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Baseball is More Than Just a Game, It's About Life

By Jerold E. Rothkoff, Esq.

*"Whoever wants to know the heart and mind
of America had better learn baseball"*

—Jacques Barzu, American historian

April brings us the beginning of Spring, the blooming of trees and flowers, and of course, the beginning of a new baseball season, with renewed optimism that your team can win the World Series.

I recently watched a new Indie film about baseball, "Eephus," the feature directorial debut from Carson Lund. The "eephus" of the title refers to a high-arching, low-velocity pitch that's thrown as if it's going to be fast, but moves so slow that it takes the batter by surprise. It's set in the small town of Douglas, Mass., some time in the 1990s. The film follows the last game played by two adult Sunday league baseball teams on a field slated for demolition, in order to build a school. One team is called the Riverdogs, while the other bears the name of its sponsor, Adler's Paint. It's not much of a rivalry. It's not much of a ballgame, either. The men are mostly older and out of shape, drinking beers and smoking between at-bats in their mismatched, ill-fitting uniforms. Hardly elite athletes, they do this for the love of the game and mainly, it seems, out of habit.

You do not need to love baseball to appreciate *Eephus*, but it would help. This movie is about more than baseball. It is about their lives, their passion for the game, each other in their lives, and a



celebration of intimate friendship and a vibrant community. It is about living for the moment and not wanting the good times to end. Ultimately, the humorous and quirky Indie film is about male friendship and the loss of a way of life, leading me to deep reflection.

Eephus is set over one day, beginning in the morning and heading toward evening, with night settling in toward the end of the game. It is baseball as life in all its glory—boring but passing us by far too quickly. As the day wears on and the sun sets, the game remains tied and the players refuse to leave the field. They pull up their cars and play by the glow of their headlights, staving off the dying of the light to try and finish one final inning.

Eephus becomes a surprisingly meditative film on the ways we resist but eventually must adapt to the finality of the things we love. Whether it is the loss of a pet or a

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Resources for Your Use

Rothkoff Law Group strives to be a resource and would like to assist you in understanding the challenging issues

seniors and their caregivers face on a daily basis. We hope the resources provided are useful to you.

We have the following resources that are available for download on our website, www.rothkofflaw.com/resources/

- 1) **Senior Guides** – Printed Senior Resource Guides are available for both New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Guides contain local, state, and federal resources for seniors, updated and reprinted annually.
- 2) **VA Nuts and Bolts Guide** – Our VA Guide details the benefits available to our veterans, as well as the eligibility criteria and application process.
- 3) **Elder Care Box** – As you consider your legal, care, and financial options we hope these resources will provide you and your family guidance.
- 4) **Elder Law Quick Facts** – A handy quick reference guide to Medicare, Medicaid, and VA financial information.
- 5) **First Step Card** – Request referral cards that can be provided to seniors, the disabled, or their caregivers who may need our assistance now or in the future.
- 6) **Digital Brochure** – Download our interactive Digital Brochure to learn more about our services and how our team of professionals can assist you and your loved ones with elder care needs.
- 7) **Rothkoff Law Group Activity Book** – Designed for cognitive thinking while having fun. Includes puzzles, word searches, and coloring pages.
- 8) **The Unintentional Advocate: My Journey as an Elder Care Attorney** – A 20-year reflection on advocating for seniors, written by Jerold E. Rothkoff, Esq.
- 9) **A Life Care Plan: Helping You Navigate the Aging Journey** – A book that explains (in layman's terms) what a Life Care Plan is, how it works, what is included, and who benefits from this integrated approach to elder law.

Rachael Wittman Joins Rothkoff Law Group

We are excited to announce Rachael Wittman joining our Elder Care Law team as a New Jersey Client Services Facilitator. Rachael has devoted over 25 years to empowering, advocating for, and supporting the successful aging of older adults. She holds a bachelor's degree from Florida State University and a master's degree in Gerontology from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. As a Certified Dementia Practitioner and Certified Assisted Living Administrator, Rachael has worked across diverse settings to serve older adults, including geropsychology and home care. She also led Alzheimer's Association support groups for family members. For the past 12 years, she has served as an Executive Director in assisted living communities, bringing her expertise and compassion to enhancing the lives of seniors.

Rachael resides in Burlington County, New Jersey with her husband, who is her high school sweetheart, her two daughters, and her chihuahua. She enjoys attending concerts, theater performances and spending time with friends and family. Rachael can be contacted at rachael@rothkofflaw.com.



Thank You for Helping Rothkoff Law Group “Share The Love”

Rothkoff Law Group ‘Shared the Love’ with seniors living in local long-term care communities last Valentine’s Day.

Local schools, families, and members of the community supported this initiative by creating handmade Valentine’s Cards for the team at Rothkoff Law Group to distribute. Thank you to all the school students and the community for helping to share the love with seniors in area long-term care communities.



Save the Date!

OCTOBER 9TH

Join us in shaping the future of elder care. Showcase your commitment to this vital cause by sponsoring our 8th Annual Elder Care Symposium on October 9, 2025. Your support will help drive meaningful conversations and innovations in aging services. Partner with us today to make a lasting impact! Visit www.rothkoffsymposium.com to learn more.



Baseball is More Than Just a Game *(Continued from front page)*

close family member, or doing something we love to do each weekend.

The film’s dialogue does ask some important questions. Why are the players making such a heroic effort for something that hardly matters—but of course, it totally mattered to them. There are also important questions that the characters asked each other, such as: “Why do your kids come to the games?” But, what is left unsaid was, why do your kids come—and mine

do not? And there was the player pleading with his wife not to leave the game yet: “Stay for my last at-bat.” These little moments contained a much deeper meaning.

A character in the film, Franny, a scorekeeper turned makeshift umpire who meticulously keeps score as the game goes on, is the film’s heart and perfectly encapsulates that singular charm of America’s pastime. Keeping score is totally meaningless to an

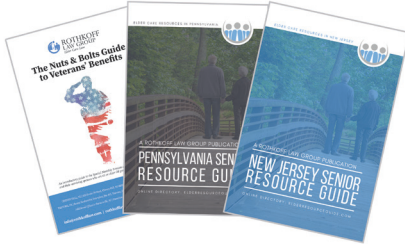
outsider, but it is important for Franny.

At last, the game is over, long after dark. The guys collect their beer cans, bag their bats and balls, climb into their cars and drive off into the night. Sometimes the baseball action was sloppy, sometimes there was a crisp play. Some things were not fair. The players both loved the game and hated it at different moments. Add everything all up together and that is a ballgame, or a full season—a life.

THE ROTHKOFF QUARTERLY – Published for clients and friends of ROTHKOFF LAW GROUP

The success of our firm is a direct reflection of our clients and the referral sources who have supported us. Therefore, we actively welcome your referrals as well as your input regarding the contents of this newsletter. We also welcome comments on the quality of legal services our offices provide.

Request a complimentary guide!



rothkofflaw.com/resources

Events Calendar



Visit our **CALENDAR OF EVENTS** page on our website!

Do you receive our Monthly eNewsletter?

See the **JOIN OUR NEWSLETTER** section on our home page: rothkofflaw.com

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Rothkoff Law Group Happenings



We are excited to share the newest additions to our Rothkoff Law Group family! Mary Mattes welcomed Ellie Jianna, born on 2/8/25, and Kelsey Gilligan celebrated the arrival of Beckett, born on 11/9/24.

In professional updates, Laura Nelson, Regional Director, presented at the Life Care Planning Law Firms of America Conference in St. Pete Beach, Florida. Jerold E. Rothkoff, Esq. also presented at the Pennsylvania Elder Law Association in Bedford, PA, and was honored with the Leader in Law award for 2025 from *NJBIZ*.



Laura Nelson with Kim Lewis from Hurley Elder Care Law and Tiffany Strah from The Law Practice of Dennison Keller, LLC.

