



Texting and Driving— Just Wait

By: Russell Button

This month I have been preparing for a trial against a distracted driver. As I always do in preparation for trial, I sit down and read every article and study about the Defendant's conduct that the trial will be about. Needless to say, I have been reading a lot about distracted driving lately.

The statistics were startling. To name a few: distracted driving is just as dangerous or worse than drunk driving; the average text takes a driver's eyes off the road for 4.6 seconds or the equivalent of driving a football field blindfolded; and each year approximately 5,400 people are killed throughout the U.S. in a crash involving distracted drivers. Those stats only include reported incidents. Many go unreported or unrecognized each year.

I encourage each of you to watch the AT&T video *It Can Wait*. Call one of the families who have lost someone because of distracted driving. The point of this article is that each time we put the keys in our ignition, we are starting a wrecking ball that can kill. It requires our full attention.

Some people tell me, "everyone does it". I'm sorry to say it, but if that is your rationale then you have just shamed all those who gave their lives as a result of a distracted driver. Other people tell me, "well I'm always a defensive driver so it would never happen to me". I want you to think about this for a moment: how can we be a defense driver if we are distracted?

Throughout the State of Texas, counties are taking a stand against distracted driving and prohibiting texting as well as talking on the phone while driving.

Take a stand and be an advocate against distracted driving. Follow the simple safety rules we all know and believe in our hearts. They will keep us safe. Put the phone away or pull over. It's that simple.



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How to gain trust without saying a word?

By: Russell Button

Last month, I started writing about trust. This, month I want to continue with how to gain another's trust without saying a word. Let's go back to authenticity. When we first see someone, we are reading them whether we know it or not. As a matter of fact, we read people all the time. We are searching for non-verbal cues as to whether that person is telling us the truth.

What are some of the things that people look for? Different things such as eye contact, body posture, and tone affect how people perceive what you say. We tend to trust people that can look us in the eye as opposed to those who don't. We tend to trust people that have a confident stance as opposed to those that shy away. We tend to trust those that speak confidently and firmly as opposed to those that are soft-spoken or defensively loud.

This is not to say that we all have to be charming or superb conversationalists. Simply put, we all must be self-aware as to how others perceive us. In fact, this is an important part of jury trials. How the jury perceives your client can be the difference between winning and losing the case. Same thing goes for whether your client is trustworthy when they do talk. It is not always what your client says but how they say it.

Make a list of the different non-verbal cues that you use on a daily basis and see where you can improve. Practice makes perfect. As you develop your non-verbal cues to match your authenticity, you will be a walking talking trustworthy individual that people will believe.

Being self-aware of your non-verbal cues will help you be the person people talk about as:

When he or she talks, everyone listens.



Hidden Heroes—Secret Philanthropists

By: Russell Button

One of my best friends recently gave me a book titled Behind The Drive. It is about Larry Miller. He recently passed away. During the time he graced this earth with his presence, he was the owner of the Utah Jazz as well as many other endeavors as the eternal entrepreneur.

What I immediately caught onto was his secret philanthropy. Larry would pay for dear friends' medical bills without being asked. Larry would do numerous things for others without being asked, without publicizing his good deeds, and without telling anyone. In fact, it wasn't until his son went about writing the book that he learned of all these hidden philanthropic good deeds his father had done.

It reminded me of an article I read about four years ago that encouraged people to write a thank you card every now and then. So, I remember sitting down and writing a thank you card every week to someone who had helped me out, encouraged me, or any number of different things. Writing thank you cards also helped stoke a fire in me to give to others as others had given to me over the years.

Pick out how you best express your gratitude or appreciation and give to someone. Write a thank you card. Pay for someone's meal without them knowing and leave before they do. Buy flowers for that significant other of yours. Book a trip to see a family member that can't afford to come see you. Go visit with a friend you lost touch with. The key to giving is to give without expecting anything in return.

The Button Law Firm is all about giving back and impacting the community. Tell us how you give back or impact our community. We are interested.



Honey Chicken Kabobs

By: Sheba George



With the weather warming up, one thing comes to mind—grilling outside with my family. One of my favorite activities to do in the sunny weather is grilling by the lake with my dad. Here's one of our favorite recipes to try out— honey chicken kabobs.

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1/3 cup honey
- 1/3 soy sauce
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 8 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves—cut into 1 inch cubes
- 2 cloves garlic
- 5 small onions, cut into 2 pieces
- 2 red bell peppers, cut into 2 inch pieces

Directions

1. In a large bowl, whisk together oil, honey, soy sauce, and pepper. Before adding chicken, reserve a small amount of marinade to brush onto kabobs while cooking. Place the chicken, garlic, onions and peppers in the bowl, and marinate in the refrigerator at least 2 hours (the longer the better).
2. Preheat the grill for high heat.
3. Drain marinade from the chicken and vegetables, and discard marinade. Thread chicken and vegetables alternately onto the skewers.
4. Lightly oil the grill grate. Place the skewers on the grill. Cook for 12 to 15 minutes, until chicken juices run clear. Turn and brush with reserved marinade frequently.