

## THE BUTTON LAW FIRM

## HOT-BUTTON ISSUES

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## THE BEST BURGERS IN TEXAS

## Have You Tried These 5 Spots?

One of my favorite food memories happened at an old-school burger place on a pier in Chicago. My dad and I were visiting for a summer basketball tournament before my senior year of high school. We put in our orders, and when the burgers came out, they were just the way I liked them: thin, juicy patties loaded with lettuce, tomato, onion, pickles, and ketchup.

Every bite was phenomenal. When I close my eyes, I can still remember how content I felt sitting in the summer sunshine and looking out over the water while Dad and I ate. With that in mind, as soon as I found out that May was National Hamburger Month, I knew we had to do an article in the newsletter dedicated to burgers!

Sharing a meal is about more than just food. It's an experience with the people we love and an opportunity to connect, communicate, and share our values. Why not do that over a burger at my favorite local spot, **Coppell Deli**?

To connect with your family this month, try Coppell or one of these other best burger spots recommended by our BLF team.

**Aleka's Burgers & Tacos (Garland)**

— Aleka's won Rosie over with their original Aleka's Burger. She likes it piled high with jalapenos. "Their burgers are delicious and taste homemade," she says. "It's a family-owned business

in Garland, and everyone is always so welcoming and friendly. They can get pretty busy during the weekends and have long lines, but they are worth the wait."

**The Burger Joint (Houston)**

— Ashley Washington loves a classic burger, and The Burger Joint delivers. "It is delicious, quick, and the service is always great," she says. "The burgers are made to order, hand-crafted, and never frozen. The menu is simple, but has unique options like the Kimchi Burger — a Korean BBQ style burger with a fried egg and homemade kimchi sauce."

**Keller's Drive-In (Dallas)** — Jacky is a big fan of the free car show, and says Keller's really hits the spot after a hike or walk at White Rock Lake. "The burgers are always

warm and fresh when they come out, and their onion rings are bomb," she says. "They're also really affordable so you get a bang for your buck." Jacky recommends the No. 5 Special, no onions.

**Liberty Burger (Dallas)** — Liberty Burger tops Jacqueline's list. "They've got a great selection of unique and delicious gourmet burgers; plus, they pride themselves on

sourcing ingredients locally from Texas or from family-owned vendors," she says. "It's great to go in, sit down and enjoy a burger — the restaurant's atmosphere is fun and

friendly." Her go-to order is the classic burger with fries.

**Chip's Old Fashioned Hamburgers (Plano)**

— Jessica named Chip's as her favorite because she's a turkey burger fan, and their burgers are packed with flavor. She also says it's a great spot for families that have younger kids. "The kids can run around and play on the boardwalk while the grown-ups have time

to catch up and hang out. Sitting outside on their patio in the nice spring weather makes for a great Sunday afternoon."

We also have to give honorable mentions to **Hopdoddy Burger Bar** (Cristina's favorite spot, which donates to local charities for every Goodnight/Good Cause burger purchased) and **Pappy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers** (my go-to burger stop in Dallas before it went out of business).

If you try one of these places for the first time, let us know what you think!



Russell Visiting a Burger Joint in Montana

*"Sharing a meal is about more than just food. It's an experience with the people we love and an opportunity to connect, communicate, and share our values. Why not do that over a burger?"*

— Russell Button

# A CHAMPION FOR CHILDREN

MEET STEPHEN — LIFELONG FIGHTER FOR THE UNDERDOG



When Stephen Dixon was fresh from law school, he took a job in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He didn't know it, but he was gearing up for a career that would change the lives of hundreds of children in Texas and beyond.

Stephen didn't set out to work on behalf of kids. But he fought for the underdog from day one.

"I'm looking right now at my old business card from when I first went into practice," he told us on the phone. "It says, 'areas of practice: civil rights, criminal, immigration, renter and employee rights, political cases, constitutional law.' I was pretty optimistic I'd be able to get into those 'serious' cases right off the bat!"

One of Stephen's first clients was a blind man who ran a concession business on the top floor of the state capitol. His business supported his entire family ... until a group of politicians swooped in, stealing his space for their own venture and relegating Stephen's client to the basement.

"We sued them and everybody around them to get back that shop," Stephen recalls.

Stephen's quest to help led him to children who were victims of the drug abuse epidemic, domestic violence, grinding poverty, and other social ills. He quickly became head of Baton Rouge's Juvenile Defenders Office — and held the post for 17 years.

After revolutionizing protection for kids in Baton Rouge, Stephen went to work as an attorney for Children's Rights — an organization that "investigates, exposes and combats violations of the rights of children across the country." He has traveled the U.S. uncovering problems in foster care systems and fighting for legal reform. Here in Texas, he met young adults at a homeless shelter who told him about "foster group homes" where up to a dozen kids were forced together in dangerous, unsupervised conditions.

That's how Stephen met our team. While he fought to make those homes illegal, we represented individual children who had been in these homes and were injured or sexually assaulted while there. Together, we've improved the lives of hundreds of kids in Texas.

"I'm very appreciative of BLF," Stephen says. "It's really important the work that they're doing."

The feeling is mutual! We've been lucky to learn from Stephen, and he's a hero in our book — we hope you'll remember his name.

## JACKY CHECKING IN AFTER A YEAR WITH BLF

### Update: She Sold Her Project Car!

It's crazy, but true: Jacky Bejarano has already been on our team for an entire year! Jacky came to us last summer from a paralegal internship with another personal injury firm. She bonded with Rosie and Cristina right away, and they've helped her grow into a fantastic paralegal.

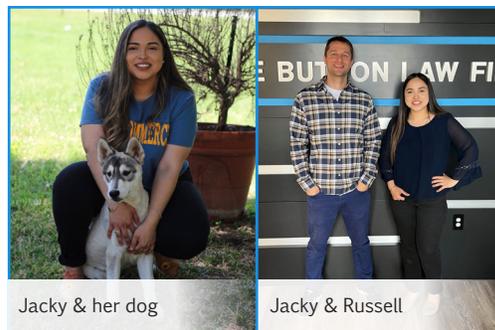
To hear Jacky tell it, the biggest thing that changed for her in year one was her confidence.

"I feel like my confidence level is just through the roof!" she says. "I came in here really quiet and too shy to talk to people. I was intimidated to talk to other attorneys. But my confidence has really gone up! I've learned a lot, not only about my job, but about how to communicate with people, how to say things and when to say them."

Outside of work, the biggest change was selling her project car: a 1979 Z28 Camaro she bought in the summer of 2021 and fixed up in her spare time.

"I just sold it this spring, and now I'm on to a new project!" she says. "I think I'm going to go for a newer Camaro, like a '92 if I can find one. I have to admit, it was hard to see it drive off, and I had a couple of regrets. But it's okay!"

We're excited to see what Jacky does next, both at the firm and with her mechanic hobby. She has grown so much over the last year and expanded her paralegal role significantly. In 2021 she took on several new projects including learning our client intake process, building referral relationships with other law firms, and getting to know our clients better.



Jacky & her dog

Jacky & Russell

"I've learned how our clients' injuries affected them and what they're struggling with, and now I'm guiding them through that," Jacky says, adding that her favorite part of the job is "just being able to help people and talk with them on a more intimate level."

In year two, Jacky plans to dive deeper into creating demands and truly mastering our intake process. We can't wait to see her rock it!

# A CHILD COULD HAVE DIED

## BLF Seeks Justice for an Abandoned Child in a Hot Car

On average, 38 kids under the age of 15 die of heatstroke in hot cars every year. In 2021, our client, a 6-year-old girl — we'll call her Brittany — almost became one of them.

On the day of her near-death experience, an after-school program was transporting Brittany to her dance and cheerleading program. Her parents paid extra to ensure their child would have a safe way of getting to after-school activities while they were at work. But the after-school program's adult supervisor didn't take the care they should have.

On the bus ride between her school and the team's gym, Brittany fell asleep. She was curled up on her seat and completely invisible to anyone at the front of the van. When the vehicle pulled up to the gym and unloaded, the after-school program's employees made three big mistakes.

1. First, they failed to check the faces of the kids exiting the van against a list of names.
2. They also neglected to count the children as they came down the steps.
3. They failed to get back on the van and check for kids who might still be inside.

Those mistakes almost cost Brittany her life.

It was 96 degrees outside on that late summer day. Sunlight beat into the locked van's windows, turning it into a metal sauna. Brittany's body temperature rose higher and higher. Finally, she woke up — but no one heard her cries for help. If there hadn't been an open window on the passenger side of the van that she managed to crawl through before running



inside for help, she wouldn't have made it home to her parents.

Brittany suffered from heatstroke and had nightmares about the incident for months. When her parents came to our team at BLF for help, we went to bat against the after-school program over their negligence.

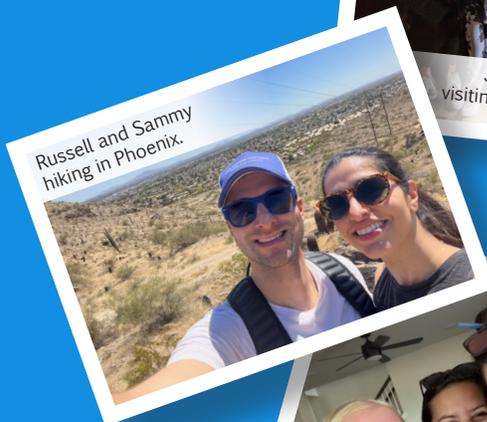
Fortunately, this story has a happy ending: We secured justice for Brittany and saved future kids from the same experience she had!

These incidents happen more often than you might think. To learn more about protecting the kids you love from injuries and deaths in hot cars, visit [NHTSA.gov/protecting-children-vehicles](https://www.nhtsa.gov/protecting-children-vehicles).

# BLF HIGHLIGHT REEL



Jessica with her daughter Lily visiting Garvan Woodland Gardens in Hot Springs, Arkansas.



Russell and Sammy hiking in Phoenix.

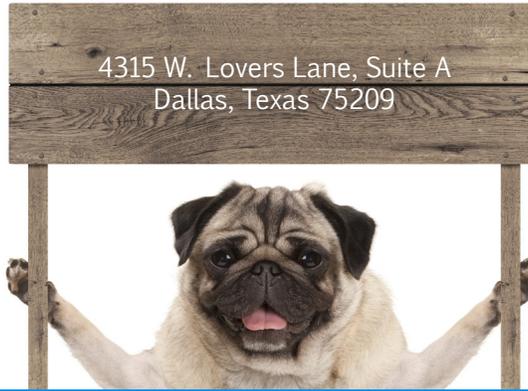


Ashley at an Austin reunion with Jessica and Taylor, her coworkers from Stanford JSA in Summer 2013.

## CLIENT REVIEW

*"A week after our incident, The Button Law Firm cared enough to send a 'survival kit.' This meant so much to us because knowing our little guy was having some struggles they showed an act of kindness to him by sending a stuffed puppy for our 2-year-old. Also, in this box were very thought out items to help a family/our family as they go through this crisis. One thing that really stood out to me was a guide for parents/grandparents dealing with a daycare injury that was simple and practical. The information they gave freely was so extremely valuable! This gave me a sense of confidence due to being equipped. They thought of everything! ... Thinking about the tools they provided and the heart they really have to help and make a difference, it is my opinion [BLF has] turned their business into a ministry. They ministered to me and my family in a time of need, desperation, and heartache. There is no firm like The Button Law Firm and I am so proud of this team for their mission and being top-notch in their field."*

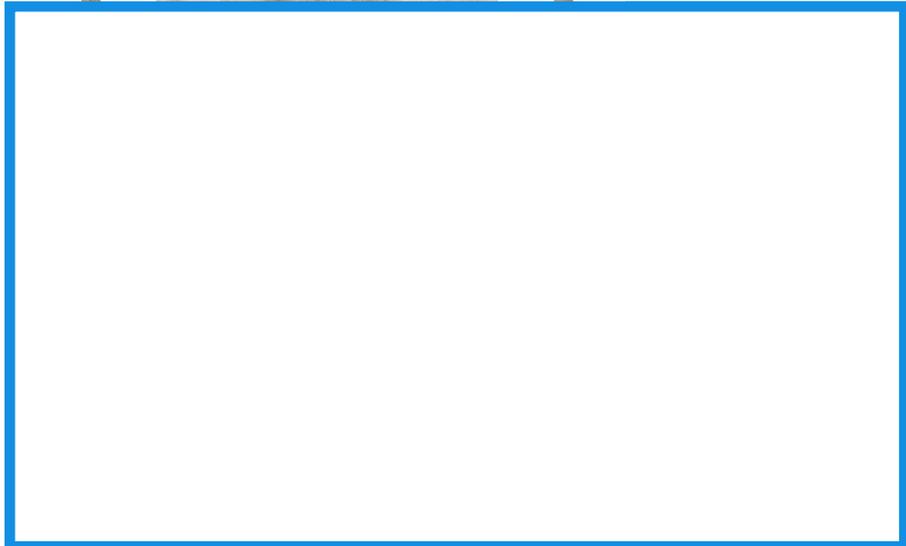
*-Nina H.*



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## BOATING: IT'S MORE DANGEROUS THAN YOU THINK

### How to Avoid Accidents This Summer

There are thousands of bodies of water in Texas, and sadly, many people have died in boating accidents in lakes, rivers, and oceans across the state. Spending a day on the water isn't as safe as we'd like to believe. In 2020 alone, 50 people were killed in Texas boating collisions, and many more were injured. Worse, from January through April 2020 "open water-oriented fatalities" went up a whopping 40%.

#### So, what can you do?

To avoid a dangerous accident while you're boating this summer, you need to understand why these crashes happen. There are five main causes of boating accidents:

1. **Distractions:** The person operating the boat is texting, eating, talking, or just not paying attention.
2. **Inexperience:** The captain doesn't have the knowledge or skills to steer

the boat correctly, and they aren't supervised by someone who does.

3. **Substance use:** The person at the helm is drunk, high, or otherwise impaired.
4. **Mechanical failure:** The boat isn't fit for an outing, or breaks down on the water.
5. **Hazardous weather:** Wind, rough water, or rain make it difficult to operate the boat or see other vessels.

These things are almost always avoidable with the right preparation. Before you go boating, make sure you pick a captain who is experienced, sober, and will pay attention. Then, check the weather and inspect your boat before launch. (Discover Boating has a great pre-departure checklist at [DiscoverBoating.com/ownership/maintenance/departure-checklist](https://www.DiscoverBoating.com/ownership/maintenance/departure-checklist).) If you

do all of these things, your odds of getting in an accident drop significantly!



#### What happens if you crash anyway?

Sometimes boating accidents are unavoidable. The weather in Texas can change on a dime, and you can't control the other crafts that are on the water. If you're in a boating accident this summer, get to dry land and call for medical help right away. Then, fill out an accident report with the police or Coast Guard, get the contact information of everyone involved, and call us.

As personal injury attorneys in the state of 7,000 lakes, 15 major rivers, and the Texas Gulf Coast, we're as experienced with boating accidents as we are with car crashes! We'll help you or your loved ones seek the compensation you deserve.