The GAME Plan
For a Peaceful Tomorrow



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Holiday Traditions, Jennifer Porter Law Style

By Jennifer Porter

The holidays sneak up fast every year, and yet the same traditions always find their way back. We asked our team what makes this season feel like theirs.







Food, First and Always

For many on our team, the holidays run through the kitchen. **Lisa's** family can't do Thanksgiving without her mom's yams and stuffing. **Stephanie** puts it simply: *"Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner is just an excuse to eat sweet potato pie!"* **Michelle's** Christmas Eve means a full Korean feast of barbecue, crab, shrimp, and banchan, followed by a second round of turkey and classic sides on Christmas Day. *"By the end of the day, we're usually deep in a food coma,"* she says, which is exactly when her mom picks the moment to ask everyone about New Year's resolutions. And **Maggie's** Thanksgiving isn't complete without her grandma's stuffing and famous "dream pie," plus a Thanksgiving sandwich that's become her own signature creation (turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, and gravy, all in between a dinner roll).

Traditions Passed Down

Some traditions go back generations. **Grace's** family has been visiting Oak Shade Christmas Tree Farm in Culpeper ever since her mom was a kid, complete with a stop at the same local Pete's Pizza every year. **Allison's** Christmas Eve in King George means Pizza Hut with her dad's side of the family, followed by presents from "Santa" the next morning, exactly as it's always been. **Lisa's** family is carrying on the tradition of making her grandfather's famous pickled beets, a recipe now carried on by her dad, brother, and husband. **Jennifer's** dad set a very high bar for Christmas decorations with 2-3 trees throughout the house each year, and she is ready to add tree #2 to her own home this year!

Big Gatherings, Bigger Fun

For **Lisa**, December kicks off with the Middleburg Christmas Parade, and her family's gingerbread house party has grown from a handful of families to over 100 people, with a special appearance from Santa and Mrs. Claus. **Maggie's** Thanksgiving is a full production too, around 40 family members gathering at her aunt's house, complete with a family turkey trot before the meal and a late-night Black Friday shopping trip after. Sometime in the holiday season, **Jennifer** and her daughters all make a trip to Meadowlark Gardens in Vienna to see the winter lights display and roast marshmallows over the firepit.

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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 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

ESTATE PLANNING



The One Document That Matters Most

By Stephanie Himel-Nelson, Estate Planning Attorney

I recently had the opportunity to speak on a panel about elder care, and it turned into one of my favorite conversations of the year. We covered the practical stuff, downsizing, weighing independent versus assisted living, getting the paperwork in order, but also the harder-to-talk-about parts, like why clearing out your own clutter now is one of the kindest things you can do for your kids later.

One story I shared stuck with a lot of people in the room: a family I worked with had a mom who was sharp as a tack, until a stroke changed that overnight. She hadn't signed a power of attorney. Instead of her daughter simply stepping in to pay bills and help make medical decisions, the family spent three months and several thousand dollars in court, getting a judge to decide who could act on her behalf.

That's the story I don't want for anyone, whatever your situation looks like right now.

Whether you're weighing a move, staying exactly where you are, or supporting a parent through that decision, there's one document that matters more than almost anything else: a power of attorney. Without it, your family can't simply step in when you need them. They have to ask a judge. With it, you've made that choice yourself, on your terms.

If you're navigating this, or helping a parent through it, reach out to us at contactus@jenniferporterlaw.com and we're happy to send over a checklist to help you get started.

Takeaway: None of this has to be complicated. Start with the power of attorney. It's the one piece that protects you no matter what you decide next. •

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

SUPERSTAR SPOTLIGHT

Welcome Kimberly!



We're so excited to welcome Kimberly Xenos to the Jennifer Porter Law family as our newest Estate Planning Legal Assistant!

Kimberly brings more than ten years of experience in business administration and office management to her role, and she hit the ground running from day one. She works closely with our estate planning team to keep client matters moving smoothly, helping with document preparation, client communications, scheduling, and all the behind-the-scenes coordination that keeps the practice running efficiently and with care.

What drew Kimberly to estate planning is exactly what makes her so well suited for it. She genuinely cares about making clients feel comfortable as they navigate some of the most important decisions of their lives, and that combination of strong administrative instincts and a warm, client-focused approach is exactly what our estate planning clients deserve.



Outside the office, Kimberly is a mom, an outdoor enthusiast, and a foodie who loves trying new restaurants whenever she gets the chance. She's also an ice skater, and **recently joined an adult synchronized figure skating team**, which might be the most impressive fact in this newsletter to date! When she wants to unwind, she turns to true crime podcasts; when she wants pure comfort, it's a Harry Potter rewatch.

We're so glad to have Kimberly on board, and we can't wait for you to meet her! •

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT JENNIFER PORTER LAW

"Everyone on the staff made me feel cared for and valued."



Latisha
27 reviews
★★★★★ a month ago

Jennifer and her team provided kind and supportive service throughout my case. Allison was especially sweet and helpful, always answering my questions quickly. Everyone on the staff made me feel cared for and valued. Jennifer's team is especially skilled in this area of the law. She also clearly explained the law around my case to manage expectations. I highly recommend them to anyone who needs a great legal team. **- Latisha**

Google *We're proud to hold a **5.0-star Google rating with 170+ reviews and counting.** If we've helped you, we'd appreciate you taking a moment to leave a review.*

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHT

Fall & Holiday Happenings Near You

The season is packed with reasons to get outside and enjoy our community; here are a few local favorites worth adding to your calendar.

» Alexandria Turkey Trot

Kick off Thanksgiving morning the right way at the 51st Annual Alexandria Turkey Trot on **Thursday, November 26**. This Del Ray tradition draws more than 6,000 runners and walkers for a flat, scenic 5-mile course, and it's family and pet-friendly, so the whole crew can join in. Proceeds and food donations benefit ALIVE!, a local nonprofit supporting Alexandria families in need. Whether you're racing or just cheering from the sidelines, it's a great way to earn your seat at the table.

» Meadowlark's Winter Walk of Lights

Once Thanksgiving wraps up, it's time for lights. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens in Vienna transforms into a half-mile, wheelchair and stroller-accessible walking trail lit with over half a million lights, running **November 7, 2026 through January 3, 2027**. Grab a hot drink, roast some s'mores by the fire, and pick up a limited-edition ornament to remember the visit.

» Festival of Lights and Carols

For a cozier, more low-key evening, head to Old Town Fairfax for the annual Festival of Lights and Carols on **Saturday, December 5, from 12:00–6:00 PM**. Stop by for photos with Santa between 3 and 5 p.m., then stick around for the tree lighting at 5:30 p.m., with carolers singing as the lights come on.

» Holiday Yule Log Bonfire & Marketplace

Down in Norfolk, Town Point Park along the waterfront hosts the annual Holiday Yule Log Bonfire and Marketplace on **Saturday, December 5, from 12:00–8:00 PM**. The free, family-friendly event features a towering bonfire, a local artisan marketplace, Christmas caroling, hot chocolate and whiskey tastings, and a visit from Santa himself.

Wherever your holidays take you this year, we hope you find time to slow down, get outside, and enjoy the season with the people you love. •

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Holiday Traditions, Jennifer Porter Law Style

Small, Quiet Moments

Not every tradition needs a crowd. **Stephanie's** family takes an annual holiday photo every Thanksgiving *("It's the only time I'm in the photos!")* and opens matching Christmas pajamas every December 24th. **Erin's** family has a similar tradition of their own: on Black Friday, they get the tree, decorate the house, and settle in for an all-night movie marathon in matching pajamas, everyone picking their favorite holiday film. Last year's pick was matching Grinch onesies, and when Erin mentioned it, Stephanie was delighted to discover their families own the exact same pajamas. **Kimberly** turns the whole month into an event with a jar of popsicle sticks, each one holding a different holiday activity. Each day her kids get to pick a new activity! **Eliana** and her sister watch *Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer* every year, and **Maggie's** Christmas is a quiet one: presents, brunch, and a movie with her parents before dinner.

Join Us In Providing for Others at Inova's Pediatric Oncology Wing



We invite you to join us in supporting a giving tradition that **Lisa's** family has been doing for years to support Inova pediatric oncology patients and their families. *"We adopt 2 families each year to buy presents for. People from our gingerbread party, friends and colleagues buy all the gifts. It is absolutely amazing to see what people will do and how grateful these families are."* **If you are inclined to join us and donate to support these families, we will be happy to receive your Gift Card donations which we will pass on directly to the families. Gift cards from Amazon, Giant/Safeway, Walmart, or Target would be most appreciated.** You can mail your gift card or drop it off at our Springfield office (8001 Braddock Road, Suite 102, Springfield, VA 22151) by **December 1st.** •

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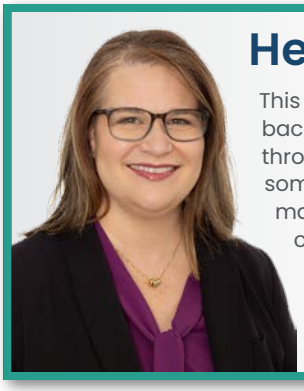
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THANK YOU FOR THE REFERRALS

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

This holiday season, we're inviting you to join us in giving back. Each year, our own Lisa Derco helps adopt families through INOVA's pediatric oncology unit, families facing some of the hardest years of their lives. If you'd like to help make their holidays a little brighter, we're collecting gift card donations (Amazon, Giant/Safeway, Target, or Walmart) at our Springfield office through December 1st. Every bit helps. From our family to yours, happy holidays!

– Jennifer Porter

Favorite Holiday Movie

Nothing says the holidays like a good movie marathon. Here's what our team is queuing up this season.



Grace: The Holdovers or Jim Carrey's The Grinch



Erin: Illumination's The Grinch



Maggie: Home Alone 1 & 2



Jennifer: A Christmas Story, Christmas Vacation, and The Holiday



Eliana: Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer



Michelle: Home Alone and Home Alone 2



Allison: The Nightmare Before Christmas



Kimberly: The Santa Clause and Elf



What are your favorite movies to watch during the holiday? Let us know! Email contactus@jenniferporterlaw.com



Stephanie: Die Hard (yes, it counts!) "We watch it every year."



Lisa: Christmas Vacation, of course. "We had everyone dress up like characters one year. It was the BEST."