

SUSAN BARILICH, P.C.

FALL 2025



HALLOWEEN: ORIGINS AND TRADITIONS

How did Halloween, which started as a middle-ages practice to ward off the harshness of winter evolve into an \$11 billion revenue generator, second only to Christmas, as a commercial holiday? Commercial aspects aside, what is the tie between Halloween, the coming of winter, and spiritual holidays? And why do we dress up in costume for it?

- The Halloween Tradition



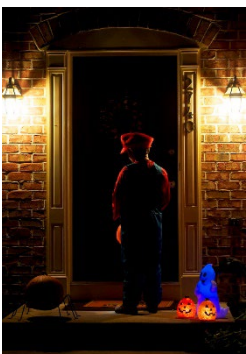
The origins of modern-day Halloween date back to the Celtic festival of Samhain (say “sow-in”), in Ireland, the UK and northern France. The Celts new year started on November 1, and on this day they marked the end of summer, the harvest, and the beginning of winter, a dark and cold time of year, associated with death. The Celts believed that on the eve of the new year, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred and the ghosts of the dead returned to earth. The ghosts were believed to cause trouble and damage crops, but the Celts also believed their presence empowered the Celtic priests (Druids) to predict the future. The Druids built huge sacred bonfires where people gathered, where they would wear costumes of animal skins and heads, and engage in fortune telling. This underlies the creepy, dark, and ghoulish aspects of our modern day celebration.

- Evolution



The Romans conquered most of the Celtic territory by AD 43, and they added two festivals to Samhain: one was Feralia, a day when the Romans commemorated the passing of the dead, and the honoring of Pomona, the Roman goddess of fruit and trees. Pope Boniface and Gregory III expanded the festivals to include all martyrs day and all saints day and moved the observance to November 1. In AD 1000, the church made November 2, All Souls day, also celebrated by bonfires, parades and dressing in costume. Donning a costume was thought to prevent the person from being recognized by ghosts.

- Halloween in America



Colonial New England discouraged these pagan traditions, but over the years, and as America expanded beyond the colonies, some of the ancient traditions revived, as public events to celebrate the holidays, by sharing stories of the dead, fortune telling, dancing, singing, and mischief making. By the second half of the 19th century, when thousands of Irish arrived in America, the tradition rose dramatically in popularity. Trick or treating started when people went from house to house asking for food or money. Between 1920 and 1950, trick or treating was revived: if you did not want to be tricked, you give your neighbors small treats. Trick or treating may date back to the Celtic/English traditions where poor people would beg for food and the rich would give them cakes, in exchange for a promise to pray for the family’s dead relatives.

- Etc.



Halloween tradition also had a matchmaking component! Young women believed that if they engaged in certain rituals, such as doing tricks with yarn, throwing apple pairings to see what shape they landed in, and using mirrors, the image of their future husband would emerge.

No good article about Halloween would be complete without mention of the movies. The Jamie Curtis franchise started with Halloween, followed by Halloween Kills, and then Halloween Ends. But there are more: Scream, Nightmare on Elm Street, and Friday the 13. The less frightful films: Hocus Pocus, The Nightmare Before Christmas, Beetlejuice, and It’s the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown.



About Susan Barilich, P.C.

I’m Susan Barilich, the owner and founder of Susan Barilich, P.C.

Our practice focuses on litigation and trial work. We have over 30 years of experience handling civil disputes involving commercial, corporate, real estate, construction, and other business disputes.

Being involved in a lawsuit can be expensive and risky. You want a lawyer with a long track record that has the ability to develop the strategy necessary to effectively handle your case and obtain a result that is cost-effective and successful. Experience in this area is key. You need a lawyer who can think quickly on their feet, so to speak. The court room is not an arena for beginners.

Before we take your case, we discuss with you the issues of importance, and make a realistic assessment of the result you wish to accomplish and whether we can achieve that for you. Where budgeting is of concern, we address that, as well.

We are able to compete with much larger firms due to the extensive litigation experience we have. We are able to control our expenses much more readily than a larger organization and will commit only the resources actually needed. Our approach is a practical one; you get experienced counsel at reasonable rates.



“We develop the strategy necessary to effectively handle your case and obtain a result that is cost-effective and successful”

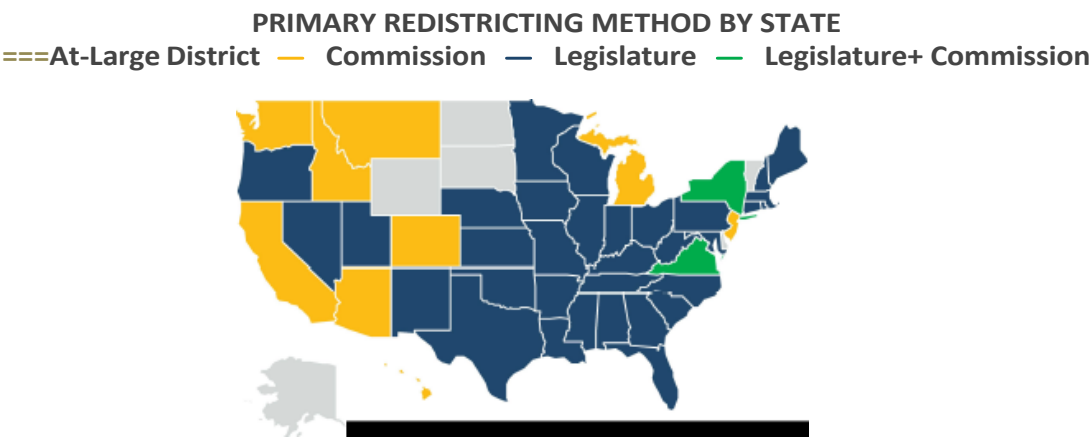
THE REDISTRICTING CONTROVERSY

Redistricting is the process by which the boundaries of electoral districts, such as for Congress and state legislatures, are determined in each State. Redistricting involves the population-based reapportionment among states of the 435 seats in the House of Representatives based on the current population distribution.

Article 1, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution addresses the apportionment of representatives to Congress; however, it says little about redistricting, other than to leave it to the States:

The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereat but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of choosing Senators.

The United States is relatively unique in that, in most states, line drawing takes place through the regular political process in state legislatures. Other countries use commissions and agencies independent of the legislature.



Redistricting, as opposed to gerrymandering, involves contiguity, which ensures that all parts of a district are physically connected; compactness, to achieve tightly drawn districts rather than irregularly shaped ones, preservation of communities of interests, i.e. social, cultural, racial, economic, and preservation of political subdivisions to avoid expanding beyond county, city, or municipality lines.

Gerrymandering describes the strategic drawing of district boundaries to increase the likelihood of future electoral success for one of the parties. Typically gerrymandering is used to increase one political party's advantage, but there is also "incumbent protection" gerrymandering where both parties agree to draw maps to the advantage of current officeholders regardless of party.

Gerrymandering uses two tools: packing, where district lines confine voters of a particular party affiliation or group into a small number of districts, and cracking, when district lines spread voters across many districts to weaken their influence and prevent them from forming a majority.

Partisan gerrymandering can be legally complex. In *Rucho v Common Cause* (2019), the U.S. Supreme Court held that claims of partisan gerrymandering present political questions beyond the reach of federal courts, such that plaintiffs must prove that any harm stems from something beyond party affiliation.

Texas redistricted in 2003 notwithstanding that the legislature approved a new map following the 2000 census, and after that map was subsequently replaced by a different court-ordered map. *LULAC v Perry*, 548 US 399 (2006).



On November 4, 2025, California will decide whether to re-district before the next census. In 2020 Californians voted for an independent redistricting commission. Proposition 50 would give that power back to lawmakers for the next five years, through the next presidential election.

Xavier Becerra, Chad Bianco, Ian Calderon, Stephen J. Cloobek, Steve Hilton, Katie Porter, Tony Thurmond, Antonio Villaraigosa, Butch Ware, Betty Yee and Leo Zacky are the potential gubernatorial candidates vying for the governor’s seat in 2026. (Gov. Newsom will be termed out.) The candidates generally are divided along party lines on whether they are for or against redistricting. The Democrats favor it; the Republicans oppose it. Butch Ware, the Green Party Candidate, opposes the measure, while Katie Porter, who may be the front runner, declined to take a position on redistricting. Former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is vocal about his opposition to redistricting. Ian Calderon, a Democrat, favors re-districting, but his wife is in the “just say no” category.

Aperol Spritz

Spritz is all the rage on most bar menus. Spritz is simply something bubbly, a pour of some other tasty liqueur, and soda or fruit juice ... lemon, lime, orange, pineapple, grapefruit, even apple is good. This recipe uses Aperol, but Campari is good, as well and Shochu, and Le Mone (a lemon and brandy based liqueur). Don't overdo the liqueur, this is supposed to be a low alcohol drink.

***Photography Credit to Makos, Aperol Spritz Recipe Guide: Classic 3-2-1 + Easy Variation*

Ingredients

- 3 parts of Prosecco
- 2 parts of Aperol
- 1 splash of soda
- Orange slice

Instructions

- Place ice cubes in a wine glass.
- Add 3 parts of Prosecco.
- Add 2 parts of Aperol
- Add 1 ounce of soda.
- Slice an orange and use it as a garnish



SUSAN BARILICH, P.C.
535 N. BRAND BLVD, SUITE 504
GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA 91203