

# The **GAME** Plan

For a Peaceful Tomorrow



Jennifer Porter  
Founder

## Spring Cleaning Isn't Just for Closets

By Jennifer Porter

*As soon as the tulips show up in my yard, I feel it: that little spark of motivation to clear things out, freshen things up, and get life back in order. Maybe it's the longer days, or maybe it's just the relief of making it through another Virginia winter, but spring always feels like the right time to hit refresh and reset.*

Like most people, I start with the usual suspects: the closets (exactly how many sweaters does one girl need and actually wear?! ) and the pantry (that Campbell's soup can that expired in 2017 can go now).

But as I've gotten older, I realize that spring cleaning isn't just about physical clutter. It's also the perfect time to check in on some of the life and legal matters we tend to push off "until later."

### Here's what I mean.

If you have a will, when was the last time you reviewed it? Has anything in your life changed since then like a marriage, divorce, new child, or move? If the last time you looked at your will was 10+ years ago when your kids were toddlers, chances are that your life and your circle of people you trust look different now.

And, if you have a trust, is everything actually titled to the trust? Last year when my dad died, we discovered that the truck he had purchased was never titled to the trust correctly; so, off to small estate probate we go.

Here's one most people overlook: the beneficiaries listed on your life insurance or retirement accounts will often override what's written in your will, so it's important to make sure they still align with your wishes.

Also, let's not forget your auto insurance coverage. If a family member moves in with you—like aging parents or an adult sibling—did you know you are supposed to notify your auto insurance company? And while you have them on the phone, it's a good time to talk about increasing your uninsured motorist benefit. I recommend at least \$500,000, preferably \$1,000,000. I can't tell you how many times clients with life-altering injuries then discover that they only have minimum coverage of \$50,000 (which is never ever enough for a brain injury or broken back).



*A bounty of spring tulips is my perfect reminder to reset for the next season.*

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LAW, PLLC

### VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2

#### How We Can Help

At Jennifer Porter Law, we focus on giving our clients the information to make smart choices about their legal needs.

In personal injury, we help the seriously injured avoid being taken advantage of with a customized game plan. In estate planning, we create custom-designed plans that protect families, their future and their privacy.

In both practice areas, our goal is to help people make proactive, informed decisions for a peaceful tomorrow.

**Call us today at 571-532-9070 or visit [www.jenniferporterlaw.com](http://www.jenniferporterlaw.com) to schedule a consultation.**



### LET'S HAVE A CONVERSATION

At Jennifer Porter Law, we are dedicated to providing clear guidance to our clients and

helping them to make informed decisions. Whether you're looking for help with estate planning or personal injury, we always start with a free call to make sure we are a good fit for your needs. Let's face it together, one conversation at a time.

**Call us today at 571-532-9070 or visit [www.jenniferporterlaw.com](http://www.jenniferporterlaw.com)**

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# ESTATE PLANNING TIP



## Online Wills vs. Working with an Attorney: What's the Difference?

By Stephanie Himel-Nelson, Estate Planning Attorney

We're often asked whether online wills and trusts are a good alternative to working with an estate planning attorney. These platforms can seem appealing. They're quick, inexpensive, and easy to access. But there are important differences to understand before deciding what's right for you.

Online estate planning tools are typically questionnaire based. You answer a set of standardized questions, and the documents are generated automatically. While that may work for very simple situations, these tools don't account for the nuances in the law or your family's assets and long-term goals. They also don't anticipate potential issues that could arise later, such as changes in relationships, special planning needs, or state specific execution requirements. In some cases, documents created online may not even be properly executed, which can cause problems down the road.

Working with an attorney allows for personalized planning. Your documents are tailored to your specific circumstances, reviewed carefully, and executed correctly. While online options may seem more affordable at first, estate planning is an area where quality and personalization truly matter, and it often requires more than a one size fits all approach. Thoughtful, customized planning can provide clarity, confidence, and peace of mind for you and your loved one.

**Need assistance? Our estate planning attorneys are here to help — call 571-532-9070 to schedule a consultation.**

# SUPERSTAR SPOTLIGHT

## Getting to Know Maggie

If you've visited our Springfield office or called the firm, chances are you've already met Maggie. She sits at the front desk and is often the first face you'll see when you walk in—and the first voice you'll hear when you call. Maggie helps keep the day moving by answering phones, welcoming visitors, and making sure everyone feels comfortable and supported from the start.

No two days look exactly the same for Maggie. Her work ranges from handling intake calls and scanning and sorting mail to keeping the office stocked and organized and assisting Jennifer with a variety of projects. It's a role that requires flexibility, attention to detail, and a calm presence—and Maggie brings all three to her work every day.



Maggie graduated from James Madison University in Spring 2024, following in her dad's footsteps, with a Bachelor of Arts in French and International Affairs. In April 2025, she moved back to Northern Virginia, where she originally grew up in Gainesville. Before law firm life, Maggie spent many years as a synchronized ice skater, traveling up and down the East Coast for competitions. She also studied French for nearly ten years and had the opportunity to travel to France twice, visiting both Paris and the South of France—her personal favorite.



Outside of the office, Maggie enjoys reading, spending time with her best friend and roommate, and hanging out with their cat, Garfield. When it's time to unwind, she's usually watching reality TV or a good true-crime series.

# WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT JENNIFER PORTER LAW

*"I have already referred numerous other friends to JPL for their estate planning needs!"*



**Erik Pelton**  
11 reviews · 2 photos  
★★★★★ 2 months ago

"Our family worked with Jennifer Porter Law and Stephanie Himel-Nelson for comprehensive estate planning, creating wills and trusts, powers of attorney, medical directives, and more. Our experience was wonderful – not only are they clearly experts in all the relevant areas of the law, but their service and approach made us comfortable, and kept us well informed every step of the way. I have already referred numerous other friends to JPL for their estate planning needs!"



We're proud to hold a 5.0-star Google rating with 152 reviews and counting. If we've helped you, we'd appreciate you taking a moment to leave a review.

# Erin's Unbelievable Chocolate Chip Cookies

## INGREDIENTS

2 ½ cups Trader Joe's Blanched Almond Flour  
 1 stick butter, softened  
 ¾ cup brown sugar, firmly packed  
 ¼ cup sugar  
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
 1 egg + 1 egg white  
 ½ teaspoon baking soda  
 ½ teaspoon salt  
 1 cup chocolate chips

## DIRECTIONS

- 1 Preheat oven to 350°F.
- 2 In a large mixing bowl, combine almond flour, brown sugar, sugar, salt, and baking soda. Mix well.
- 3 In a separate bowl, whisk together the softened butter, eggs, and vanilla extract.
- 4 Add the wet ingredients to the dry ingredients and mix until combined.
- 5 Stir in the chocolate chips.
- 6 Drop rounded tablespoons of dough onto parchment-lined baking sheets.
- 7 Bake for 12-15 minutes, or until lightly browned.
- 8 Allow cookies to cool slightly before transferring to a cooling rack



*Did you make it? Take a picture and send it to us. We may use it in our upcoming social media posts! We'll also send you a surprise gift! Email your photos to [lupe@jenniferporterlaw.com](mailto:lupe@jenniferporterlaw.com) •*

## SPRING DATES to Note

- **March 8 – International Women's Day**  
 A day to celebrate the achievements and contributions of women in our community and beyond. We're proud to support and work alongside so many strong women every day.
- **March 17 – St. Patrick's Day**  
 Whether it's wearing green or enjoying a festive treat, St. Patrick's Day is a fun reminder to pause and enjoy a little luck and lightheartedness this spring.
- **March 20 – First Day of Spring**  
 Spring is all about fresh starts. It's a great time to reset, reorganize, and check in on the things that matter most—at home, at work, and in life.
- **April 7 – World Health Day**  
 This day highlights the importance of physical and mental well-being. It's a good reminder to prioritize your health and take care of yourself and those around you.
- **April 11 – National Pet Day**  
 A favorite around our office! We're celebrating our furry friends—especially our office dog, Corey, who keeps us smiling and reminds us to take plenty of breaks for walks and belly rubs
- **April 22 – Earth Day**  
 Earth Day encourages us to appreciate the outdoors and think about how we can care for our environment, whether that's enjoying local parks or making small, sustainable choices. •



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## Spring Cleaning Isn't Just for Closets

None of this is glamorous. Sorting through old documents doesn't exactly spark joy. But getting these things in order now—before life throws a curveball—can save your loved ones from heartache and confusion later on.

Start small. Pick one item—like checking your beneficiaries or finding your original will—and go from there. Little steps count. And if it's been too long or feels too overwhelming, my team and I are here. We'll help you sort through it all, answer your questions, and make sure your plans reflect the life you have now—not the one you had ten years ago.

Just like a clean closet or a fresh coat of paint, putting your legal affairs in order brings a sense of peace. It's a way to take care of your family, your future, and yourself.

Spring is for fresh starts—and sometimes, peace of mind starts with crossing just one more thing off the list. •

—Jennifer

## Planning for the Future, Protecting What Matters Most

Don't put off estate planning until it's too late. Call **Jennifer Porter Law** at 571-532-9070 or visit [www.jenniferporterlaw.com](http://www.jenniferporterlaw.com) to schedule your consultation today.

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**THANK YOU FOR THE REFERRALS**

*We're grateful for the trust you place in us. Your referrals are the highest compliment—and every time you send someone our way, you're helping them find a team who truly cares. Thank you for being part of our journey.*



**Hello From Jennifer Porter**

Welcome to The Game Plan. In this issue, we are sharing how small changes can make a big difference in your life. You'll also meet Maggie (and her cat, Garfield). Finally, we hope you try Erin's Unbelievable Chocolate Chip Cookies and are inspired by our team's strategies for staying grounded. I hope you enjoy!

*- Jennifer Porter*

**What's Keeping Us Grounded This Season**

*The pace of the year picks up quickly, so we asked our team to share what's helping them stay grounded right now. From daily practices to small joys and reminders, these reflections offer a glimpse into what keeps our team balanced, focused, and connected as we head into spring.*



**Jennifer:** When the alarm goes off, get up! No dawdling in bed, scrolling my phone, and sipping coffee.



**Stephanie:** Every morning, I start out with a hug. If I can hit everyone in the house, I will! It's a lovely way to start the day.



**Michelle:** I ground myself by looking through the photos on my phone and seeing the smiling faces of my family and friends!



**Erin:** What's helping me stay grounded this season is getting out and walking daily. It's been easy to keep up with so far because my puppy needs lots of walks!



**Missy:** What's keeping me grounded this season is having the mindset to keep going regardless of how I physically feel, but at the same time remind myself that it's okay to slow down.



**Allison:** What is keeping me grounded this season is keeping consistent with my routines during the week, and on the weekends.



**Maggie:** Meal prepping each Sunday helps keep me grounded during the week. It takes the guesswork out of mealtime and makes sure I'm fueling myself each day with homemade meals.