

THE BUTTON LAW FIRM

HOT-BUTTON ISSUES

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WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

The Power of Storytelling and Why I Love to Listen

I've always loved stories. On Friday nights when I was in college, I went to a rib shack not far from campus and treated myself to some good cooking. It was an escape from my regular world. An elderly couple owned the rib shack, and I got to know them through my Friday night ritual. I'd come to their restaurant, they'd make me a nice meal, and I'd eat while they shared their stories. I cherished these evenings, and not just because of the excellent food.

My dad told stories throughout my childhood, and I think that's why I appreciate them so much. I enjoyed listening to his tales and hearing about how he grew. The same was true with my mom; I liked when she shared parts of her history. It was a peek into who my parents were before I came along. I also loved to sit with my grandparents and listen to them share anecdotes too. Hearing stories about someone related to you teaches you about yourself. It's like discovering a piece of who you are.

Storytelling is the act of sharing a journey. I devour biographies, and I think I like them so much because they tell a person's story and take you along for that journey. When I need a pick-me-up, I look to tales of how other people overcome obstacles. It helps to know where others find motivation.

These days, my passion for storytelling has extended to my work. It's become something of a ritual at The Button Law Firm. My team and I make time for storytelling because it builds empathy and compassion, brings us closer together, and encourages a team atmosphere. I like to learn about each person on my team and find out what's led them to The Button Law Firm. I want to learn about who's been inspirational in people's lives. For Gabriela, it's her mom; for Ashley, it's her dad. Details like these inform who a person is, and learning about my team helps me be a better leader.

My love for storytelling also helps me better serve my clients. We make it a priority to visit each of our clients at their homes at some point in their cases because it helps us understand their story. When we meet



in their homes, we see how they live. It's not them in our world; it's us in theirs. As trial lawyers, we get to see how people are affected by the wrong done to them. When I walk into one of their houses, I gain insight into how the collision or injury has turned their world upside down.

My favorite thing about going to someone's home is looking at their photos. I ask about other people in pictures, and I learn more about them than I ever would in a conference room. It helps me bond with my clients. I learn what an injury has taken from them and what they miss. In discovering this, I learn how we can best help an individual and their family.

Sometimes I find out which medical provider could best help them or what medical treatment they're missing. Maybe their physical pain has been addressed, but they could use emotional support. Once, I visited a client, and his wife made dinner for us. She grilled us steak, but cooked soup for her husband. I found out that he loves steak, but he couldn't eat it as a result of his injuries. It's these little details that show the full impact injuries have on their lives. And I only learn those details when I hear their stories.

I encourage you to try it out this month. Ask an acquaintance to share their story, and take the time to listen. You might be surprised by what you learn.

-Russell Button

DALLAS CAR-WRECK ATTORNEY HELPS HARDWORKING MAN GET CLOSURE AFTER BEING HIT BY A DRUNK AND DISTRACTED DRIVER

For those of us who have to work in other states or enjoy traveling, we sometimes take for granted what happens if we are involved in a major car wreck in another state. Here are some of the questions we frequently hear at The Button Law Firm:

- [Do I hire an attorney in the state I live in or the state the wreck was in?](#) We routinely handle cases of clients who live in another state but were injured in Texas. We are also referred several cases each year from lawyers in other states whose clients were injured in Texas. Either way, if you were injured in Texas, you are going to want a Texas attorney involved in your case sooner rather than later.
- [What are my rights when I'm injured in a car wreck in Texas?](#) Order any of our FREE guides or my FREE book to learn more about your rights when injured in a car wreck in Texas.

This case involved a fantastic, hardworking man named Cecil. He drove trucks for a living and lived in South Carolina. Imagine the nightmare he had when his tractor-trailer flipped after an accident involving an uninsured Dallas driver who was both drunk and distracted. Cecil was referred to us from a law firm in South Carolina because the wreck happened in Dallas, Texas. We appreciate the referrals we get from lawyers in other states.

WHAT HAPPENED TO CECIL WHILE DRIVING THROUGH DALLAS, TEXAS?

On Dec. 31, 2015, at 6:30 p.m., Cecil was on a work trip in Dallas when another driver on the road came across four lanes of traffic and slammed into his truck. This major wreck involved five cars, and it resulted in the highway being closed down.

The officers investigating the wreck determined that the driver who caused everything was intoxicated and charged him with DWI. Witnesses from behind the defendant driver said he was swerving for a while and driving at a high speed. It was also admitted by the defendant that he was texting while driving on the highway. Needless to say, this was the pure definition of a reckless driver.

LEARN HOW WE HELPED CECIL RECOVER WHEN THE AT-FAULT DRIVER DID NOT HAVE INSURANCE.

Unfortunately for Cecil, the driver who caused his injuries did not have insurance. Thus, the only course of action was making a claim on Cecil's own insurance for uninsured coverage, which is commonly referred to as UM/UIM coverage. Luckily for Cecil, he had two insurance policies that covered him for this wreck.

Once Cecil recovered from his injuries, we obtained all the medical records and medical bills and interviewed Cecil for a full damage profile to provide to his insurance companies.

At first, his insurance companies wanted to say that Cecil's injuries were not significant enough to warrant paying anything. He was back at work within nearly a month of the wreck. While he didn't have much in total lost wages*, he had significant nightmares from the major wreck and anxiety about getting back on the road. In fact, Cecil even considered getting out of the trucking industry because he wasn't sure he was going to be able to get behind the wheel again.

Once we showed the insurance company that our client was significantly injured, we were able to get the case resolved so that Cecil could get back on his feet financially, get all his medical bills paid, and receive closure on this life-changing wreck.

WHAT WAS IMPORTANT ABOUT THIS CASE FOR ALL DRIVERS?

At The Button Law Firm, we make sure that all avenues of recovery are evaluated. Many law firms quit when it is not easy. We thrive when the cases get complex, like this one involving Cecil. It involved an out-of-state insurance policy, a client who lived out of state, and a reckless driver without insurance. Most attorneys would run away. Instead, we took it head-on.

Thankfully, Cecil had UM/UIM auto insurance coverage. However, we wish he'd had personal injury protection (PIP) as well. If you do not have PIP protection or know what it is, you need to join our VIP program immediately. Send us your auto insurance policy and we will explain the coverage you currently have and the coverage you need to have — and most importantly, *why* you need to have it.

In this case, we also created awareness about the dangers of drunk and distracted driving. While we could not pursue the individual driver himself because he didn't have insurance or assets, we were able to right this wrong for Cecil.

[If you've been injured in an auto accident and want the same great treatment Cecil received, call Button Law Firm today.](#)

* For more information on calculating lost wages, read our article buttonlawfirm.com/library/how-do-you-calculate-lost-wages-for-your-car-wreck-dallas-car-wreck-attorney-explains.cfm.

THE BUTTON LAW FIRM'S 2018 RECAP

Here's what happened through the year



We truly enjoyed being able to help Jumpstart with their Back To School event. We look forward to hosting many more events with them!



Congratulations to one of our Mommy Makeover winners, Caroline! We had such a high response that we had to giveaway a second makeover to Rena.

We will be giving away free makeovers through the year of 2019 so make sure to join our VIP Program to be notified!

www.buttonlawfirm.com/mommymakeover

THE BUTTON LAW FIRM
VIP PROGRAM
MEMBER

YOUR NAME HERE

We launched our VIP Program in 2018. Our VIP Program is completely FREE and comes with many benefits. Sign up today to become part of our VIP family!

www.buttonlawfirm.com/VIP

THE BUTTON LAW FIRM

TEACHER OF THE MONTH



We are excited to announce that we are starting a teacher appreciation contest in 2019. At the beginning of every month, our polls will open and you will be able to nominate your child's teacher to help the teacher.

www.buttonlawfirm.com/teachers

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

THE BUTTON LAW FIRM'S ATTORNEY OF THE MONTH:

"When taking a disability case, you work for people who have nothing lose but when you win, you give them life and hope back"



COLIN SMITH

Get to know Colin:

Colin grew up deaf and encountered many difficulties as a result of it. Especially in college when one morning he woke up and couldn't hear anything leading him to master lip reading. Colin's mother raised him to believe he can be anything he wanted no matter the circumstances.

Colin Smith studied computer science at the University of Texas and was a software consultant prior to being an attorney. He got a major kick from helping other that he knew he wanted to help others with their legal issues. Colin attended SMU Deadman School of Law and has been practicing **Estate Planning, Business Law and Social Security**.

Having a disability himself allows him to understand his clients on a personal level and fights hard for all of them. A moment that Colin holds close to his heart is when he was able to win a disability case for a man who was living on the streets. Colin thought that his shoulders were going to break from the huge hug he received from his client.

About Colin Smith Law Firm, PLLC



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What Colin Said About The Button Law Firm

"My firm sends all personal injury claims to the Button Law Firm. Their attention to their clients and their cases is second to none!"

NEED A NOTARY?

Get It Notarized at The Button Law Firm

If you're in need of a notary, look no further. The Button Law Firm now has two certified notaries, Rosie and Gaby, who are happy to help get your important contracts and other documents notarized. "We just wanted to be able to help in the community," Gaby says of the firm's choice to provide this service. The notary service is available to everyone who is part of our VIP Program; just make sure to call us at our exclusive VIP hotline beforehand.

WHY HAVE DOCUMENTS NOTARIZED?

When certain official documents are signed, like those completed when someone is closing on a house, they require a designated impartial witness — a notary — to be present. The notary is there to verify the identity of the person signing, to make sure they are signing of their own will and not under duress or intimidation, and that they know what is included in the document or transaction they are signing. Other documents that may require notarization are property deeds, wills and powers of attorney, and prenuptial agreements. Notaries help see to it that these documents are executed properly.

As official representatives of the state, notaries are duty-bound to see that these principles are upheld. They are also duty-bound to not serve as a notary in any situation in which they might not be impartial. As an impartial representative, they can never refuse service based on a person's race, nationality, religion, politics, sexual orientation,



or status as a non-customer. They are present to deter fraud when a document or transaction is signed, and to verify that it is done according to the law.

CHOOSE A FREE NOTARY SERVICE

Some notaries charge small fees for their services, but The Button Law Firm is offering this service free of charge.

Notarization is just one of the free services The Button Law Firm offers when you're a VIP member. Sign up for our VIP program today — it's free and accessible to everyone. Sign up for VIP notary service and get access to other great services and resources at buttonlawvip.com.

MEMES



PEANUT BUTTER AND BERRY FRENCH TOAST

INGREDIENTS

- 8 slices brioche, 1/2-inch thick
- 1/4 cup creamy peanut butter
- 2 large eggs
- 1/8 cup heavy cream
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 2 cups cornflakes
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 cups mixed berries
- Powdered sugar, to sprinkle
- Maple syrup, for serving

Inspired by Delish

DIRECTIONS

1. On a large baking sheet lined with wax paper, place 4 slices of brioche and spread 1 tablespoon of peanut butter on each. Cover with remaining slices, creating sandwiches.
2. In a pie plate, beat eggs with cream and vanilla. In another, coarsely crush the cornflakes.
3. Lightly soak sandwiches in the egg mixture, then dredge in cornflakes, pressing to adhere. Return to baking sheet.
4. In a large skillet over medium heat, melt 1 tablespoon butter. Once melted and up to temperature, add sandwiches, cooking on one side until golden and crisp, about 2-3 minutes.
5. Return sandwiches to baking sheet, add remaining butter, and repeat on other side.
6. Top sandwiches with berries, sprinkle with powdered sugar, and serve with maple syrup.

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A HIGHWAY RESCUE TO SAVE THREE HAPPY, MUDDY DOGS

How Ashley and Russell Saved the Day

On a weekday afternoon, Russell and Ashley were on their way to visit a client, which is a task they prioritize in every case. But unlike other visits, this one had a surprising detour. This is the story of how a simple client visit turned into the brave rescue of three lost dogs.

Russell had missed the exit, and he and Ashley were driving along a service road next to the highway. There was a big field to their right, and the highway was to their left. Suddenly, Ashley slapped Russell across the chest and told him to pull over. He then saw what had made Ashley act: There were three dogs running toward them.

Ashley didn't even finish her train of thought as Russell found a safe place to pull over. She jumped out of the car and ran toward the dogs, calling them to her to prevent them from running onto the highway. The energetic trio consisted of a black pug, a husky-shepherd mix, and a huge husky. They were skittish and didn't immediately run toward Ashley. In fact, they started moving in the opposite direction.

"I have a treat," Ashley told them. The little pug turned around and started coming toward her. She was able to grab ahold of its collar to see the contact information for their vet. By now, the husky mix was interested and came over. Both dogs wagged their tails, with the pug attempting to catch its breath, as Ashley dialed the number for their vet.

By this point, Russell was out of the car, helping keep hold of the wet, muddy dogs. Meanwhile, the third dog, the husky, was still loose, so as Ashley was on the phone with the vet, Russell put the pug and husky-



shepherd in the back of his car and attempted to herd the last pup. As Ashley describes, Russell ran around a hay bale to contain the husky until it finally jumped into the car. With the three dogs in the car — the pug having claimed a place in the front, with its wet, muddy body resting on the center console (Russell's bag is still stained to this day) — Russell and Ashley delivered them safely to their owner. They then got back on their way to their original destination, only a little muddier than before.

This story speaks to the lengths our attorneys will go to lend a helping hand. Despite being in the middle of nowhere, on the job, and having a million things on her mind, Ashley's heart for animals won the day. It just goes to show that our attorneys have a passion for all living beings — people and canines alike.