

## HOT-BUTTON ISSUES

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## SIBLING SUPERPOWERS!

## How These Sets of Siblings Keep Each Other Motivated



Russell and his sister, Roxana.

Something strange is happening to my family. At some point in the last few years, my sister Roxana and I have become the “parents,” and our parents have become the “kids”! Mom and Dad recently went on a cruise, and to get to the ship, they flew from Texas to Florida. They were supposed to fly on Southwest Airlines, then let Rox and I know when they landed and boarded the boat — but we didn’t hear a word!

For three days, the two of us were beside ourselves. We worked each other into a panic, imagining they’d gotten lost, their plane had crashed, or they’d been kidnapped shipside. Finally, my phone buzzed with a message on WhatsApp. Our parents were having a grand old time on the ocean while we worried!

Rox and I couldn’t help it — we burst out laughing. “Man,” I said. “Now we know what they felt like when we didn’t update them as teenagers!”

I’m glad I have a sister like Rox to laugh and stress out with. We’re only three years apart, and I think the best phrase to

describe our dynamic would be “friendly competition.” We both played college basketball and had an amazing time shooting hoops together after practice, cheering each other on at games, and overall making each other better.

We’ve always pushed each other to improve in everything we do, and since we’re both hard workers, the contests get tough. Whether we’re playing pickleball during the holidays, trying out a fitness competition like The Murph, or comparing landmark achievements at work (she’s currently killing it as a full-time OB-GYN, wife, and mom), we turn it into a motivational contest.

Since April 10 is National Siblings Day, I couldn’t resist shouting out Roxana. I love her competitive side, work ethic, balanced outlook on life, and goofy sense of humor. I also want to recognize another pair of awesome siblings in my life: Ashley and Cristina, the lawyer-paralegal sisterhood here at BLF.

Ashley and Cristina are fantastic at their jobs individually, but they level up even more when they work together. That’s no surprise to them — they’ve actually hopped from job to job together since they were teenagers.

“Ashley and I have spent a lifetime learning how the other thinks. We know each other’s

thought process, things we are comfortable working on or diving into, what each of us excel at, how to approach each other, and what we like and dislike,” Cristina says. “I know I can come to her with anything work related and she will always be there to listen and help, just like when I come to her about anything in my personal life. She gets me on all playing fields.”

Ashley adds, “The BLF team always gets a kick out of seeing us interact outside of work. Whenever we have team events,

Cristina and I fall into our typical sisterly banter of sharing embarrassing stories of our childhood and teasing each other. We have a lifetime of great content to share and always have the team crying tears of laughter.”

It’s been a pleasure to work with Ashley and Cristina for the last few years. As Ashley says, they clearly share a passion for helping people and seeking justice. Now, they’re doing what they were born to do — together!

If you have great siblings, do yourself a favor and hug them for National Siblings Day. They might not know how much they mean to you.



Check out this adorable throwback picture of Cristina and Ashley!

—Russell Button

# RENA IS A REMODELING MASTER!

CHECK OUT HER LAUNDRY ROOM BEFORE AND AFTER

We all want to remodel our homes to make them more comfortable and attractive. There's only one problem — it's impossible to find the time!

At least, it feels that way until you meet someone like BLF's Rena Piper. Late last year, Rena blew our team away when she managed to squeeze an expert remodel into her schedule. She works with us, goes to law school, *and* runs around looking after her three kids, but she still made her laundry room transformation happen.

"I always try to find something that helps me get away from the books, my work, and the regular stresses of life," Rena explains. "If it's not gardening,

then it's home projects or crafts. ... I figured if I was going to mess up a room, the laundry room was a safe choice!"

Rena had big dreams for her drab laundry room. She wanted to tackle a bit of the project each week, slowly adding fresh paint, functional cabinets, a countertop, and attractive wood paneling.

"Law school quickly reminded me that I couldn't do something *every* week," she says. "But I did finish it at the end of the semester, after finals were finished and we had a little downtime here at BLF."

Rena pulled off an incredible transformation. She admits that she was a little worried about cutting and installing the removable countertop, but even that turned out beautifully!

"It was a perfect fit, and it was also perfectly level, which was a big accomplishment I think," she says.

At the same time, Rena racked up another big accomplishment: She won a CALI Excellence for the Future Award in Federal Criminal Procedure! She achieved the highest grade in her class at UNT Dallas College of Law and she was recognized for her work.

We're incredibly proud of Rena — for the CALI *and* her successful remodel! If you ever need tips for a renovation (or test on federal criminal procedure) she's the one to ask.



## MEET FRED, OUR FAVORITE DOG WHISPERER

### Even After a Dog Attack, He Adopted a Rescue!

In the middle of 2020, Fred Carsel and his wife road-tripped eight hours from Dallas to Corpus Christi to pick up a rescue dog. Fred's wife discovered the yellow Labrador/red heeler mix on Facebook and immediately fell in love with his white-spotted face and his story.

"The dog's owner, an elderly lady, passed away in her home about a year before this all happened," Fred says. "When they came and discovered the lady

was deceased, the dog was scared. He had been alone in the house for some time, so he bolted out the door and took off."

The loyal pup stayed within a few miles of his former home. Every few days, he appeared at a nearby truck stop, wagging

his tail and begging for scraps. Neighbors spent a year trying to catch him before they finally succeeded. Unfortunately, the local no-kill shelters were full — so they turned to Facebook for help!

Fred and his wife raced to the rescue. They welcomed the dog into their home, named him Beau, and nursed him back to health as best they could. He filled the hole in their hearts left by their last three

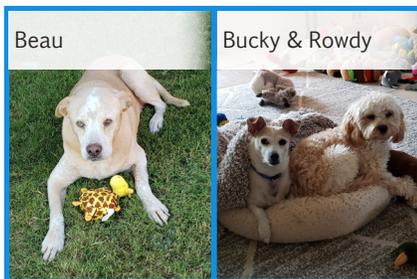
dogs — Rocky, the 11-year-old yellow Lab; Bear, the 12-year-old Lab/mastiff mix; and Buddy, the 10-year-old chocolate Lab.

"Beau was a beautiful, kind, non-aggressive dog, even though he had been through a horrible time," Fred says. Unfortunately,

Beau also had a chronic stomach issue that cut his life short. But he enjoyed 13 months of love and healing with Fred's family before he passed.

There are thousands of dog lovers in Texas, but Fred's big heart for canines is unique. You see, before he adopted Beau, he was savagely attacked twice by a neighbor's pit bull. The attacks were so traumatic that Fred needed surgery and came to both our team and attorney Scott Snellings for legal help. Still, he didn't want the pit bull put down — and continues to love dogs despite his trauma.

Fred babysits his neighbor's pooches, Bucky and Rowdy, and still misses Rocky, Bear, Buddy, and Beau every day. "In some cases, dogs are better than people," he says. His resilience is truly inspiring. Hopefully, if you're dealing with trauma, you can find the same strength.



# DISTRACTED DRIVING WRECKS LIVES

## BLF Helped the Parks Find Peace After a Wreck

It only takes a second to read a text message — but that’s all the time you need to miss the brake lights on the car in front of you and smash into their bumper. Recently, the Park family\* found this out the hard way.



The Park family was slowing down on a congested highway when the driver behind them glanced away from the road. His car barreled into their vehicle at 60 miles per hour. It crushed their trunk completely and seriously injured Mrs. Park, Mr. Park, and their two daughters, trapping them inside.

EMTs rushed the whole family to the hospital. Mrs. Park limped away from the wreck with severe back and knee pain. Mr. Park needed back surgery and, because of pandemic medical delays, will have knee trouble for the rest of his

life. Their daughters, Emma and Nicole, were also badly hurt. Emma’s shoulder and foot pain still prevent her from doing the dishes at home, and she’s terrified at the thought of getting her driver’s license. Nicole, meanwhile, struggles to focus on school months after suffering a concussion in the crash.

The Park family is still in bad shape, but their situation would have been worse if they hadn’t found BLF! We told their story to the other driver’s insurance company with enough conviction, compassion, and detail to secure them a settlement that changed their lives.

While no amount of settlement can give the Parks back what they lost in their health and wellness, it is helping them move forward

as best as possible. Next time you take the wheel, think about their story and stow your cellphone, water bottle, and anything else that might distract you from the road.

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month, and hopefully every Texan takes it to heart. To prepare yourself in case they don’t, scan the QR code and download our free guide on “What to Do After a Car Wreck.” The five steps inside could help you when you least expect it.

*\*All names have been changed to protect client privacy.*



# BLF HIGHLIGHT REEL



Ashley, Elizabeth, and their friend, James, visiting the LSU football stadium.

Jacqueline and her husband, Ben, visiting the Paris Opera during their trip to France.

Russell with his fiancée, niece, mom, and sister enjoying an ice cream treat during family time!

## CLIENT REVIEW

***“The Button Law firm is quite simply the best of the best. Everyone on the team goes above and beyond, you never have to worry about what is going on with your case because they keep you updated continuously, and are always super responsive to any questions. And they truly care! They have my highest recommendation!”***

*—Laura Lee J.*

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Did you know that April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month? We all want to prevent child abuse, but unfortunately it's easy to miss when we're in a hurry. Predators even creep into what should be the safest, most innocent places: schools and daycares.

Not long ago, a Dallas daycare hired a child rapist. He spread terror all over the daycare and managed to hurt eight kids before the police caught him. When they took his laptop to a computer forensic laboratory in Dallas, the specialists there found more than 400 pornographic photos and videos of children. How the heck does that happen?

## HOW TO SPOT TERRIBLE DAYCARES

### Is Your Child's Daycare Run by Abusers?

The sad truth is that many daycare centers will hire just about anyone. They simply need to put on a good front and act like they get along with children. These people often have no experience, and some of them don't even like kids! They just see the job as an easy paycheck.

It's sad to see daycare facilities put profit over the safety of innocent, defenseless kids — and it needs to stop. Daycare facilities in Texas MUST hire qualified employees. Hiring should be a long, tedious, thorough process, even when the job market is tough, because parents and kids deserve daycare workers who are patient and honest, feel passionate about their work, and care about the children in their care.

Missing just one of these qualities can lead to neglect and/or abuse. To spot it, look for signs in your kids like sudden aggression or rudeness, nightmares, cuts and scrapes that haven't been treated, flinching in reaction to sudden movements, and fear of being left at daycare.



You can learn to spot more red flags and uncover incompetent caregivers by scanning the QR code and downloading "10 Tips for

Finding a Safe Daycare: A Guide for Parents and Families." You can read up on the tips yourself and/or share the guide with your friends, family, or clients. By spreading the word, we can protect hundreds of kids in Texas and beyond!