

## THE BUTTON LAW FIRM

## HOT-BUTTON ISSUES

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## THE TEACHERS THAT INFLUENCED US

How Teachers  
Have an Impact

Believe it or not, when I was little, I dreaded going back to school every August. Learning just wasn't easy for me. I struggled to read or write at my grade level, and taking standardized tests was a nightmare. Back then, no one would have guessed I'd become a lawyer. Only one person outside of my family believed in me: my fourth-grade teacher, Mrs. Howerton.

Mrs. Howerton changed the course of my life. She saw that I had the capacity to learn — and was determined to help me do it even after I left her classroom. Every day during the summer between fourth and fifth grade, she took time to tutor me either at my house or hers. I can still picture this tall, imposing woman hunkered down with me at her kitchen table surrounded by assignments, firmly showing me the way.

*"A great teacher can do a lot of good in a child's life, like Mrs. Howerton did for me. But equally, a bad teacher or daycare provider can do a lot of harm."*

Mrs. Howerton was the first teacher to give me the discipline, structure, and tough love I needed to improve as a student. Without her, I doubt I would have made it through the academic hurdles it takes to become a lawyer!

I'm not the only one of the BLF team whose life has been changed by a teacher.

- Rosie's first grade teacher, Ms. Nadri, taught her to read and speak English.

She refused to give up on Rosie even when the process was difficult.

- Ms. Pence taught Ashley's law and legal research class during her sophomore year of high school. She helped Ashley feel like she belonged and inspired her to join the school's mock trial team.
- Jacqueline's high school ethics teacher, Mr. Morgan, taught her that when there is an issue, it's best to fully understand it before jumping to conclusions. She still uses that lesson.
- Mr. Trovato, Hannah's AP European History teacher, invested extra time to help her class pass the AP test and taught her study habits she still uses today.
- Jacky's high school history teacher, Ms. Theiss, was caring and compassionate. Her love of travel inspired Jacky to strive for high achievement and go after her true happiness in life.
- Ms. Windlass taught Cristina high school math and also showed her that a classroom can be a safe space when an educator cares about her students as individuals.
- Jessica's third grade teacher, Mrs. Newkirk, helped her discover a passion for reading.
- Elizabeth's AP English teacher during her junior year of high school, Mrs. Hargis, went so far as to help Elizabeth with her college applications and write a recommendation letter for her.

A great teacher can do a lot of good in a child's life, like Mrs. Howerton did for me. But equally, a bad teacher or daycare provider can do a lot of harm. Far too many daycares today are understaffed or hire staff who are



unqualified, undertrained, or a bad fit for working with kids.

In one case we resolved, a child struggling to learn was transferred from one daycare to another and immediately became a straight-A student. It turns out a staff member at the previous daycare was an alcoholic with a criminal history and an aggressive streak. The kids were so terrified of this person that they dreaded going to daycare, couldn't focus, and struggled to complete their work. It was a really sad situation, and I'm glad we were able to step in to help.

No one wants their child in that environment. Every parent should have a daycare they can count on like the one my sister found for my niece, Aria. Everyone on staff there is well-trained, and they supervise the kids extensively to keep them safe. Thanks to their help, Aria is ahead of the game identifying words and shapes.

If you know a child stuck in a bad daycare situation, please refer their parent or guardian to BLF. We fight to ensure kids get great teachers, like Mrs. Howerton, to put them on a brighter path for the future.

*-Russell Button*

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# OUR FIRM JUST LEVELED UP

WITH HELP FROM OUR OPERATIONS MANAGER, ELIZABETH!

Since May, our firm has had what you might call “a glow up.” Our onboarding process is better, our vendor relationships are stronger, every step we take is systematized, and our day-to-day operations have never run so smoothly — and it’s all thanks to Elizabeth Bauman, our new operations manager!

Within five weeks of taking the job, she’d already onboarded three new hires and was leading the charge on revamping our human resources and onboarding processes. At first, Elizabeth was nervous about onboarding so soon, but she had plenty of experience to guide her.

“I used to onboard people all the time in my last position [as the office and professional development manager at a large infrastructure solutions firm], so I’m very familiar with being able to navigate introducing somebody to a new place of

business,” she explains. “But BLF was also a new place of business for me! So I was very nervous about getting everything right. Fortunately, Russell was so helpful, and so was Ashley. The entire team has been great. Everyone is super collaborative and wants everyone else to succeed.”

Elizabeth’s skill set is exactly what we needed. We also knew she’d be a great culture fit, because she already had a connection to our team!

“Ashley and I met in 2017. She was on her honeymoon in Saint Lucia, and my husband and I were on vacation there,” Elizabeth says.

Ashley and Elizabeth stayed in touch, even though Elizabeth lived in Baton Rouge, LA. When we started talking about hiring

an operations manager, Elizabeth’s name came up. Now, she’s moving to Houston to work for us — along with her husband, Kelly, and their Jack Russell terrier, Daisy.

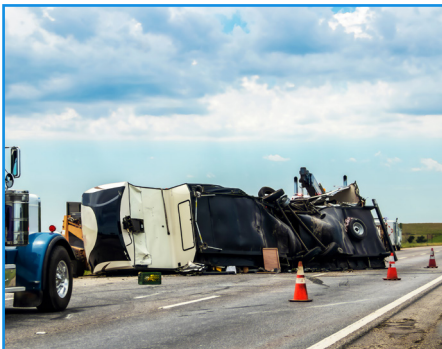
“Ashley told me back in 2017 that she was starting with this great new law firm called BLF. Little did I know I would be joining them five years later! The journey has been long to get here, but I’m super excited to finally be part of the team,” Elizabeth says.

We’re just as thrilled. As Russell put it, “Over all these years, we’ve tried and tried and tried to find a really good leader of operations. Now we finally found that person.” Hopefully if you meet Elizabeth, you’ll love her as much as we do.



## JUSTICE FOR A FAMILY LEFT BEHIND

### How We Secured a Full Policy Limits Settlement



When you’re fighting a battle against injustice, you need all of the troops you can get. That idea was probably on attorney Slav’s mind in 2020 when a gut-wrenching trucking accident case came across his desk. Slav quickly picked up the phone and called in the troops: our team at The Button Law Firm.

The collision took the life of a man we’ll call “Dave” — a loving husband and father

of three. Dave was hard at work loading vehicles onto a transportation truck when another driver swerved into the middle lane where he was parked. The driver collided with Dave and, although doctors fought to save his life, he passed away from his injuries.

The situation was truly tragic. Worse, it was preventable. The driver who hit Dave was an unqualified, untrained, and unsupervised employee driving a company car. They never should have been allowed behind the wheel.

As soon as our team heard the facts, we joined forces with Slav’s Los Angeles-based firm (Abir Cohen Treyzon & Salo) to pursue a wrongful death case and secure compensation for Dave’s family.

Of course, we knew that nothing could replace Dave’s life: He’ll never be able

to arm-wrestle with his son, walk his daughters down the aisle, or comfort his wife after a hard day again. In addition to that, Dave was also the main breadwinner for his wife and kids. His family needed money to pay his medical bills and move forward after the tragedy that tore them apart. So, we set out to get it for them.

Working with Slav and his team, we made a compelling case for Dave’s family and what they were owed. Ultimately, we asked the insurance company of the unqualified driver’s employer to settle for the full commercial policy limits and more.

Our hard work paid off. After a long fight, we settled Dave’s case and secured the funds his family needed. That money will never fill the hole Dave’s death left in their lives, but it will make things just a bit easier. As trucking accident and wrongful death attorneys, that’s the most we can hope for.

# PROTECT THE KIDS YOU LOVE FROM BOTTLE WARMER BURNS

At Home *and* at Daycare



Bottle warmers are great little devices: They can heat up breast milk or formula, warm jars of baby food, and even sanitize pacifiers. However, they're also one of the most dangerous pieces of equipment in daycare centers, and improper precautionary steps can put babies and toddlers at risk.

A bottle warmer that's left unattended or stored improperly is a nightmare waiting to happen. Our team regularly helps families with kids who have suffered bottle warmer burns at daycare. Recently, we represented the family of a young boy who was badly injured when a bottle warmer fell off the counter at his daycare and splashed boiling water on his face!

The little man was left with extremely painful second-degree burns — all because the staff his parents thought would protect him didn't do their jobs properly.

Something like that should never happen at a daycare facility. It's easy to childproof a bottle warmer, *and* it's required by state safety regulations. Daycare workers are required to make sure that bottle warmers are:

- Located on a counter
- Properly secured
- Free from dangling cords

In the best daycare facilities, bottle warmers are kept in a separate room that children can't access. You can use these same strategies if you have a bottle warmer at home. Unfortunately, too many daycare providers fail to follow these rules, either because they're understaffed or undertrained. Worse, occasionally daycare workers will use bottle warmers to intentionally abuse children.

This needs to stop, and you can help us make that happen. If your child or the child of someone you know has suffered a bottle warmer burn at daycare, please reach out to us right away by calling or visiting our website. The more facilities we hold accountable, the more kids we can protect!

At The Button Law Firm, our team works hard to make sure families have closure and are able to move forward after traumatic incidents like bottle warmer burns. That means we work to help them recover fair damages for things like their child's medical bills, physical pain, emotional suffering, and disfigurement caused by the burn. We can even seek compensation for the income they lost caring for their injured kiddo. We'll do whatever it takes to make things right.

## BLF HIGHLIGHT REEL



## CLIENT REVIEW

*"I've known Russell for some time now, and I can honestly say that he's one of the best attorneys in Texas. His law firm, The Button Law Firm, is widely known throughout the DFW area as one of the preeminent civil firms for complex litigation involving injury. Russell is extremely well-versed in many areas of personal injury law, including daycare facilities, CPS and state negligence, and wrongful death. His team is hard-working and dedicated to every client they represent. I would recommend Russell and The Button Law Firm without hesitation and with full faith and confidence."*

*-Tony R.*



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Alex and Bertha of New Image Lawn and Landscape.

When BLF first moved to our current office building, Russell didn't have a landscape company on call. Instead, he did all of the yardwork himself!

"I was out there mowing the lawn, pulling weeds, trimming branches, planting things, blowing the parking lot — all my off time went to that and cleaning the office for a while on my hands and knees," Russell remembers.

Eventually, Russell realized the more time he spent on landscaping, the less time he could spend advocating for our clients. So, he turned to a local company for help: New Image Lawn and Landscape.

## GET READY FOR FALL LEAF CLEANUP

### With Help From Our Favorite Local Landscapers

New Image has been a go-to landscaper for years among Russell's family and friends. They offer just about every commercial and residential service you can think of: landscape design, lawn and garden care, tree trimming, sod installation, concrete work, outdoor lighting repair, stone wall repair, spring and fall cleanup, Christmas lights, and more. You name it, they've done it.

"They're always responsive, they always show up on time, and they always leave your place looking better than it did when they got there," Russell says.

The quality of New Image's work isn't surprising when you dig into the company's history. Alex Perez, a savvy local landscaper, and his wife and business partner, Bertha, started the company from the ground up 15 years ago.

"He started cutting just the lawns and he started from there," explains Bertha, who runs New Image with her husband Alex, "At first, he was working for a cabinet and granite company, and then he ended up just being his own boss."

Alex, Bertha, and their team clearly take pride in their work. Bertha says their favorite parts of running a business in the Dallas-Fort Worth area is meeting new people, learning from them, and developing a friendly connection with customers.

Just like BLF, New Image is on a quest for constant improvement. In the coming months, they hope to beef up their already great customer service, and expand their company! To get in on their services before they're booked up, visit [NewImageLawnandLandscape.com](http://NewImageLawnandLandscape.com) or call **214-783-4252**.