

THE BUTTON LAW FIRM

HOT-BUTTON ISSUES

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10 SHORT STORIES TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY

Check Out BLF's Sweetest Holiday Memories

When I was a kid, "the holiday season" was also known as "basketball season." My sister and I spent years playing in amazing tournaments during Christmas break and even on New Year's Eve. They were usually in cool places like New York City and Hawaii. Now, the holidays are a time to recharge and rest. Since I got a smoker, I enjoy having everyone over to the house and smoking various types of meat in the backyard, usually a brisket. For the last couple of years, my fiancée and I take an annual trip to a new Caribbean Island for New Year. It is a great time to reset for a new year. Here are the stories from the BLF team for their special holiday memories.

JAMES'S CHRISTMAS WITH GRANDPA

"Our family always had a small gathering on Christmas Day. My grandparents, uncles, and aunts arrived early to visit and catch up. I loved seeing everyone, but my Grandpa Chuck was my best friend. At some point each year, when the coast was clear, we snuck out of the house together. He took me to get hot chocolate and picked out a pack of cigars for himself. Then we drove back to the house and just relaxed in his truck, listening to 1950s music away from all the noise. After a few years of our secret escapes, my mom stopped worrying when she couldn't find me on Christmas. She knew: I was hanging with Chuck." **-James**

RENA'S CHRISTMAS EVE PROPOSAL

"My favorite holiday memory is when Ben proposed to me on Christmas Eve at his mom's house in Illinois. That night, it was time to put up the tree and decorate with

the ornaments we made — but the glue and glitter hadn't dried! I recommended that we wait until the ornaments were dry to hang them, but Ben's family wasn't having it. I thought, "Wow, they take this tradition seriously!"



"There I was, hanging ornaments on this tree and getting glue and glitter all over my hands. Next thing I know, Ben holds an ornament up to my face and asks if I can read it. My first thought was, 'This looks like he's asking me to marry him — I'd better reread it because he's probably asking me to the movies!' Then, Ben knelt down and popped the question. I hadn't even noticed there was a ring hanging from the ornament!" **-Rena**

**JESSICA'S HOLIDAY JAMMY TRADITION**

"I'm not sure how it came to be, but after having children, I started getting us matching holiday jammies. At first, only the girls matched. Then I made my husband partake. Now, it's something we do as a family every year! I'm super cheesy, so when we pack to go on our Christmas trip, the matching pj's come with us. I always enjoy it, as silly as it is, because there will definitely come a time when my girls say, "Mom, not the jammies this year"! Until then, I'm off to find more matching jammies!" **-Jessica**

JACKY'S FIRST SNOW

"My favorite holiday memory is one from 2006 or 2007, when I spent my first Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's in Dallas. I had tons of time off from school and spent days with my family at home while we celebrated holidays back-to-back. It was the first time I had ever experienced snow, too. Even though it was only a tiny bit, I was so happy I got to see snow for the first time ever! That year my mom made champurrado and buñuelos like she does every time a cold front passes through, and I got to put up a Christmas tree with one of my sisters. The end of the year is still my favorite because of family time, cold fronts, and lots of food!" **-Jacky**

**CRISTINA'S NOCHEBUENA MEMORIES**

"My favorite holiday memories have always been those shared on Nochebuena (Christmas Eve) at my grandparents' house in Miami. Ashley and I ate the greatest Cuban food you can imagine, including our grandmother's often imitated but never duplicated black beans. Our grandparents split a single Corona as a treat with dinner, while our Dad and Uncle made the whole table crack up. I miss those holiday meals so much, but they are some of the best memories I have to hold onto." **-Cristina**



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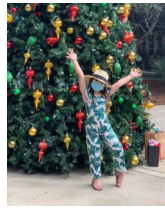


ELIZABETH'S NEPHEW CUDDLE

"During the holidays in 2021, I got to meet my brand-new baby nephew, SJ. Welcoming a new member to the family made our holiday celebration so much fun. I'm looking forward to spoiling him this year, now that he's a little older and able to interact and play with all the toys I plan to give him!" **-Elizabeth**

ASHLEY'S THANKSGIVING IN SEASIDE

"During the Thanksgiving holiday in 2020, I took a trip to Seaside, Florida, with my husband, my sister (BLF's Cristina), my brother-in-law, my niece, and my four best friends — including BLF's Elizabeth. We were all craving travel and quality time with loved ones. My close family and friends



had established a strict 'QuaranTeam' agreement, and we decided on Seaside because we could drive there together and could isolate by renting a house with a pool for just our group. That holiday trip was absolutely amazing. The house was filled with the most important people in my life, and we all came together to make sure our rough 2020 year ended with beautiful memories." **-Ashley**

ROSIE'S GINGERBREAD HOUSES

"Every holiday my siblings and I get our kids together at my parents' house and have them make gingerbread houses. Evelyn, my nieces, and my nephews look forward to it each year, and no matter how old they get, they continue to love it. They all sit at the dining table and use a variety of different candies to assemble and decorate their gingerbread houses. It's chaotic and loud,



but it's so much fun watching them make their gingerbread houses and argue over who made the best one." **-Rosie**

JACQUELINE'S UKRAINIAN NEW YEAR

"New Year's Eve was always a big celebration in my family. My mom is from Ukraine, and there, it was one of the biggest holidays of the year — so when she got to Texas, she continued some of the traditions. I loved this holiday because it was a huge and happy celebration with our family and friends. My mom and her friends spent all day cooking traditional foods, and in the evening we ate together, played games, opened presents, and sang songs. Plus, as a kid, it was the one time of the year I got to stay up extra late!" **-Jacqueline**

Happy holidays from the whole BLF team!

-Russell Button

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM SHADY CAR DEALERSHIPS

Get Help From Our Friend Doug Scott

For the first 18 years of his legal career, attorney Doug Scott represented auto auctions and car dealerships. Then, he realized how shady those companies could be.

"I learned what car dealerships do in the sale of these vehicles — the misrepresentations they make, the documents they have people sign that they shouldn't — and at that point, I switched over and started representing consumers *against* the car dealerships," Doug says.

Today, Doug works at the Law Offices of Craig Zimmerman in Arlington, almost exclusively representing people whom car dealerships have mistreated. He has filed so many lawsuits that he's still driving a 10-year-old Nissan Murano, even though he wants a new vehicle.

"I don't know where I could ever buy a car these days," he jokes, "I've sued almost every car dealership around on behalf of others who have been wrongfully taken advantage of!"

We're big fans of Doug's work and how hard he fights for the little guy. When we uncover a dealership problem in one of our clients' cases, we send them to Doug for help. When we told him we were writing this article, he offered up two tips for anyone planning to buy a car.



- 1. If you're buying a car and the dealership is arranging financing for you, never sign a retail installment sales contract and a conditional delivery agreement on the same day.** The two documents contradict each other. One says you bought the car, and the other says you only borrowed it and have to bring it back within 15 days of the sale! This is a classic way for the dealership to get the best of both worlds in case their financing falls through — and it's also illegal.
- 2. If you're buying a used car, always take it to a mechanic for an inspection before making your purchase.** "No one thinks about that, or they think they aren't allowed to do it, but you are 100% allowed to," Doug says. An outside mechanic will tell you if the dealer is trying to rip you off by selling a rebuilt or flood-damaged car for 10 times what they paid.

If you or someone you know has a case for Doug, visit **CraigZLaw.com** or call **800-987-4165** to reach his office.

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM DRUNK DRIVERS

With BLF's FREE Go-To Guide

Imagine you're at your company's holiday party. You're wearing your best ugly Christmas sweater, munching on cookies, and sipping spiked cider with your favorite coworkers. The cider is delicious, but you've had enough that you're starting to feel the effects of the alcohol. Then, your coworker comes by and offers another round — would you have the heart to refuse?

Many of us have been in a situation like this over the holiday season. It's the best time of the year to raise a glass and celebrate a little with family, coworkers, and friends. But unfortunately, many people don't know when to put the merriment on pause, which is why there are more drunk drivers on the road during the holidays than any other time of year.



According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, hundreds of deaths are caused by drunk driving in the days between Christmas and New Year's. In 2018 alone, 285 people died because of their neighbors' poor choices and hundreds more were injured.

Hopefully, you and your loved ones stay safe on the roads this season. But even the most careful people can fall victim to a drunk driver. Before it happens to you, it's wise to learn

how to handle a drunk driving wreck just in case. **One thing you can do right now is scan the QR code for a direct link to our free resource: "Your Go-To Guide on What to Do After a Car Wreck."**



Our team created this guide specifically for people who find themselves in the aftermath of a serious car wreck. Scan the QR code in this article to get your free guide. Read through it now and share it with your friends and family. Then stash a copy in the glove compartment of your car and advise your loved ones to do the same. That way, the guide will be there if and when you need it.

It's always better to be safe than sorry, especially when your family's health and finances are at stake. **Scan the QR Code right now to download our free guide before it's too late.**

BLF HIGHLIGHT REEL



CLIENT REVIEW

"As my wife and I were searching for daycares for our son, I reached out to Elizabeth. I know The Button Law Firm specializes in representing child and daycare injuries in Texas. I hoped they might have some guidance on what to look for in a potential daycare. Elizabeth sent me their guides, '10 Steps for Finding a Safe Daycare' and '5 Steps to Take After a Daycare Injury.' Hopefully, we'll never need the second one but the first one was so useful. We have a great daycare for our son and, should anything happen, we know the BLF team would guide us in the right direction."

-Stephen B.

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TEAMWORK WINS MILLION DOLLAR JUSTICE

Two Firms Join Forces to Seek Justice



In early 2019, our client — let's call him George — was working hard to provide for his family as a UPS driver. The job involved a lot of long days on the road, but spending time behind the wheel was worth it to George if it meant supporting his family. Then, one day in August, George's whole life turned upside down.

He was traveling south on a highway when another driver — we'll call him

Bill — lost control of his speeding truck in the northbound lane. Bill's truck smashed into an SUV's trailer, then careened through the barrier between lanes directly into George's path.

The crash was horrific. George survived, but in the months that followed, doctors diagnosed serious injuries to his head, spine, back, and shoulders. He missed 39 weeks of work at UPS to undergo physical therapy and steroid injections. Then, his doctors recommended surgery. George's medical bills climbed to terrifying heights, but fortunately, he found a team of great lawyers to represent him.

Our team at BLF joined forces with attorney Adewale Odetunde of Witherite Law Group to seek justice

for George. Adewale is based in Georgia and focuses on truck and car accidents and personal injury cases, so he was the perfect partner for this case! When we dug into the insurance limits for those responsible for this crash, we realized that while large, the commercial limits weren't going to be enough. We needed to act quickly.

Our hard work paid off. Along with Adewale, we succeeded in holding Bill's insurance company accountable and getting George's family the funds they needed. Once again, this case proved that when legal problems get tricky, two law firms are better than one.

Adewale, if you're reading this, thank you for teaming up with us on this case! We're looking forward to helping many more clients together.