

## THE BUTTON LAW FIRM

## HOT-BUTTON ISSUES

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## MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN 2020

If The Button Law Firm were a person, it would be running around, busy packing its backpack to start first grade this fall. That's right — our firm just turned 6! I can't believe it has already been six years since I first hung my own shingle. On the one hand, Jan. 22, 2015, feels like yesterday, but on the other, it seems like we did so much in 2020 alone.

#### Just last year, BLF ...

- 1. Helped our clients permanently shut down the Ranch for Kids in Rexford, Montana, where dozens of children were abused and mistreated.** This facility's actions were unforgivable: Its staff harmed and neglected children and manipulated the public. In 2019, we started helping survivors and their families share their stories and work with the state of Montana to get the Ranch's permits pulled and shut it down forever. In 2020, we won! With the help of brave people like our clients, we're going to continue holding facilities that neglect and abuse children accountable.
- 2. Fought for our clients' rights to access evidence in a product liability case and won, creating the opportunity for new laws that will help future plaintiffs get justice.** In this case, our client was a victim of a medical device that often malfunctioned and burned people. When the manufacturer tried to withhold evidence of that history, we fought hard to bring the truth to light. We challenged their objections at the trial court level, and the judge ordered that they hand over the documents they were trying to keep from us. The company kept pushing back, but after another battle at the appellate court level, justice won out. This was a win for our clients, and it gave the appellate court the opportunity to put laws into place so future plaintiffs can access crucial evidence in their own cases.
- 3. Enabled our clients to force the permanent closure of a mismanaged, dangerous daycare here in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.** Two different families came to us for help because of this daycare, which repeatedly violated safety protocols and put kids

at risk. We helped the first family win a settlement that forced the daycare to temporarily close to conduct more training. Eventually, a second family came forward and it became clear the mismanagement hadn't stopped. Thanks to their determination to protect future kids, we made sure the facility closed its doors forever and will never harm another child.

- 4. Protected our clients' right to a trial by jury when they went up against an irresponsible funeral home, ensuring future plaintiffs can't be taken advantage of.** In this crazy case, a funeral home mixed up two bodies and buried our clients' loved one in the wrong grave. When our client found out, the funeral home tried to lie and cover up its mistake, but our client stood up for what was right. With our help, they beat back the opposing lawyer's claims that they were bound by a funeral contract they had never signed. This allowed them to avoid arbitration and hold the funeral home accountable, protecting their Seventh Amendment right and the rights of future plaintiffs who go up against companies wrongfully pushing arbitration.

BLF never would have made it this far without our amazing team. Two of these battles (No. 2 and No. 4) were led by Ashley and another excellent attorney, Heather Long. As of this anniversary, Ashley and Rosie have both been with BLF for the majority of the time it has been open. They're an integral part of the team, along with Desiree and Cristina, and a big reason our vision of "making a difference" became possible.

We're going to keep striving to make a positive impact on our clients, our community, and the law. It's amazing to stand where we are now and look back at the list of people who have been saved or protected by our clients' bravery. Because of their determination, that list of changed lives is getting longer every day.

I look forward to seeing BLF continue to grow and evolve this year. If you're fighting for your rights and the safety of others right now, know we're a safe place to turn to. Together, we can make a difference!

**Get Ready!** Ashley and Russell were interviewed by Kenny Berger on his "Best Practices" podcast. They discuss BLF's unique team approach, cutting edge processes, and why they are so passionate about daycare injury cases involving kids. **Keep an eye out — coming soon!**

Russell Button

# SLEEK! SIMPLE! INFORMATIVE!

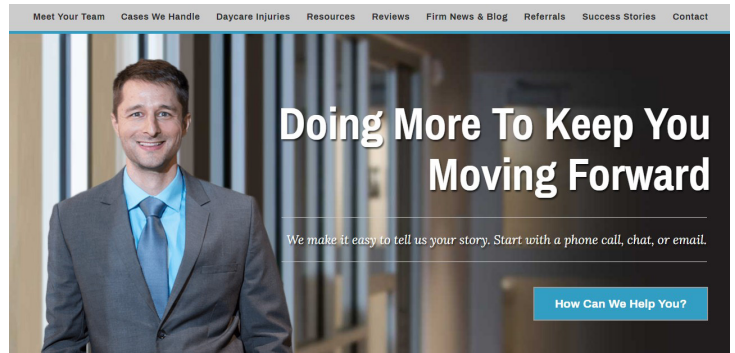
CHECK OUT THE NEW AND IMPROVED [BUTTONLAWFIRM.COM](http://BUTTONLAWFIRM.COM)

If you're a regular reader of this newsletter, then you know that everything we do here at BLF ties back to our core values. That's true whether we're working on a case or just ordering lunch for the office — even our recent website redesign fits the bill!

Late last year, Russell and Ashley decided that ButtonLawFirm.com needed a refresh. It was a bit clunky and outdated, and they wanted to update it to fit two of our most important core values: "Keep It Simple" and "Educate." To make it happen, they brought in the experts at Foster Web Marketing.

"Foster worked with us for three months, going back and forth on what we wanted. Then after three more months of edits, we were really happy with the website, and it was launched by the end of 2020!" Russell says.

If you haven't visited the new and improved ButtonLawFirm.com, take a minute right now to check it out. Thanks to Foster's upgrades, it's more user-friendly than ever. We kept it simple, so a little scrolling allows you to read up on all of our team members, read reviews from other clients, and find out everything you need to know about the case types we handle: daycare injuries, car and truck accidents, catastrophic injuries, wrongful death cases, and more.



In each of those case sections, you'll find a wealth of information to guide you through the legal process. That's where the "Educate" core value comes in! We don't have any secrets or gimmicks — we want to give potential clients as much of a head start as possible by sharing all of our tips and experience. If you have a friend or family member who could benefit from our help, send them to our website! They can scope out our past cases and read up on their situation without any pressure to call us (though, of course, we'd love it if they did).

Have you checked out ButtonLawFirm.com yet this year? If you have, we'd love to know what you think. Shoot Russell an email at [Russell@ButtonLawFirm.com](mailto:Russell@ButtonLawFirm.com).

## THE 3-HOUR LUNCH THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING

### Meet One of Russell's Best Friends, Attorney Scott Snellings!



Four years ago, attorney Scott Snellings invited Russell to a lunch that changed his life. Scott runs a personal injury law firm in Frisco and

specializes in traumatic brain injury cases. But back in 2017, a family friend asked him for help with a daycare case. When he started looking for another attorney who could step in, he found Russell.

"We ended up having a three-hour lunch!" Scott recalls with a laugh. "We just had so much in common. We have the same thought processes and passions."

Since then, Scott has joined forces with us on a handful of big cases, including the

dog bite case we detailed on Pg. 3. He's a rock star in the courtroom, and what started out as a business relationship quickly became a friendship.

"I think two principles Russell and I both live by are 'always be learning' and 'always stay positive.' ... We're both constantly learning and bouncing ideas off each other, and we're both passionate about helping injured people," Scott says.

Snellings Law shares a lot of core values with our team. Every month, they do a service project to give back to the community and their clients.

"We've done 5Ks to support brain injury victims, donated toys to Toys for Tots, done bags for Meals on Wheels, and donated food to Minnie's Food Pantry. This month we'll be providing gift bags to nurses at a local hospital," Scott says.

What's not to love about a guy like that?

This year will be a big one for Scott. In 2020, he served as vice president of the Collin County Bar Association (CCBA), and this summer, he is set to take over as president after being approved by the Board. He has already spent five years on CCBA's board and served on its judicial committee, so he's optimistic about his odds — and so is Russell!

"It's a culmination of his ability to build relationships, get along with people, and make a difference in his community," Russell says. "Scott deserves recognition for that, and it will be a complete game-changer."

We can't wait to see how the vote turns out this June! In the meantime, if someone you know needs help with a traumatic brain injury case, we can't recommend Scott highly enough. Check him out at [SnellingsInjuryLaw.com](http://SnellingsInjuryLaw.com).

# VICIOUS DOGS CAN'T KEEP HIM DOWN!

## How One BLF Client Embodies National Get Up Day

Feb. 1 was National Get Up Day — a holiday dedicated to celebrating the strength, perseverance, and courage it takes to hoist yourself up after a fall and keep pushing forward. Figure skaters created the holiday, but it's just as applicable off the ice. Here at BLF, our clients truly embody this resilience. They stand up against unfair treatment and fight for justice. It takes a lot of strength, and nowhere is that clearer than in the case of one particular client, whom we'll call Fred.

Fred is one of the nicest people we've ever met. He's an older gentleman who was living alone when we worked with him. Unfortunately, his next-door neighbor's property management company failed him badly. They allowed a dangerous pit bull to live near Fred and didn't check that its owner was following proper safety practices, like making sure the dog was restrained or secured in a crate. Because

of that negligence, the dog attacked Fred not once but *twice* on the property where he lived.

The attacks were terrible. Both times, the dog knocked Fred to the ground, causing serious physical and emotional damage. The second fall was so bad that Fred thought he'd broken his back, and he needed multiple surgeries to repair the injuries to his spinal cord. He also had permanent nerve damage in his foot where the dog had clamped its jaws, which made it tough for him to take care of himself, his home, and his own dogs.

Fred could have simply given up and moved away, but he didn't want anyone else to go through the same trauma he did. So, he stood up and fought. He found attorney Scott Snellings (see Pg. 2), and they reached out to our team for help with the case. We took the property



management company to court, and we won! In the end, we got justice for Fred and changed the laws regulating property management companies for the better.

Each time the dog knocked Fred down, he got back up, and he did the same thing mentally when he stood up for himself in court. We're proud of him and his fighting spirit — along with the drive of our other clients. They inspire us every day.

## BLF HIGHLIGHT REEL



Desia and Leo

Russell hosted his whole family at his house



Aria and Chuie have become BFFs



Harley turns 6

## CLIENT REVIEW

"I first met Russell when he was a speaker at a trial seminar I attended. Since then, we have developed a friendship and collaborated. Russell is an extremely captivating speaker, which is a huge quality to have as a trial lawyer. He is able to present ideas in a precise and efficient manner and projects great confidence. Russell is dedicated to his craft and always willing to help other attorneys. He also works hard to improve as a trial lawyer and is open to learning from others. Russell is a true professional and my first choice for any case I need to refer in Dallas. I know they are in good hands."

*Chris Gunnels Georgia Trial Lawyer*

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## HAVE A PROBLEM DUCT TAPE WON'T FIX? WE KNOW A GUY

### Meet Houston Entrepreneur Calvin Washington

When something goes wrong with an appliance in our office — the fridge breaks, the microwave gives up the ghost, etc. — we're in a better spot than most law firms. We don't have to pull up Google and scroll around trying to find the cheapest, fastest repair shop. Instead, we just ask Ashley to call her husband Calvin!

"Calvin helps us, and me personally, out with all of our appliance problems," Russell says. "He's a very handy guy to know, and it's easy to see that he loves his work."

If you know Ashley, then you probably won't be surprised to learn that Calvin doesn't just work at Neighborly Appliance Repair — he owns it. He also owns



two other companies here in Houston: Neighborly Cooling, Heating, and Refrigeration, and Neighborly Home Builders. He's as ambitious as Ashley, and they love cheering each other on.

All three of Calvin's companies work together seamlessly to help home and business owners. For him, starting these businesses was a way to get back to his roots.

"In college, I worked for a company that did homes and renovations. That's what brought me back to this after I engineered for a few years in the oil and gas industry and the nuclear industry. I got out of those, and this was an area I liked and wanted to come back to," he says.

Today, Calvin really enjoys the work he's doing with Neighborly Home Builders. The company started out building custom homes, but now it does spec houses as well to fill a gap in the market.

"We try to do more homes in the first-time home buyer price range, just because there is very slim to none of that nowadays," Calvin says. He adds that his favorite part of the job is crafting a home that's exactly what his buyer is looking for.

If you're in the market for a home, HVAC service, or appliance repair, check out Calvin's companies at NeighborlyHomeBuilders.com, NeighborlyCHR.com, and NeighborlyAppliance.com. After all, as Neighborly Appliance Repair's slogan rightly puts it, "There are some things that duct tape won't fix."