

HOT-BUTTON ISSUES

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MEET BLF'S SECRET WEAPON

Our Simple Strategy for Winning Complicated Cases

Hey folks, it's Russell and Ashley here. We have something special for you this month. We've joined forces to write this article, and together, we'll share the story of our firm's secret weapon for winning cases and securing justice: learning.

Yes, you read that correctly. "Learning" — or more specifically, "studying harder than the most ambitious honors student during finals week" — is the secret weapon that allows our team to hold companies and individuals accountable in court.

If you think we're kidding, all you have to do is look back at the case we shared in last month's newsletter about the two children who were hurt on escalators at an amusement park. Under a court order, we had *just 48 hours* to get into the building and inspect the escalator before the building was demolished and our chance at collecting valuable evidence was destroyed.

Of course, we set our sights on getting an escalator expert on time for the inspection, but as a backup, Ashley decided to learn everything she could about inspecting an escalator — overnight! She spent every minute of the day before that inspection learning all about escalators: how they worked, what the parts were called, how to disassemble one, what to look for, where the safety devices are, what causes

problems, the regulations, and more. It was a real study marathon!

Fortunately, we were able to fly an expert in on the same morning we had a chance at inspecting. You should have seen the escalator expert's face when he started speaking in escalator jargon and Ashley knew exactly what he was talking about, where the parts were, and what to ask next! Ashley and Russell have always believed this is the only way to handle every case — all in, all the time.

"The best part of what we do is the fact that no two cases, or clients, are the same."

(Not-so-fun fact: Years later, Ashley still won't ride on an escalator, even in the Atlanta airport! The things she learned about escalator maintenance — or lack thereof — were so shocking that she'd rather walk a million flights of stairs or wait in a long line for an elevator.)

As you've probably realized after months of reading this newsletter, we focus on in complex litigation cases like that escalator injury case. These cases require hours, days, weeks, or months of diligent research. Many law firms aren't willing to put in that much



time hitting the books, but for us, learning is a passion. We're not only willing to learn for you, but we're also very happy to do it!

Here are just a few of the complex things the two of us — and the rest of our team — have learned about deeply to help our clients:

- The amusement park industry
- The Texas foster care system (and foster care systems nationwide)
- Daycare safety, regulations, and requirements
- Cosmetic medical device coding (Ashley read 3,000 pages of documents for a single case, essentially teaching herself another language)
- Nursing best practices
- 18-wheeler manufacturing and operation

BLF DAYS ARE BACK!

OUR OFFICE GOES OUT FOR A DALLAS STARS GAME

Last month, our team finished off the year with a bang: We all went to a Dallas Stars game thanks to the team from the Hamilton Wingo law office! That get-together on Dec. 6 marked the official return of our after-hours team-building activities, which Russell calls “BLF Days.”

In the pre-COVID-19 times, our whole office regularly got together off the clock because we’re not just coworkers — we’re family, too. We’d go out for lunch or dinner, play mini golf, or do another group event. It was our way of staying connected as a team, learning more about each other, and keeping up our momentum. Then the pandemic hit. Suddenly, BLF Days were off the table. It was a major bummer for everyone.

Of course, Russell and Ashley still planned COVID-19-safe activities whenever they

could. They had lunch delivered to the office, and we even signed up for an escape room where we could socially distance ourselves from everyone but each other. (Spoiler alert: We didn’t make it out. To this day, Russell swears no human could have!) Still, those things weren’t an ideal substitute for big in-person events. Hopefully, this Dallas Stars game was a sign of things to come.

Russell was thrilled when we got the invitation to the game from Chris and Paul over at Hamilton Wingo. We’ve collaborated with them on cases before and love spending time together. Our firm values align well with theirs, and it’s fun to hang out with such passionate, justice-driven people who want to make a difference just like we do. Plus, we can talk about nerdy legal topics for as long as we want.



The BLF team enjoys their time in the Hamilton Wingo suite at the Dallas Stars hockey game.

The game was a lot of fun (we got to watch the Stars and the Arizona Coyotes face off from a suite), and it was a great way to officially welcome the three new team members we hired this year into the BLF family and meet their spouses and kids. We can’t wait to do more big events like this for BLF Days in 2022.

STRUGGLING TO GET INSPIRED FOR THE NEW YEAR?

Let Tarun Rana Lead the Way



This time of year gets everyone talking about how they can be better, do better, and do more in

the next 12 months. But Jan. 1 isn’t always motivational enough by itself. Sometimes, you need to see an example of someone else’s success to kick-start yours — which is where our friend Tarun comes in.

Tarun Rana has been going after big dreams his whole life. There wasn’t a single lawyer in his family when he was growing up, but he didn’t let that disadvantage stop him from going to law school, absolutely crushing it, and opening his very own law firm in 2012. Today, Rana Law Group (RanaLawGroup.com) helps hundreds of

people resolve their personal injury and workers’ compensation claims.

“Most people through news or media gain the wrong impression about the people who make injury claims,” Tarun explains. “They don’t really realize how much these cases impact an individual and how the results of an injury tend to stay longer than what initially crops up.”

Like us, he’s representing the Davids of the world against insurance company Goliaths. Recently, his team secured \$300,000 for one client injured in a rear-end car crash and \$450,000 for another client who was injured at work — an amount *five times* the insurance company’s original \$50,000 policy limit!

Tarun is also a striver in his personal life. In 2021, he and his wife slayed their fitness

and weight loss goals with the help of intermittent fasting and their Peloton bike.

“I began the year by making a commitment to my health. I ended up losing about 30 pounds, and I’ve been able to keep it off!” Tarun says. His wife, Brittany, had less to lose but also successfully dropped about 10 pounds when they tried the 16/8 method and limited their daily eating to an eight-hour window.

“We’re both in the best shape of our lives, much better than previously, and we’re very happy. It was a good lifestyle choice for us,” Tarun says.

Is weight loss one of your goals for 2022? Visit Healthline.com/Nutrition/Intermittent-Fasting-Guide to learn more about intermittent fasting and whether it’s right for you.

... CONTINUED FROM COVER

The best part of what we do is the fact that no two cases, or clients, are the same. At the office, we keep a library of materials we've used for case research. If you looked through it, you'd find nurse's manuals, cardiac manuals, hospital guidelines, and more!

We dove so deep into daycare cases and the foster care system that they have become focuses for us. We've read books on both topics, talked to dozens of experts, and inhaled every court document we can find. Both of us know the foster care and daycare systems inside and out. It's gotten to the point that even though neither of us have children of our own, we've become our families' go-to people for questions about the kids' daycare needs.

Why do we put in so much effort? Frankly, because our clients deserve it. In order to tell the human story behind a tragedy, we need to know as much as we can about the circumstances. Sometimes, that means Ashley needs to learn to code or inspect an escalator, and other times, it means Russell needs to figure out how an 18-wheeler operates and how to conduct failure analyses on different truck parts.

Our clients hire us because we always put in that effort. They deserve a lawyer who will do everything they can to take care

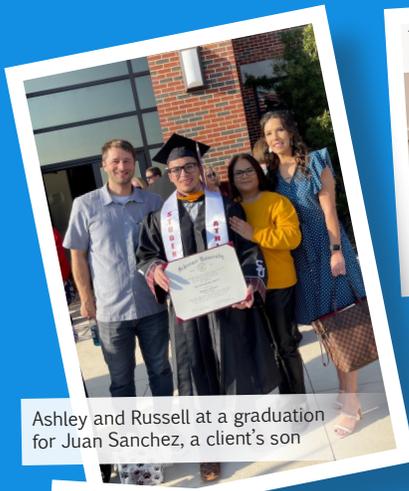
of them and their case. The truth is that if a lawyer only relies on experts or bystanders to know things about their case, then they're not doing their job.

Sure, sometimes we lawyers need experts to help prove our cases in court. If you don't do your own learning and your own research into what happened to your client, then you will never know what you need to rely on your experts for, what evidence you need to find in order to win the case, or even how the incident or experience changed your client's life. In other words, you'll never know what you don't know.

The more we learn, the easier it is to make complex things simple, explain our client's situation to a jury, and win justice. That's why learning is our secret weapon. We're looking forward to doing a lot more of it in 2022!

-Russell Button
&
-Ashley Washington

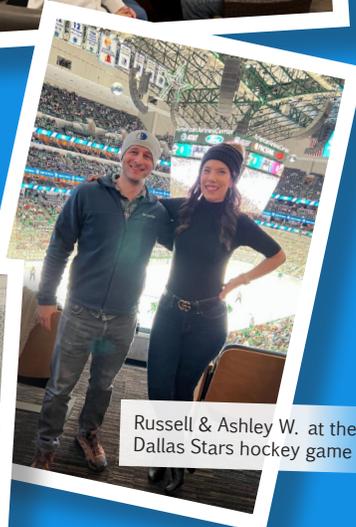
BLF HIGHLIGHT REEL



Ashley and Russell at a graduation for Juan Sanchez, a client's son



The BLF Team and Family sharing Italian from Café Amore



Russell & Ashley W. at the Dallas Stars hockey game



The BLF Family with the new shirts

CLIENT REVIEW

"The Button Law Firm is known for going the extra mile when it comes to the legal needs of its clients. As a colleague, I have tried cases with Russell and I regularly refer accident and injury cases to him. I know that the people he helps are truly in good hands because Russell always abides by the 'do right' rule, he never takes a short cut, and he never quits. I wouldn't hesitate to recommend this firm to others."

-Brett C.

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JUSTICE IS SERVED

BLF Holds a Reckless Driver Accountable

Before his car accident, our client — we'll call him Josh — was a total fitness fanatic. He hit the gym seven days a week and loved playing basketball, wakeboarding, and generally keeping his body in great shape. Health was one of his top priorities in life. But in May 2020, his progress screeched to a halt.

Josh was a passenger in another person's car when it happened. While Josh's ride was making a legal left-hand turn, another car appeared out of nowhere and slammed into it! The impact sent Josh's vehicle spinning out of control and threw him violently against the door.

This crash never should have happened. The other driver was speeding, and she crossed a double yellow line and zoomed into a no-pass zone to try to get ahead of Josh's vehicle.

Her recklessness cost Josh everything.

When the fire department arrived at the scene, Josh was suffering from a serious head injury that caused a headache and blurred vision. He also had nausea, abdominal tenderness, neck pain, and back pain. The medical team rushed him to the

hospital for treatment, and he was diagnosed with a closed head injury and neck sprain. The pain was so bad that he took morphine to dull it, and as we write this, he's still in treatment for his injuries.

For a fitness nut like Josh, this damage to his body was devastating. He had to miss weeks of work and significantly cut back on the gym routine and sports that he loves. That loss sent him into a depressive spiral.

When we took on Josh's case, we knew that nothing we did would undo his trauma. But we could hold the other driver accountable and secure compensation for his medical bills, pain, and suffering — so that's exactly what we did! We went after the reckless driver's insurance company and secured the justice Josh needed. It was a huge victory that will help him move forward.

If you or someone you know has been in a wreck like Josh's, we're here to help. Reach out to us by phone or on our website, ButtonLawFirm.com.

