

## FIRM NEWSLETTER

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**GEHRIS & ASSOCIATES, LLC**  
**ATTORNEYS AT LAW**

# Happy 4th of July!

We hope everyone has a safe and happy Fourth of July!  
We will continue to provide updates and awareness of legal issues through this newsletter. In this month's issue we will discuss the Depp v. Heard Trial and Estate Planning.

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## Depp v. Heard Explained

One case that gained a lot of media attention is the Johnny Depp v. Amber Heard trial. This trial had most people glued to their screens and forming opinions one way or another about these ex-spouses. This case started gaining media attention due to the very public divorce between the two. However, what most people fail to realize is that the case is not about their divorce. It is about defamation.

What is defamation? In Illinois defamation has four major elements which need to be met. The four elements are as follows:

1. The defendant made a false statement about the plaintiff;
2. Made with actual malice or negligence;
3. That was published to a third party;
4. That damaged the plaintiff.



As many people may or may not remember, Amber Heard has made statements that Johnny Depp was physical abusive toward her. This obviously made national headlines and led to Johnny Depp being fired from various projects in Hollywood. Depp was claiming that Heard's statements are completely false and is now suing her for defamation. So how does he meet the elements? [\(Read more\)](#)

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## **I do not have many assets, why do I need an estate plan?**



More often than not, clients come into our office thinking they do not have many assets. In reality many people have more assets than they initially consider. Most people have at least some retirement account or savings, a home, bank account and personal items that are valuable to them. All of these assets should be accounted for in your estate plan, so your family or friends know what property you have and how to divide up your property according to your wishes.

Even if you do not have any of the assets listed above, estate planning is still an important tool to make your wishes known should any major medical issues arise. Here at Gehris and Associates we recommend everyone have a Will and Powers of Attorney. These documents are part of our estate planning packages and provide detailed instructions [\(Read more\)](#)

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