

## A Boomerang Gift

While I had heard of the Boomerang Effect and a Boomerang Blessing, I had never heard of a Boomerang Gift, and yet I am quite sure that it is somewhat of a universal law. My own experience has told me over and over again that a Boomerang Gift exists. It is important to note that it is a gift that a person gives without the slightest consideration of receiving anything in return. In fact, I believe it exists as a gift that is given when no one notices and when there will be little or no kudos. A gift that is given in anticipation of a return gift will not be a Boomerang Gift. The workings of this, as with most things too wonderful to explain, are very mysterious and magical.

One example I want to share happened only a few months ago. My husband and I spend some time each winter in the Naples, Florida area. We each work remotely from there, and due to our amazing colleagues and staff, it works quite well. When we first started this journey, we found a church

home in Naples, and that has been a source of happiness for us. The Sunday before Easter Sunday this year, we went to church, and there were about 50 small flowers in the

front. When the service was concluding, the Pastor drew our attention to the flowers and said that they were arranged in zip code order. He asked that any of us that wished, could pick up an Easter flower to deliver to one of the church's shut-ins. I told my husband to wait a few minutes before we left, so I could pick up a flower to deliver. Each one had a card with a name, address and a little blurb about the person's age and condition. The flower I picked was for someone 94 years old. Upon my asking, a woman next to me (also picking up a flower) said my recipient probably would have someone there with her.

I wondered how in the world this 94 year-old woman would let a complete stranger into her apartment with a little flower from the church, but I did not think much more about it after that.



*Marti Starkey*



*Lisa Adler*

**HARRISON**  **MOBERLY, LLP**

ATTORNEYS

317.639.4511

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I just picked it up and put it on the kitchen counter when I got home. All that week, I kept looking at the flower and thinking that I needed to get it delivered. I do not have a green thumb, and so by the time Thursday got there, I was concerned that the flower would die before I got it delivered. It had been an especially busy week work-wise and there had not been any extra moments to deliver flowers. By Thursday afternoon, I decided that it was now or never and went out the door with my flower in hand. I drove up to the condo complex on Gulf Shore Boulevard. The attached card on the flower also had a

spunky little voice answered the phone, and when I asked for the woman whose name was on the card, the spunky one said, "This is she!" Well, she told me just to come right on up to her condo, so I did. A maintenance man stopped me on my way and asked me who it was I was coming to see. When I told him, he said, "How is she?" I smiled and said that I really did not know her but was bringing her a flower from our church. I again was surprised that he allowed me to go on up.

The door to her condo opened and there stood a beautiful 94 year-old woman. She apologized for having her housecoat on, but then she said that she had not been feeling too well. She had a delicious glass of lemonade waiting for me. My anticipated short stop with a flower turned into a most lovely hour and a half of talking with a woman who was a delight. What I thought was going to be a simple little act of kindness turned into a Boomerang Gift of friendship that continues even now and is a source of encouragement to me.

She told me that she had a daughter who lived in my hometown, Evansville, Indiana. Recently, as my father was hospitalized for a terminal illness in Evansville, Indiana, I received a communication from her daughter. Soon thereafter, the daughter and her husband arrived at the hospital, and believe it or not, they were bringing the same kind of flower to my father. A Boomerang Gift, indeed!!!



*Marti's alleged "shut in" turned out to be a delight!*

telephone number, so in the parking lot, I dialed the number, fully expecting that I would get a caretaker of the 94 year-old woman. Much to my surprise, a

*Marti Starkey, Esq. and Lisa Adler, Esq. are members of the Trust and Estate Section of the law firm of Harrison & Moberly, LLP, where Marti serves as Chairperson. Other Trust and Estate attorney members of the section include Stephen E. Arthur, Esq., James Harrison, Esq., Jim McGrath, Esq., David W. Russell, Esq., Mark Pfeiffer, Esq., Mike Rusnak, Esq. (who primarily works in the tax controversy area), and Gina C. Bradford, Esq. These attorneys handle all types of work in this area, including estate planning, estate and trust administration, wealth transfer, business succession planning, tax controversy, guardianship and all types of fiduciary litigation.*