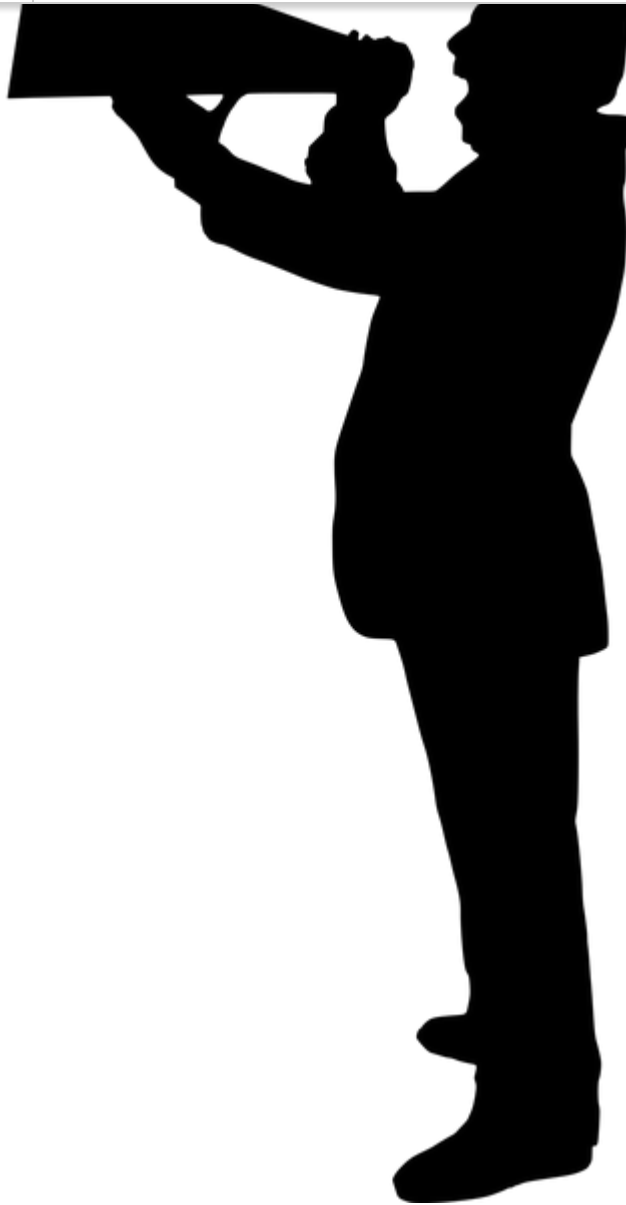
When Marriages Break: A Path of Hope for the Future

By E. Van Welton, Esq. and H. Robert Showers, Esq.

It is a sad reality that many marriages end in divorce. Considering that religious people often have strong convictions relating to the eternality of the marriage covenant, it is perhaps especially jarring to realize that marriages involving people of faith cease at relatively the same rate as those couples that claim no faith commitment. Throughout many churches, there are families who are experiencing the harmful and destructive consequences of divorce.

Unfortunately, when spouses who have a faith commitment go to a Family Law attorney, they have generally reached the end of their emotional road and just want out, revenge, or both. However, even in these moments, there are better answers and ways forward that offer the potential for marital and family healing, rather than dissolution, more hatred and anger.

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Not Everything is a Political Issue: A Refresher for Churches and Nonprofits on Lobbying and Political Campaigning

By Justin R. Coleman, Esq. and H. Robert Showers, Esq.

For the last few years, it seems that every topic or issue has devolved into a political debate. Even those matters that were once thought collectively agreed-upon have resulted in shouting matches, even between Christians and other people of faith. With the 2018 mid-term elections this November, churches and non-profit organizations may need a refresher on what they can say and do in the lobbying and political arenas.

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Legal Alert: U.S. Supreme Court Decides for Religious Liberty

After many months of deliberation, the Supreme Court of the United States (“SCOTUS” or “the Court”) found in favor of Jack Phillips, the Masterpiece Cake shop owner, in a 7-2 holding (i.e. seven Justices found in his favor, and two dissented).

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Legal Alert: U.S. Supreme Court Grants Huge Free Speech Win for Pregnancy Resource Centers in California

In a close 5-4 decision on Tuesday in [National Institute of Family & Life Advocates v. Becerra, 2018 U.S. LEXIS 4025](#), the U.S. Supreme Court held that the State of California violated the First Amendment by requiring licensed Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs) to post notices referring women to state-provided services, including abortion clinics. The Court also held that California violated the First Amendment by requiring unlicensed centers to post notices to the effect that they were not medically-licensed. Please [click here](#) to read NIFLA's summary of the decision, and [click here](#) to read ADF's summary. Please reach out to H. Robert Showers, Esq. at hrs@simmsshowerslaw.com, or call our firm at 703-771-4671, for more information on how this landmark decision may impact CPCs or Pregnancy Resource Centers (PRCs) in other states.

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