

## HOT-BUTTON ISSUES

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## THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

## Why I Miss Meeting Clients Where They Live

In "The Wizard of Oz" when Dorothy is exhausted by her adventure, she clicks the heels of her ruby slippers three times and thinks of the phrase, "There's no place like home" to transport herself back to Kansas. This magic spell from Glinda the Good Witch shouldn't have anything to do with my life here in Texas, but I can't help but think about it around the holidays. When it comes to sitting down at the table for Thanksgiving, there really is no place like home.

I've been a homebody for as long as I can remember. My parents loved to take my family camping when we were kids, but they also worked hard to make our house a place where my friends would like to visit. We spent endless hours shooting hoops in the driveway, fishing in nearby canals, and swimming in our backyard pool. We also had Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners around our kitchen table. When I grew up, I wanted to hang onto that warm, cozy feeling, but I've never had a house that really felt like home — until now!

Late this summer, I closed on a renovated 1968 home in a quiet neighborhood here in Dallas. I've had a townhome for the last eight years, but I've grown and matured since I bought it, and I wanted something in a more laid-back area with access to local lakes and trail systems. My amazing realtor, Lacy Milani, helped me find this perfect spot. (Our search was epic, and you can read more about it on Pg. 4!) I'm sitting on the big backyard patio as I write this, watching my dog run through the grass. It feels like heaven.

I'm a big fan of patio time because I like to reflect and unwind outdoors after a long day. That was one of my rituals before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, but since the virus forced us all to stay home, it has become even more important to me. I think we've probably all grown to appreciate our homes more now that they're doing double duty as offices and schools. It's really important to have a home that you can enjoy and feel comfortable and happy in, especially right now when leaving it isn't really an option.

Over the years, my work has helped me put the concept of home into perspective. Back before COVID-19, my team and I used to do a lot of home visits to get to know our clients better. Through that process, I realized just how much I was taking for granted and how special a functioning, happy, comfortable home life really is. A traumatic injury can have a huge impact on the home and really every aspect of a person's world. We've met with clients who can no longer share a bed with their spouse because of their injury, who have to sleep in the living room because they can't climb stairs, or who can't access whole areas of their homes that aren't wheelchair-friendly. An injury or a death in the family changes everything, and seeing that up close made me appreciate what I have even more. It also helped me understand my clients better and be a better advocate and lawyer.



I miss being able to do those home visits. I'm looking forward to the day when it's safe for me and my team to meet our clients that way again and to get to know them through their daily rituals and routines. As Thanksgiving approaches, I've been thinking about those experiences more and more. Home is so important during the holidays. It's where we put up our Christmas trees, open our presents, and gather around the table to talk and eat as a family.

Even if things look different this year, I know that one day, I'll be able to host my whole family for Thanksgiving and have my team over for a housewarming meal. In the meantime, I'm going to cherish these quiet moments in my new house. I hope that you also have a home that you love and appreciate this holiday season, whether it's a mansion or a studio apartment. Like Dorothy says, there's no place like it.

*-Russell Button*

# GIRL MEETS BIKE: A LOVE STORY

## ASHLEY'S ALL-TIME FAVORITE CHRISTMAS GIFT

Strolling into BLF lawyer Ashley's garage is a bit like walking into a gym. Over the last six months, she's stocked the space with free weights, resistance bands, and all kinds of other fitness paraphernalia. The pandemic kick-started the process, but it was really inspired by one special piece of equipment: her Peloton bike.

"My husband got it for me as a Christmas gift in 2018, and it was delivered in Jan. 2019, almost two years ago now," Ashley explains. "It's a stationary cycling bike, but it also has strength training, bootcamps, running, Pilates, yoga, and meditation. Any type of workout you can imagine is available through the bike and the app."

Peloton made a lot of headlines last year, but Ashley was a fan long before its controversial ad came out. As an avid cyclist, she says the bike was the perfect gift for her, but she really doubled down on using it in August of 2019 when her father passed away.

"It was my way of taking some time for myself," she says.

Once she started using the bike more regularly, Ashley truly fell in love with everything its programs have to offer. In fact, she's the first to admit she might be a little obsessed.

"I use it as my way to escape and get myself feeling better mentally, physically, and emotionally," Ashley says.

"All of the instructors are awesome, and it's like one big family. I've gotten more and more into the community since I got the bike. I keep up with the news and other stuff they put out on social media, and I'm following the instructors personally."



After the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Ashley started cycling on her Peloton every day and got more invested in the sport. She's done about 400 rides and 200 strength training classes on the bike now and says she's in the best shape of her life. If you're on the hunt for a Christmas gift (even for yourself), the Peloton could be a game-changer.

"People always say the Peloton is too expensive, but it actually cost less than what I was paying to go to 24 Hour Fitness in my neighborhood," Ashley says.

If you want to give the idea a spin, Ashley is happy to share her experience and even her discount code! You can email her to talk cycling at [Ashley@ButtonLawFirm.com](mailto:Ashley@ButtonLawFirm.com).

## GET COOKING WITH OUR TEAM!

### 'FLAVOR OF LAW' IS HEADING TO YOUR MAILBOX

Unfortunately, it isn't possible to seat every one of our clients and friends around a giant Thanksgiving table this year. There's social distancing to consider for one thing, and then we'd need to find a table big enough! After we gave up on that idea, we realized we *could* do one thing to help you celebrate the holiday: send the makings of a delicious feast to your doorstep.

With that in mind, our team put together "Flavor of Law," a cookbook packed with homemade recipes from everyone in our little family. In addition to appetizers, main dishes, sides, and desserts from our team, you'll also find anecdotes and family photos scattered across the pages.

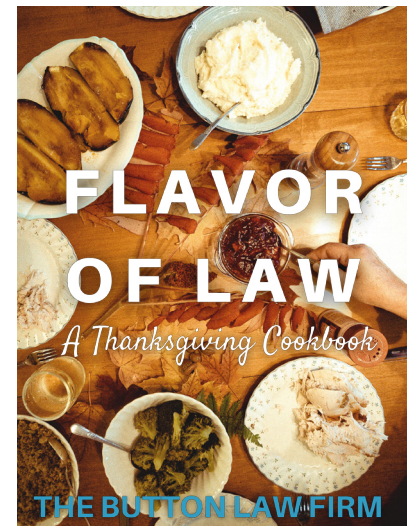
"I started collecting everyone's recipes and putting it together, and it's been fun!" Ashley says. "Everyone had to come up with something they would normally cook. It turned out to be a nice little representation of who we are, and every recipe has its own personality depending on who submitted it."

Ashley admits that she isn't much of a cook, so she's sharing her husband's mac and cheese recipe and her Cuban grandmother's black beans and rice. For his part, Russell contributed recipes for two classics: roast and green bean casserole.

"We consider our referring attorneys, clients, and other contacts to be family," Russell explains. "Even though we can't do Thanksgiving with everybody, we wanted to do more than an email or a postcard. Ashley and Tiffany really took the cookbook idea and ran with it!"

If you haven't already gotten your copy of "Flavor of Law" in the mail, it should arrive any day now! You can also expect a digital version in your email inbox. Once you've flipped through the cookbook, check our Facebook page ([Facebook.com/ButtonLawFirm](https://www.facebook.com/ButtonLawFirm)) for details on a fun Thanksgiving contest that goes with it. It's a tasty challenge you won't want to miss.

From our family to yours, have a happy Thanksgiving and happy cooking!



# A TALE OF TWO HEROES



Taylor Foote

Veterans Day is just around the corner, and here at The Button Law Firm, we're lucky enough to know two incredible veterans: First Lieutenant Foote

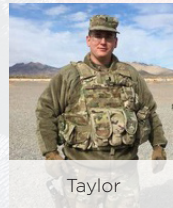
and Commander Jiminez. Russell's link with Commander Jiminez dates back to his college days playing basketball.

"There was a guy who came to nearly every one of my games," Russell recalls. "I still remember where he sat, right behind the goal we would shoot on during the second half of every game. He was a disabled veteran. He gave me a package, shook my hand, and said, 'It's been an honor to watch you play basketball. My family and I love watching and supporting you. We're your biggest fans, even though you don't know it.'"

The package was full of notes and photos Commander Jiminez had taken of Russell on the court. As soon as he opened it, Russell wrote the commander a thank-you note, and on Veterans Day he gave him a call.

"I ended up calling him on Veterans Day every day for 10 years until he passed away," Russell says. "I'll never forget him."

Our firm's executive assistant, Tiffany, has an even closer veteran connection. Her husband, First Lieutenant Taylor Foote, is in the Texas Army National Guard.



Taylor

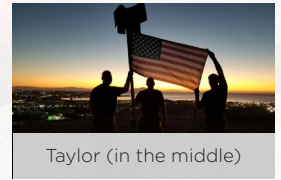
"My uncle was a service member, and I remember when I was about knee-high seeing his uniform, the old army BDUs in green, black, and browns. As long as I can remember, serving is the only thing I ever wanted to do," Taylor says.

Since 2011, Taylor has served both overseas and here in Texas.

During his deployment to Egypt in 2018, he worked with soldiers from all over the world as part of the Multinational Force and Observers, an international peacekeeping mission. At home, he responds to hurricanes and other disasters.

"I'm still getting used to the idea of being a veteran, per se. It took me eight years of being in the army and an overseas deployment before I was considered a vet," Taylor says. "I think of Veterans Day as a means to honor the 1% that want to go and fight. There are people way more deserving of the thanks than I am."

Taylor, your humility and bravery are inspiring. We can't thank you enough for everything you do! To you and all of the veterans out there, Happy Veterans Day!



Taylor (in the middle)

## BUTTON LAW HIGHLIGHT REEL

## REVIEW

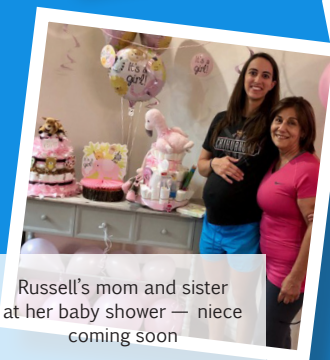


One of the most remarkable things about The Button Law Firm that stood out to me was their attention to their clients. The entire team and staff worked so closely with me on my case, despite my difficult work schedule. Each member was incredibly mindful of supporting me beyond the office and on my case. Furthermore, Russell was extremely well equipped to handle the difficulties of my case and to also keep me well informed during the process. I think as a client, feeling a part of the process is so important, and this firm gave me that. Couldn't recommend a better team to represent anyone else. Thank you all again!

*Ivy G.*



Harley's day out in Houston with Ashley and Cristina



Russell's mom and sister at her baby shower — niece coming soon



Russell and Ashley shooting our new videos — stay tuned

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## 50 HOUSE TOURS, 4 DAYS, 1 AMAZING REALTOR

Lacy Milani Will Do Whatever It Takes to Find Her Clients a Home



This summer, Russell closed on a renovated 1968 home in a quiet neighborhood here in Dallas. The house is pretty much perfect, but finding it wasn't easy. To pick it out of the pack,

Russell and his realtor, Lacy Milani, went on a whirlwind tour of the city that would exhaust even the most experienced bands and roadies.

"Lacy worked her butt off," Russell says. "In my past experience, a lot of realtors are lazy, but whenever I wanted to look at something, she made the time. We looked at 36 houses in one weekend, and 10 in another — collectively, I think she showed me 50 houses in four days! We didn't even stop for meals; she was in straight work mode. She was like, 'Let's push through, let's go, let's do this!'"

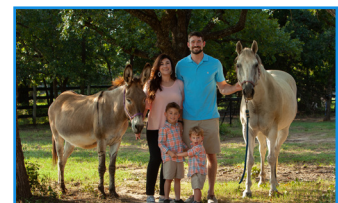
Remembering the experience makes Lacy laugh.

"I will say I'm probably one of the most tenacious people I know," she admits. "I'm willing to show as many houses as it takes, including what I did for Russell. I'm willing to do that because I want my clients to be super happy with their homes in the end."

Lacy was born and raised here in Dallas and has been a realtor with Keller Williams for nearly five years.

"I really enjoy meeting all different kinds of people, and I love first-time home buyers because they are so excited," Lacy says. "I was one not too long ago, and I had a terrible real estate agent. They didn't really walk me through it, and I kind of took that experience and ran with it to try and help first-time home buyers."

In addition to her tenacity and experience, Lacy has something else going for her: a giving heart. She and her family love fostering animals for local rescues. Over the years, they've helped more than 190 dogs, cats, horses, and donkeys.



"In order to loop in my passion and my job, I donate a

percentage of my commission to an animal rescue," she explains. Her clients pick their favorite local nonprofits for the honor.

If you're in the market to buy or sell a home, Russell can't recommend Lacy highly enough! You can reach her by calling or texting 214-228-7936 or emailing [LacyMilani@kw.com](mailto:LacyMilani@kw.com).