

## HOT-BUTTON ISSUES

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## SURVIVING WINTER STORM URI

## How Camping Gear and Collaboration Pulled BLF Through

When I bought my thermal sleeping bag, portable stove, and other camping gear, I had dozens of ideas about how I would use them. I pictured long hikes in the woods, treks through the desert, and sleeping out under the Texas stars. What I didn't imagine was camping in my own living room during the worst winter storm I've ever seen. But that's the scenario that came true.

Like most of my friends and neighbors, I heard rumors of power outages and extreme snowfall before Winter Storm Uri hit Dallas. But when I went to bed that night, I wasn't worried. I assumed the rolling blackouts wouldn't impact me for more than 30 minutes at a time. I also had a lot of other things to think about. We'd just hired Jacqueline, our new marketing and brand coordinator, and I was excitedly showing her the ropes. I fell asleep thinking about work, and in the middle of the night, the power went out. It came back on, then flickered out again. And that time, it stayed out.

For me and most of our team, that was the start of a whole week without power. The temperature inside my house dropped below freezing and stayed there until the power came back on at the end of the week. Before long, a pipe burst and I lost running water. I ended up rolling out my sleeping pad in front of the living room fireplace, topping it with my sleeping bag, and using my camping lanterns and other gear to get through.

My family and neighbors really came through for me. My dad still had power, so he picked up my little dog, Chuie, and took her home to keep her safe and warm. When the water pipe burst on the outside of my house, my neighbor Fred rushed over to help me find the shutoff valve in the snow. He even shared three gallons of clean water with me. As scary as things were, there were still random acts of kindness happening everywhere.

It's crazy to retell this story because it sounds like something out of a survival TV show. But I was lucky, and so was everyone else on our team. Most of us lost power and some of us lost water, but we were able to hike through the snowy streets to share supplies. Rosie and her husband knew a plumber who was able to fix their pipes and restore their water. My awesome contractor, Jose, came through to do repairs for me and Jacqueline. Most of our team had power back by



Friday, and our water turned on again by the weekend. We took turns answering emails for our clients and rescheduling appointments when we had power and internet, and our office building made it through the storm just fine. Considering how many people right here in Texas were killed in car wrecks, froze to death, or lost their homes, offices, or pets in the aftermath of the storm, we were incredibly fortunate.

I realized during that week of roughing it in my living room how much I've always taken things like power, water, warmth, and shelter for granted. When they were taken away, I found out just how lucky (and how vulnerable) I really am. I'll never forget that experience or how our whole community and BLF family came together to help each other.

If the storm taught me anything, it's that we're stronger together. I couldn't have gotten through without Jose's repair skills, my neighbor's generosity, and the camping lessons my parents taught me. After running this gauntlet, I'm even more passionate about my work helping others. I hope that you and your family were able to weather the storm.

*Russell Button*

# A GYM DAYCARE EXPERIENCE GONE WRONG

## BUTTON LAW FIRM RECOVERS COMPENSATION FOR AN INJURED CHILD

Imagine this: It's a sunny morning, and you're excited to get in a good workout at the gym. The fitness center you go to provides childcare, so you bring your 5-year-old with you and drop them off with the friendly staff. Then, halfway through your exercise routine, you get the most terrifying call of your life: Your 5-year-old fell off a table and is being rushed to the hospital.

A very similar scenario happened to one of our clients at The Button Law Firm. Their 5-year-old was playing at the gym daycare surrounded by unqualified and untrained employees. These staff members left the child largely unsupervised, and when the 5-year-old climbed onto a dangerous, unstable table, they didn't make an effort to help.

Because of the inexperienced staff, this fun-loving kid ended up with severe injuries that required surgery. Two pins were inserted into their elbow, which will be there for the rest of their life. Then, they spent seven long weeks recovering, missing out on all of the school and extracurricular activities that healthy kids get to enjoy. The child's family also racked up thousands of dollars in medical expenses — all because the gym staff they thought they could trust didn't keep their precious child safe.

Luckily, the child and their family didn't have to battle the gym for accountability alone. Their attorneys knew that we focus on



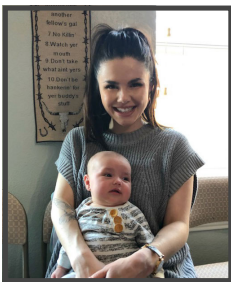
daycare cases, and they brought our team in to help. Even though the gym was in the midst of bankruptcy, we were able to swoop in and resolve the case alongside our amazing bankruptcy attorney, Meagan Powers. Thanks to her expertise, our clients recovered the compensation they needed to pay their medical bills and protect their child going forward.

No parent should ever need to worry that their child isn't safe at daycare. If you or someone you know has these concerns, our team can help. Schedule a free consultation at [ButtonLawFirm.com/Contact.cfm](http://ButtonLawFirm.com/Contact.cfm).

## WELCOME BACK, DESI!

### A Post-Maternity Leave Note From Our Communications Specialist

You might remember that our communications specialist, Desi, took maternity leave this winter to welcome her first baby into the world. Well, Leo has arrived, and Desi is back in action! After three months of maternity leave, she has a story to share.



Hi friend, it's Desi! I am SO glad to be back to work. While I was home, I missed my job, my beautiful clients, and my BLF family. Still, I appreciated the time, and I definitely needed it to adjust to being a new mom!

To be honest, before I had Leo, I hated babies. I would run away if you asked me to hold one. I'd never even hugged a baby, let alone fed one or changed a diaper.

And thanks to COVID-19, all the parenting classes my partner, Riley, and I would have taken were canceled — so we REALLY had to wing it.

I'll never forget our first night home from the hospital with Leo. It was so scary, especially because the hospital just handed him over and said, "Well, here's your baby — good luck keeping him alive!" I was terrified I would do something wrong, so of course, the first time I changed a diaper was an absolute disaster.

I knew our little man had gone No. 2, and I had just opened the diaper when it happened: He peed on me AND himself, then started screaming. I got so overwhelmed that I just sat down and cried. Lucky, I have the world's best partner, and Riley got Leo changed and then sat by my side and prayed with me.

I can look back on that disaster now and laugh — nothing says "welcome to motherhood" like getting peed on! But at the time, it was awful. It took me most of my maternity leave to realize I can't compare myself to others, and it's okay not to be perfectly organized or feel happy all the time.

Along the way, the gifts I received from clients and co-counsel made life so much easier. Victor and Sam, thank you SO much for the blanket and knitted Christmas book! Heather and Elaine, Leo adores the play mat you gave him. To my friends and Snellings Law, thank you for the welcome-back cookies. They lasted about five seconds.

Love from me and the little man,

*Desi*



# MEET BEN GLASS: SUPERLAWYER AND SUPERDAD!

## When BLF Clients Need Disability Insurance, We Send Them to Ben



Twenty years ago, Virginia attorney Ben Glass took on his very first long-term disability case.

"I didn't even know what it was. But it

looked interesting, so we filed a lawsuit and settled the case. Then, I realized that there weren't many lawyers who had any experience with this type of disability case," Ben remembers.

Inspired, Ben decided to become that lawyer. Today, his firm, Ben Glass Law, is a national leader in long-term disability cases. They help people who are ill or injured (and can't go back to work) apply for benefits that cover 60% of their past incomes

— and for the last few months, they've collaborated with us to help BLF clients move forward from catastrophic injuries.

As we write this, Russell and Ben are working to secure short- and long-term benefits for one of our clients who is a quadriplegic. Ben's success rate is impressive. More than 95% of the time, his team is able to secure disability benefits that turn clients' lives around.

"We like doing this work because we end up representing a lot of people who had highly productive jobs — everyone from the UPS driver and the Amazon warehouse stock picker to physicians, dentists, lawyers, and CEOs of major businesses," Ben says. "Part of my job is to not only help them with the legal side of their case but also to strategize what's next for their life. So I become their life coach as well [as their lawyer]."

Ben is a life coach for lawyers, too.

Through his consulting company, Great Legal Marketing, he helps other attorneys (including Russell!) grow their firms. On top of that, he's also an attentive father to nine kids and a soccer referee. Basically, Ben is superman inside and outside of the courtroom!

"It's been really inspiring to work with Ben, first as a mentor and now as a colleague," Russell says. "I'm sure I'll continue learning from him and sending clients his way for years to come!"

If you need help applying for disability benefits, check out Ben's tips on Page 4. And if you've already made a claim and been denied, let Ben's team help! They'll look over your denial letter for free and give you advice on your next steps. Visit [FreeDenialLetterReview.com](http://FreeDenialLetterReview.com) to get started.

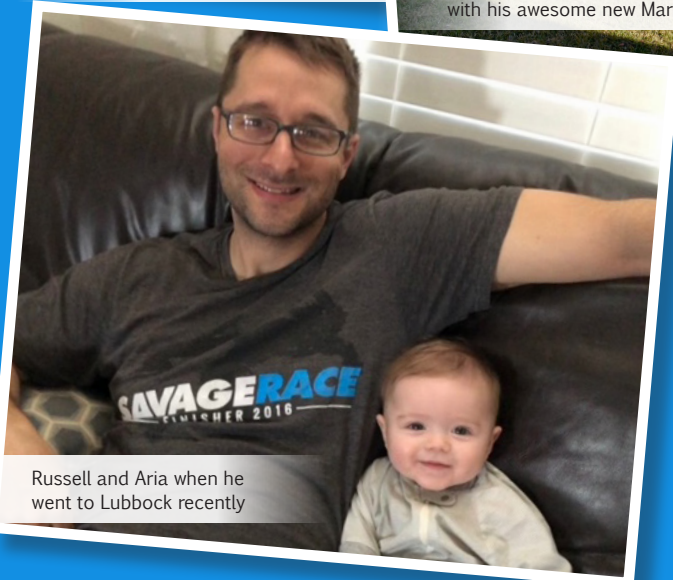
## BLF HIGHLIGHT REEL



Aria and Chuie really hit it off



Russell camping in his backyard with his awesome new Marmot tent



Russell and Aria when he went to Lubbock recently

## CLIENT REVIEW



Russell Button and his team are angels in disguise. I love what this law firm does for so many people. This law firm helped me with assisting my kids with my "back to school" campaign held at Cummings Recreation Center in Dallas and at my church (New Hope Fellowship) in Garland, Texas. Without their help, my team would not have back packs and school supplies. I want to thank the entire team at Button Law Firm for all of their support for making this a dream come true for so many parents and kids.

*Marcus Moore*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 How BLF Survived Winter Storm Uri
- 2 A Gym Daycare Experience Gone Wrong  
Welcome Back, Desi!
- 3 Meet Ben Glass: Superlawyer and Superdad!  
BLF Highlight Reel
- 4 How to Apply for Disability Benefits in 5 Steps

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## DO YOU NEED TO APPLY FOR DISABILITY BENEFITS?

### Follow Ben Glass's 5-Step Guide

If you've recently been in a car or truck accident, were seriously injured at work, or fell victim to another kind of catastrophic injury, you might not be able to do your old job anymore. It is a hard reality to face, and many feel guilty about taking the time they need to heal. One resource to keep you moving forward, that many do not know about, is long-term disability benefits.

One of Russell's friends, disability insurance attorney Ben Glass of Ben Glass Law, is an expert on this topic, and he gave us some pointers to share. When you're ready to apply for disability benefits, follow his five-step guide.

1. **Check with your employer to see if they offer disability benefits.**
2. **If they do, ask for a copy of the policy and the summary plan description.** (If they don't, you may

need to apply for Social Security disability benefits instead.)

3. **Read through the documents.** They should include vital details like the company's definition of disability, the amount of time you need to have been disabled before you can receive benefit payments, what percentage of your salary your disability benefit will be, the proof you need to provide, and how to get started on your claim.
4. **Connect with your employer's HR department or outside insurance company.** Then, work with them to follow the steps outlined in the policy. Keep in mind that you need your doctor's support and that it's up to

you to provide proof of your claim (like forms and medical records). Your future is in your hands.

5. **Finish the steps outlined in the policy.** Once you're done, your claim will be on its way!

If your claim is denied or you have a problem with your insurance down the road, Ben and his team can help you work things out. To learn more about his firm and what they can do for you, check out the article on Page 3 or visit [BenGlassLaw.com](http://BenGlassLaw.com).

