

Lawyers enjoy the work, not the fame

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The encounters continued and eventually they found themselves working together on a case.

As young attorneys looking to start their own office, the two decided to join forces.

Although they have different legal interests — Katz is into civil liberties while Marks concentrates on immigration — the two share similar views on the practice of law.

“We opened our offices and have been here in this building almost nine years now. It works out great,” Katz said. “We get very little resistance when we want to lower our fees for someone, work pro bono or take on a controversial client. And we inspire each other. The practice of law is about serving your client, not about making money.”

“The smartest thing I did was go into law practice with someone who is tech savvy,” Marks said.

Katz manages their Web site, which has generated business for both across Maryland, Virginia and D.C., he said.

Katz and Marks are 43 years old. Each is married and has two children. Marks and his family recently moved from Silver Spring to Bethesda. Katz lives in Rockville with his family.

Katz credits his eighth-grade social studies teacher, Ed Matola, with inspiring him to pursue a law degree. “He had a very positive influence on me. We spent that year studying freedom,” Katz said. “It led me on the ACLU path.”

Katz rattles off a number of cases that he has proudly worked.

In 2000, Katz and Ramsey Clark, a former U.S. attorney general, participated in the defense of Philip Berrigan and three other peace protesters, charged with trespassing and damaging an A-10 Warthog aircraft at Essex Air National Guard Base in Maryland.

Berrigan, a former Catholic priest, gained national notoriety as



Contributed photo

Jonathan Katz, left, and Jay Marks, both formerly of Fairfield, have formed a successful law firm serving clients in and around Washington, D.C.

one of the “Catonsville Nine,” who, in 1968, removed hundreds of draft records from the Selective Service Offices in Catonsville, Md., and burned them in protest of the Vietnam war.

In 1980, Berrigan founded the Plowshares Movement that continued to stage civil disobedience protests for peace.

Katz said he also defended members of the controversial Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kan., who were arrested after protesting at a funeral of a Marine from Finksburg, Md., who died last year in Iraq.

Although Katz said he despises their message — that God is punishing America over homosexuality — he said they have a right to free speech.

“The First Amendment is here not for popular speech but to protect speech that some of us don’t like,” Katz said.

Marks focused on immigration because growing up his family always stressed how his great-grandparents came from Russia with nothing and made a life for themselves in America.

Marks also points to the education he received at Fairfield Woods

Junior High and Andrew Warde High School for influencing his career choice. Marks is fluent in Spanish and Portuguese, which helps him communicate with many of the undocumented workers from El Salvador, Peru and Guatemala that he represents.

While in high school, he joined the AFS chapter and spent a summer in Ecuador that solidified his language skills and love for Spanish culture. He took Portuguese classes later in college and married a Peruvian.

Marks is fast becoming a national authority on immigration among the Latino community. He hosts a weekly radio call-in show on a 50,000-watt, Spanish-speaking station that broadcasts across Baltimore and Washington. And re-

cently, he launched a weekly program through the Hispanic Communications Network that airs on stations across the country, including WRYM (840 AM) in New Britain and WFNW (1380 AM) in Naugatuck, Conn.

As an immigration attorney, Marks is intensely interested in the political debate in Congress over the issue. He knows the system is broken but fears the fix may make it worse.

“My clients would have been helped and hurt,” he said. “Deportation litigation would have come to a halt and I would have had the happy task of fighting tooth and nail to legalize them. On the other hand, maybe we avoided imposing a terrible system that would have irreparably harmed the entire immigration system.”

Marks said that foreign workers are drawn to America because there is a high demand for day laborers. The immigration system, however, has numerical limits that don’t match the demand. Opponents of immigration reform argue against granting amnesty to those here illegally because it would be a reward for bad behavior.

“That argument gives my dad, who is a reasonable, open-minded individual, pause, but I have to constantly remind him that these people are not lawbreakers as much as the law is broken,” Marks said.

The issue has grown more divisive because of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. “People who did these terrible things to us were not immigrants but terrorists,” Marks said.

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what to do TODAY

MONROE
Bluegrass band plays at Wolfe Park

The Parks and Recreation Department’s summer concert series hosts bluegrass band “49 Fingers” at 7 p.m. at the Wolfe Park picnic area. The concert is free and open to the public.

SHELTON
Vintage car show at history center

The Shelton History Center will host a Vintage Vehicles Antique and Classic Car Show from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The History Center is located at 70 Ripton Road.

The show will include a 1911 fruit delivery truck, muscle cars popular in the 1970s, and other cars.

Members of the Shelton Historical Society will also celebrate the dedication of the new Carriage Bard at 2 p.m.

Admission is \$1 for dads, \$5 for the general public and \$2 for children 7 and under.

MILFORD
Rainbow Girls offer pancake breakfast

A pancake breakfast will be held from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Masonic Building, 59 Broad St.

The breakfast served by the lodge’s Rainbow Girls chapter includes juice, omelets or eggs, coffee and pancakes for \$6.

BRIDGEPORT
Walk 4 Israel set at community center

The first Walk 4 Israel will be held at 9 a.m. starting at the Jewish Community Center on Park Avenue. Walkers will walk a 3.4-mile loop that will finish with a celebration in the JCC lower parking lot.

Proceeds of the walk will go toward the purchase of equipment for the pediatric unit of the Emek Medical Center in the city of Afula. The minimum donation for adults 13 and over is \$25; kids are free.

BRIDGEPORT
Dads get free entry at Beardsley Zoo

There will be free admission to Connecticut’s Beardsley Zoo, 1875 Noble Ave., for all father’s accompanied by their paying families. Admission is \$9 for adults, \$7 for children 3-11 and seniors and free to members of the Connecticut Zoological Society.

For more information, call 394-6565 or visit beardsleyzoo.org.

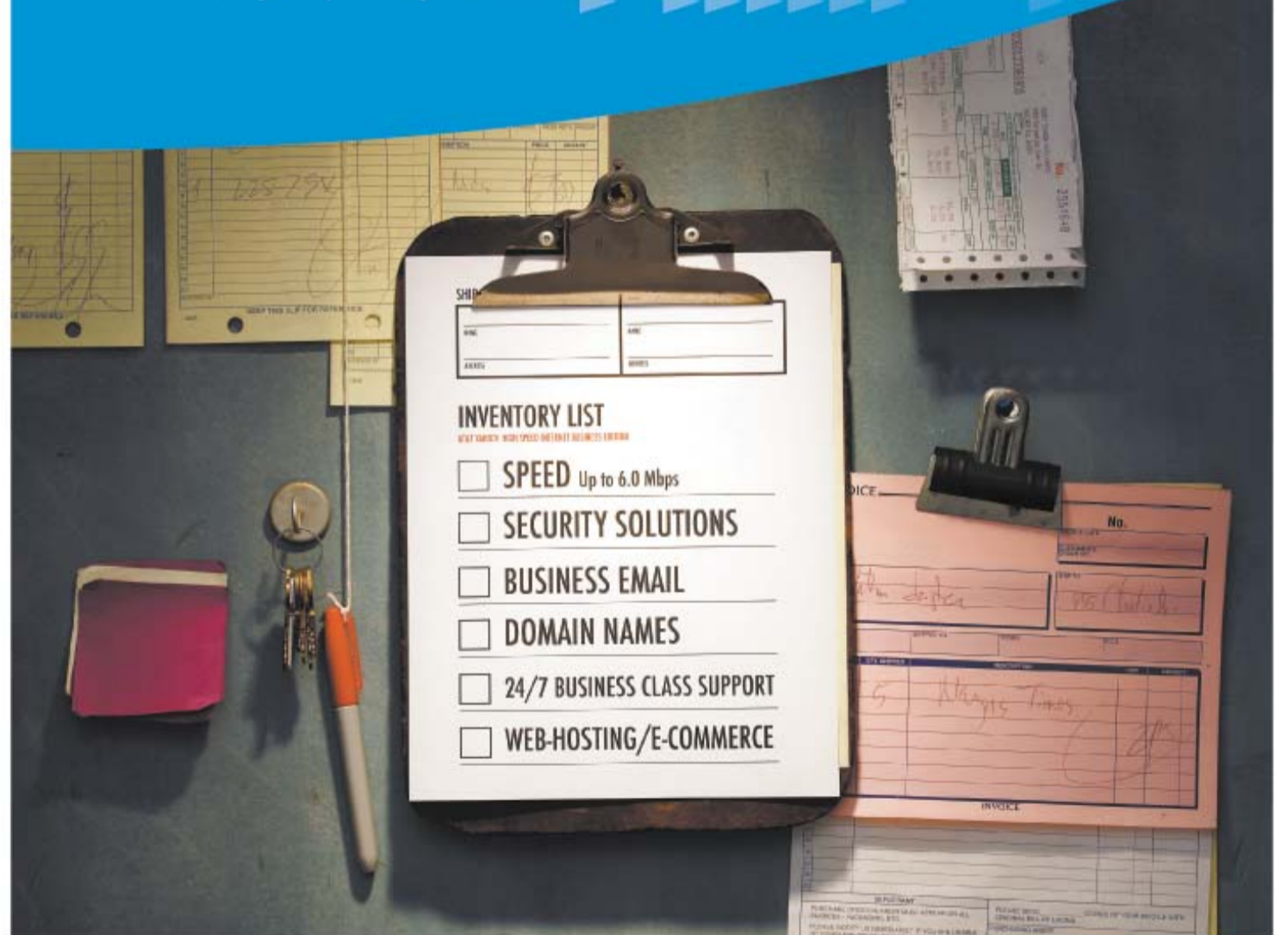
FAIRFIELD
Country band plays at Sherman Green

The country music band Mary Beth Sippen & Gold Rush will perform at 7 p.m. at the Sherman Green Gazebo.

The concert is free and open to the public.

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or Call 330-6244

Deadline for info is June 26, please.

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