

Mary Moment
December 18, 2009



The stockings are not hung by the chimney with care, because I can't find them...

It is just before 5:00AM, the house is silent as Aidan and Claire are still nestled in their beds. I am sipping my first cup of coffee, with a touch of cinnamon; it tastes so very good on this winter morning. I am three months in a new house, a smaller house, and a lovely little house that I have made my own. The holiday decorations are light thus far since I have just completed painting, and the last thing I feel like doing is unsettling it once again. So my holiday decorations are going to be strategic this year. A friend lent me an interesting 3' metal Christmas tree, and I have added a few ornaments so far and a half dozen candy canes. The kids laugh as they walk past it, and ask, "You're not going to make us sit around it and open our gifts are you?" Just for that, "yes, we will sit around the tree, open gifts, and you will have fun doing it."

So that you don't think I am too much of a Scrooge, my lovely realtor, Louise Fletcher (ReMax, and the best realtor in the world) sent me a beautiful wreath for my front door. Plus, I have my Santa collection out. The stockings have yet to be found...and I am very worried about them as I made them myself for the three kids when they were babies. The holidays officially begin this weekend with Brian's return home. And on Monday, my brother, David, is returning from his 11 months in Rwanda, where he was volunteering. The holidays will be great...but I need to find the stockings!!

Kudo's to Bill Bauer

Bill was recently recognized by the New York State Bar Association's Law, Youth & Citizenship (LYC) Program with its Distinguished Attorney Award for his tireless dedication, unbridled enthusiasm and outstanding success in expanding the Monroe County Rubin Mock Trial Program. Well deserved Bill – you make us all proud!

The beacon of light at the Telesca Center for Justice

After almost four years of planning, the light on the new Telesca Center for Justice sign was turned on for the first time on December 2nd, and it was a very emotional moment for those of us that have lived and breathed co-location and the Partnership Campaign these last few years. It was also touching to be standing next to the man for whom this building was named, and to watch Judge Telesca's face as he flipped the switch with his friend, Justin Vigdor -- whose leadership and wisdom guided us to raise more than \$1.8M -- and his boyhood friend, Bill Konar, one of the very generous contributors to the campaign. If you have not yet seen the photos of the lighting, visit the new MCBA website at www.mcba.org. They are priceless.

And if you have not yet contributed to the Partnership Campaign, it's not too late. Perhaps your check can round us out to \$2,000,000, or at least put us on the path to reach this goal.

Cool New Research Link

I am a huge Google fan. I am constantly using Google to search for information, and it has never failed me. The other night I was making a meatloaf for dinner and realized I was out of eggs. I thought, "No problem, I can make a meatloaf without an egg," but then decided I better be certain as I had company coming for dinner. So I Googled – "Is an egg necessary in a meatloaf?" Now if you are a chef extraordinaire, you are probably saying, "Come on Mary, everyone knows you need the egg to hold the meatloaf together!!"

So Google has a new application called, Scholar Google. It is a "light" legal research engine. I read one review by an attorney that uses it for basic research, and then moves on to either West or Lexis for more information if he needs to. I encourage you to check it out.

www.scholar.google.com

Come on...say something...

Have you seen the new MCBA website? What do you think? We are still making some tweaks, and finalizing content. Take a few minutes and explore it. And I would really appreciate if you would scroll down the left side to [Forums](#), and check out the new Forums we have on the site. These are meant to generate some dialogue on topics of interest. I have a few forums started, and the only response so far is from Gary Muldoon. Now I think the world of Gary, but I would love to hear from the rest of you. Last night I posted a forum titled – Is the MCBA relevant? Take a minute and talk to me. It will make my day!

The year has been a difficult one for our nation – a devastating recession, people suffering through loss of jobs, health care, and basic human rights. Our country remains at war, and precious human lives are being lost, but in the end, I am grateful for what I have. I wish you and yours a very peaceful and happy holiday season. Get some rest, and we will see you in 2010!!

Mary Loewenguth Corbitt