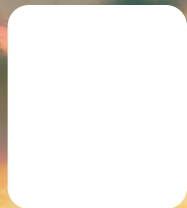




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your INFORMATIVE SOURCE FOR TOPICS OF INTEREST AND INSIGHT

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Moving Forward

By Dan Amert

"May you live in interesting times" is an English translation of a Chinese curse, meaning that the word "interesting" in the phrase is intended to say, "times of trouble." We are in times of trouble, but that should not stop us from making our world a better place.

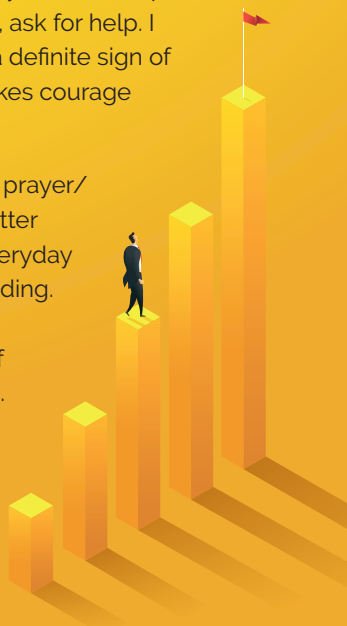
As we finish the final months of 2024 and look towards 2025, let's look at some aspects I've written about this year moving forward to the end of this year:

- 1. Serving your fellow person** – We all have different opinions and beliefs. This election year, no one can escape the various opinions seen in political ads, on network news, and local television. Do your best to avoid the noise and confusion. Stay grounded by being kind to as many people as possible. Sometimes, the smallest act of kindness may resonate beyond what you can imagine. There are a lot of people hurting in the world. Let's find a way to help them, in whatever way possible.
- 2. Taking care of ourselves** – Part of caring for each other is also taking care of ourselves. How can we help our fellow person properly if we're not caring for ourselves properly? Taking care of ourselves may mean eating properly, exercising, taking time for fellowship with friends and family,

proper rest, and time for prayer/meditation. Take care of yourself, and each other.

- 3. Asking for help** – I have a hard time asking for help. I believe I can work through a situation, and I can resolve it myself. The hard thing to say is, "I can't do this. Can you help me?" The key is knowing when you need help. If the task is overwhelming or difficult, ask for help. I grew up when asking for help was a definite sign of weakness. Today, asking for help takes courage and humility.
- 4. Pray for our world** – As part of your prayer/meditation habits, let's pray for a better world. Let's pray we can serve in everyday life, both in kindness and understanding. Let's pray to root out the seeds of hate and discord and plant seeds of fellowship, understanding, and love.

We at Northern Plains Justice wish you and your family the absolute best as we conclude 2024 and plan for a blessed 2025.



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Veterans Day Reflection

by Bill Sims

As we enter the holiday season for this year, I find myself reflecting more on one of the lesser celebrated days, that of Veterans Day. In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11th as the first commemoration of Armistice Day. It was a day to remember "with solemn pride...the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice...."

In 1926, the U.S. Congress passed a concurrent resolution recognizing November 11th as the cessation of the "most destructive and far-reaching" war in human history. The resolution encouraged thanksgiving, prayer, and actions designed to promote peace and goodwill among nations. In 1938, Armistice Day became a federal holiday. In 1954, "Armistice" was replaced by "Veterans" but the purpose did not change.

Properly observed, Veterans Day has a two-fold purpose. The first is to remember those who serve. We remember with solemn pride the many sacrifices made throughout history. We remember those who signed a blank check made payable to the U.S. Government for any price up to an including their lives and meant it. We remember those who serve in foreign lands far from home for days or months on end. We remember those who serve at home by keeping peace and preparing others to

go forward. And we remember the families, friends, relative, and neighbors who make life on the home front easier for those separated from loved one.

And, while Veterans Day is about those who have served our country, it is not just about them. It is about all of us. This day calls all of us upward to meet the challenge of opportunity. We are all called to promote peace, justice, mutual understanding, and goodwill with our neighbors—both those close to where we live and in lands far away. We are called to action.

This Veterans Day, I find myself deployed to lands faraway at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia. I remember and am grateful for the millions who came before me. I remember and am grateful for the thousands serving with me. I remember and am especially grateful for those back at home making life easier on the home front. And I hope. I hope that each of us will rise to the challenge of the opportunity in front of us daily to create peace. To establish goodwill and mutual understanding with our neighbors. And to attach action to our opportunity.

To all our veterans, thank you for all you've done and given. Thank you to the families that serve at home. And thank you, our clients, family, and friends, who support us daily as we support you.

Serving Our Clients as Friends

By Dan Amert

Last month, members of the Northern Plains Justice team attended two days of training through the Global Leadership Summit, a yearly leadership training and networking conference. Thank you very much to Bill and Jeff for providing the time and the expense for the conference.

I had never been to a Global Leadership Summit before. I was really looking forward to listening to renowned speakers and getting great information to help at work and me personally. As Bill told us prior to the event, "you'll feel like you're hit with a firehose with all of the information provided." Bill also suggested to start with one idea from the Summit first and build on that.

Over the two days of talks and presentations, I nearly filled a notebook provided by the conference (and additional pages for individual speakers!) Some of the presenters I had heard, some I had not, and some, like author and speaker Craig Groeschel, I have bought several of his books.

I started to sense themes during the presentations that were developing in my head and my notebook. I decided to write some themes we at Northern Plains Justice can use in the future:

- 1. Giving a "WOW" experience.** We at Northern Plains Justice believe we give excellent customer service, from the first contact about your case to the final conclusion. We want to continue building on that excellent customer service by giving our clients a "WOW" experience at the end of the case. We're working on what that "WOW" experience looks like, but trust me, providing a memorable conclusion to your case will always be our goal.
- 2. Taking the burden off clients.** Northern Plains Justice goes further for our clients by taking as much of the burden off

your case as possible. We shepherd you through each stage in a case, then finish the case with more than you expected. Many times clients have said to me, "I've never needed an attorney before," or "I've never been in this situation before." It's scary thinking about all the possible dynamics in a legal case. Northern Plains Justice takes the time to lift the stress off of you, doing the leg work, providing our exceptional customer service, and making your case as easy as possible on you. Northern Plains Justice believes in a "servant's heart," to help clients rather than just processing cases.

- 3. Strengthening our relationships with clients,** not just for one case, but for ongoing support. Northern Plains Justice deals with specific legal matters, but if you have a legal need or guidance about who to call, we'll do our best to help find you a friend of our law firm. Our clients are not only our customers but are our friends. We deeply appreciate working with you now and in the future. Your help in continuing to spread the word about the "WOW" experience you had at Northern Plains Justice would be incredible!

Thank you to all of our clients and friends! All of us at Northern Plains Justice wish you the best during the Fall season ahead.



Learning Legal Terms

By Dan Amert

Here are five new legal terms to learn about:

- 1. Statute of Limitations** – A time period set by law within which a party must file and serve a lawsuit claiming damages. Statutes of Limitation vary from case to case depending on such factors as the court of jurisdiction and the type of claim filed (personal injury, medical malpractice, will contest, etc.). Statutes may range from one (1) year up to ten (10) years in civil suits. Check the Statute of Limitations for your state or where the incident happened (for example, if you live in South Dakota, but you were in a car collision in Minnesota, you might have to follow the Statute of Limitations for more than one state).
- 2. Contingency Fee** – A payment structure often used in personal injury cases. Instead of paying for the attorneys' time up front, the parties agree to have the Plaintiff pay a percentage of the overall amount of what the attorneys collect for your case. When attorneys work on contingency, the client normally doesn't have to pay legal fees unless the attorneys successfully win the case.
- 3. Premises Liability** – An area of personal injury law, where property owners have a legal obligation to maintain a property in reasonably safe condition. If you are injured, such as a slip and fall, a trip and fall, or other injuries due to the property being unsafe, you may file a premises liability claim against the property owner to recover personal injury compensation.
- 4. Product Liability** – An area of personal injury law, where manufacturers, distributors, designers, and sellers are obligated to create and sell safe products. Examples of unsafe products include dangerous drugs, unsafe medical equipment, and defective consumer products. If you were sold a product that harmed your health or caused you injury, you may file a products liability case against the company that made, distributed, or sold the product to recover personal injury compensation.
- 5. Burden of Proof** – In a personal injury case, this is the Plaintiff's obligation to prove his or her allegations to be more likely true than not true. A Plaintiff must prove by a preponderance of evidence that the Defendant is liable and that the Defendant's actions more likely than not caused the Plaintiff's injuries.



We at Northern Plains Justice hope providing these legal terms is beneficial to you. Northern Plains Justice strives to make your case as effortless as possible while doing our best to provide you with the justice you deserve.