

HOT-BUTTON ISSUES

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CONGRATULATIONS ON 4 AMAZING YEARS!

Ashley Celebrates Latest Anniversary With BLF

This month, I'm stepping back from the newsletter to let someone special shine. It's Ashley's four-year anniversary as an attorney with our firm, and I invited her to share her experience with you! As you probably know by now, I'm pretty much Ashley's No. 1 fan. Hiring her four years ago transformed our team and set us on an incredible path of growth and development.

Ashley and I push each other, hold each other accountable, and inspire each other as we and the rest of the team help families through hard times. I'm grateful not only that Ashley is in BLF's corner, but that we also have someone so dedicated and caring as an advocate for our clients. It's an honor to work with Ashley every day, and beyond that, it's fun! Now, I'll hand over the mic.

—Russell Button

Thanks for the kind words, Russell. It's incredible to me that I've already spent four years with BLF. I have wanted to do what I do today for my entire life. What I never expected was how I would change as a person along the way.

Most lawyers I know have grown jaded over their time of practicing law. They've gotten harder. They've lost a little faith in humanity because of what they see and the world they live in. But my experience has catapulted me in the opposite direction — toward growth. Since starting with BLF, I have become a more empathetic and wholehearted person.

Our team steps into the lives of others and takes over their burdens during what are often their toughest, lowest, and most difficult times. That job can do one of two things — it can wear you down, chew you up, and spit you out; or it can inspire you, solidify your purpose in life, and teach you to always keep an open heart because you never really know what someone else is going through. For me, it did the latter. Because of this team and what we do, I move through life with more empathy. I wear my heart on my sleeve and have learned to stop for a moment and take in things with gratitude — even the tough times. I am more forgiving, more vulnerable, and more comfortable with being myself no matter what the situation.

Over my years at BLF, we've achieved some amazing milestones.

- We found our rock: our litigation paralegal, Rosie. There are no words to describe everything she does for us.
- I finally managed to convince my sister, Cristina, to make the move from Chicago to Texas to join us as a paralegal. She became the leader I always knew she would be, and I love being close to her and my niece.
- We hired Jacqueline, our full-time marketing and brand manager. She totally revived our marketing and helps families that need help find our team faster.
- We transitioned to Practice Panther, a new case management system. I've spent countless hours inputting case information into PP, creating written policies and procedures, testing it, and prepping it for our launch. PP helps us work in a more



organized, efficient way to help our clients even more effectively.

- We're now taking on more cases and more important cases than ever. Our cases today have an amazing amount of potential to impact our community and change things for the better.
- I am so incredibly grateful to this team for making sure that I grew rather than crumbled. Without the constant support of Russell and the rest of the team, I feel like I would be just another jaded lawyer. It's incredible at my age to feel like I have accomplished the biggest goal I set for myself in high school: Find a place to work that feels like home, feels like belonging, and feels like you are making a difference to someone, somewhere. I can go to sleep every night knowing BLF is that place, and there is nothing I wouldn't do for this team and our clients.

—Ashley Washington

WELCOME TO THE TEAM, JACKY!

MEET OUR NEW PARALEGAL/CLASSIC CAR MECHANIC

The BLF family is growing! This summer, we welcomed another paralegal to our team, Jacky Bejarano. Jacky came to us fresh from a paralegal internship with another personal injury firm, so she had the perfect background to hop into helping with our daycare cases. On top of that, Jacky has the work ethic, commitment, and professionalism we always look for in new team members. She clicked with our other awesome paralegals, Cristina and Rosie, right away.

“Cristina and Rosie are great mentors,” she says. “They started me off with really good guidance, and it’s thanks to them that I picked things up quickly!”

Jacky is already busy handling our intake calls, chatting with clients about their cases, collecting medical records, and checking in on how our clients’ medical treatments are going. By the time you read this, you may have already met her over the phone.

When she isn’t at work, Jacky has a really cool hobby: She restores classic cars!

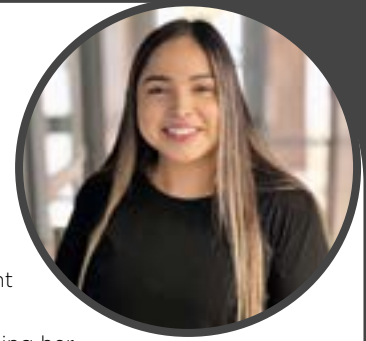
“I just like buying old junk cars and fixing them up. Currently I’m still working on a 1979 Z28 Camaro that I bought over the summer. This

is my second big project. It’s fun to take them apart, figure out what’s wrong with them, and try to fix them,” she says.

Growing up in South Texas, Jacky learned the basics of mechanics from her uncle. From there, she taught herself after buying her first car and realizing she could save money by doing her own oil changes. Today, she zips to work in a bright blue FIAT 500 and tinkers with her Camaro in her free time. When Jacky isn’t under the hood, her family’s animals — including horses, dogs, turkeys, chickens, and rabbits — keep her busy!

“Jacky hit the ground running here at BLF,” Russell says. “Not only has she grown day by day, but she has also dominated everything we’ve given her and truly expanded the role we envisioned. She never makes the same mistake twice, and she has that ‘it’ factor that you just can’t teach.”

Welcome to the family, Jacky!



BLF HOLDS A NEGLIGENT DRIVER ACCOUNTABLE

How We Secured Justice for an Injured Client

In 2018 alone, 400,000 people were injured in car crashes because of distracted drivers. These drivers are often texting, emailing, talking to their passengers, fiddling with the radio, or just daydreaming — all innocent activities until you do them behind the wheel. This spring, one such negligent person ran a red light and permanently changed the life of our client.

Our client, who we’ll call Joe, was crossing an intersection when the distracted driver sped through a red light and T-boned his vehicle on the passenger side. The impact was devastating. Joe was rushed to the hospital with severe back and shoulder injuries that required thousands of dollars in surgery and months of rehabilitation. Joe’s



right hand, arm, and shoulder were hurt particularly badly. His doctors had to insert fiber wire sutures and a screw into his biceps to give him use of his arm again.

These injuries forced Joe’s life to a halt. He had to miss nights out with his friends, important birthday events, and family reunions because he couldn’t travel during his recovery. He also had to give up his hobbies, including golfing and exercising. He can only last an hour or two on the golf course now before the pain becomes too much for him, and he can’t lift weights at all.

When Joe came to us for help, we knew right away that we’d be able to hold the other driver accountable and get justice for him. Body cam footage revealed that the distracted driver had admitted fault for the collision at the scene, and we used that evidence to go to bat for Joe and demand compensation for him from the other driver’s insurance company.

Our argument prevailed! We secured Joe the money he needed to pay his medical bills and start his new life on a better foot. No amount of money can make up for the constant pain Joe is in or the hobbies he lost, but we’re proud to have done our part to help him start a new chapter.

LOVE PLANTS? CHECK OUT ROOTING FOR HOU!

Friend of the Firm Elynore Gorospe Brings Exotic Greenery to Houston

Thousands of people picked up new hobbies during the lockdown, and Houston mom Elynore Gorospe was one of them. In fact, she went way beyond a hobby — she created a brand-new business!

Elynore oversees accounting operations for a big company by day, but on nights and weekends, she imports exotic plants for her side hustle, Rooting for Hou, and sells them at local farmers markets. Her passion for houseplants started when she was a little girl in the Philippines. There, her grandmother raised beautiful plants to pot and rent to local office buildings.

“She was always propagating in the garden, and they had a big family house where they had all

of the tropical fruit trees and plants like guavas, watermelons, mangos, coconuts, and papaya,” Elynore remembers.

After moving to the U.S., Elynore started collecting common house plants like ZZ plants and snake plants, but she soon got more ambitious. Today, her passion for greenery has spread to her home’s backyard, sunroom, and patio, where she grows and propagates unique tropical plants imported from overseas.

“I sell tropical or rare plants like anthuriums, philodendrons, and hoyas from tropical countries like Indonesia, Thailand, and Ecuador,” she says. “On top of that, I also do some backyard gardening, so once in a while, I sell some of my

extra seedlings for vegetable plants and fruit trees.”

Rooting for Hou is a true family business. Elynore’s husband, Vladimir, helps with the heavy lifting of planting trees and hauling dirt. Their kids, 5-year-old Eliot and 2-year-old Maya, also pitch in with propagating, watering, and raising monarch butterflies (Elynore’s other hobby).

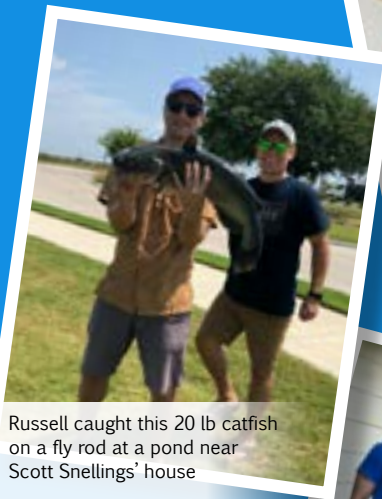
“Eliot likes to pull my potatoes, garlic, and ginger, and to pick tomatoes. It’s just one more way to help them avoid screen time and get them moving in the backyard,” Elynore says.

To learn more about Elynore’s small local business, follow @rootingforhou on Instagram or visit Elynore at the HOU Grew It, Plant Market Sunday, or A Flora Faire markets. There, she sells her plants along with hand-woven baskets and hats made by indigenous women in the Philippines from abaca and pinya (pineapple) fibers. How cool is that?



Ely at the Rooting for Hou Booth

BLF HIGHLIGHT REEL



Russell caught this 20 lb catfish on a fly rod at a pond near Scott Snellings’ house



The BLF team went to an escape room for a team day



Russell grilling his first brisket on his new Traeger grill

CLIENT REVIEW

“The Button Law Firm took my case and got it knocked out of the park. Their communication was great throughout the whole process. They were clear, direct, and patient the entire time. I certainly would recommend reaching out to them if you’re in need of legal assistance in the DFW area.”

Zach G..

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IN LOVING MEMORY OF BABA JOON

Russell Says Goodbye to His Grandfather

This summer, my family said goodbye to someone very special — my grandfather, who I grew up calling Baba Joon. He was my mother's father, and I was fortunate enough to spend a lot of quality time with him and my grandmother while they were still with us. Baba Joon lived into his 90s, and he and my grandmother were together for 75 years. I always admired the love they had for each other and the way they showed it to us grandkids, too.

Growing up, my grandparents were constants in my life. Baba Joon showed up to every event I participated in. He never missed a basketball game or school graduation. At family events, my sister and I taught him and our grandmother English, and they taught us words in Farsi.

Despite that language barrier, we were very close. I'll never forget the meals our family cooked together. My grandma was the main chef until she passed away in 2019, and Baba Joon was her sous chef. He was in charge of the shirazi salad — a light, refreshing dish made with finely chopped vegetables and bright, citrusy dressing. I can't count the number of days Baba Joon started

chopping vegetables before I left for school, and was still chopping, surrounded by tiny bowls of ingredients, when I came home!

My grandfather also helped inspire me to become an entrepreneur. He was a self-starter, and he owned his own farms, orchards, and gardens. He controlled the entire supply chain, including a transportation company with trucks and trailers that would ferry the almonds and fresh produce he grew from the fields to the stores.

As you can imagine, Baba Joon had a huge garden at home! My mom inherited his green thumb, and now my sister and I both have gardens, too. Every time I tend to mine, I think about Baba Joon and feel proud to carry on a bit of his legacy.

I was fortunate to get to know my grandfather over the years. Even though he's gone now, I hope I can continue to make him proud!

