



HOT-BUTTON ISSUES

OCTOBER 2026

THE MONSTERS UNDER OUR BEDS

HOW OUR FEARS CHANGE AS WE GROW UP

When Russell was a kid, getting into a swimming pool came with one question: What if there was an alligator in there?

Sometimes he imagined a snake instead. He knew neither was likely, but that didn't stop him from checking the water. Ashley had her own childhood fears, including the movie *Hook*. She loves it now, though she still can't explain why it frightened her so much back then.

The fears we have as kids can sound funny years later. Growing up, however, doesn't mean leaving fear behind. We find new things to worry about, often because we understand just how much someone else is counting on us.

For Ashley, the fear of failure started long before she became an attorney. At school and in sports, she worried about getting something wrong because she hadn't done enough to prepare.

"I have always been afraid of failure, which for me is simply the fear of being unprepared," Ashley says. "I've always been someone to over-prepare for everything."

Russell knows what it's like to work through a fear, too. Speaking in front of a class didn't come easily to him. It took time, practice, and preparation before he felt confident doing it. These days, standing up to speak is part of his job. What weighs on him now is the possibility of disappointing someone who trusted him.

For us, that is most often parents who have already been through a life-changing experience and are trusting our team to help them find answers and resources to move forward.

Ashley carries that responsibility with her, too. The thought of a bad daycare or school continuing to operate, with other children still in its care, is one of the things that frightens her most and drives her passion for her work.

Parents also often face their own fears before making that first call. They may worry about what will happen if they speak up or whether anyone will take their concerns seriously. But the desire to help their child is stronger than the fear of what comes next.

"Courage is turning fear into motivation," Ashley says.

That doesn't mean a parent suddenly feels confident or has all the answers. Sometimes it means picking up the phone while still feeling nervous, knowing they want answers for their child and support for their family. They can be afraid and still take a step toward making a difference.

Russell has seen how far that first step can reach. When one family speaks up, another may find the confidence to share what happened to their child, too. They may never have imagined themselves in that position, but their willingness to act, even while afraid, can make a lasting difference.

That courage stays with Russell and Ashley. They know how much a parent may have worked through before asking for help. When that family puts their trust in BLF, the thought of letting them down is something our team takes personally.

The things that scared Russell and Ashley as kids have changed. Today, their fears push them to prepare, keep asking questions, and go all in on helping families. They can't promise a family that every step ahead will be easy. But they want parents to know that the courage it took to ask for help will be met by a team that cares just as deeply about what happens next.



**RUSSELL AND ASHLEY'S
HALLOWEEN
THROWBACK PHOTOS**

- Russell Button and
Ashley Knarr

NINE YEARS ON THE SAME PAGE

CELEBRATING ASHLEY'S
9TH BLF ANNIVERSARY

This month, we're celebrating Ashley's 9th anniversary at BLF.

Over the past nine years, her hard work, attention to detail, and passion for helping families have become part of the foundation of our firm.

Ashley consistently goes all in on her work. She wants to understand the full picture, think through the details, and know that she has given a problem the time and attention it deserves.

Whether she is working through a case or helping the team, she cares about getting it right.



That sense of responsibility is something Russell recognized early in their working relationship.

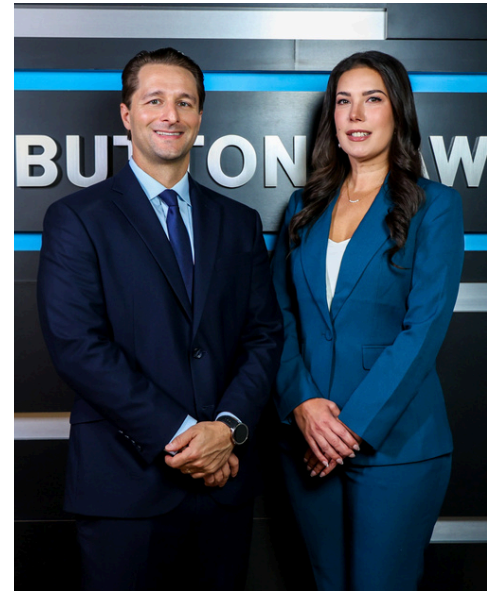
From the beginning, they understood each other on the things that mattered most.

They might approach a problem differently, but when it came to the direction of BLF, leading the team, or making a difficult decision, they usually found themselves in the same place.

"Ashley and I can look at something from completely different angles and reach the same conclusion," Russell says. **"Our strengths are different, but our core values have always lined up. We care about the same things."**

Ashley's analytical side and her passion for the work go hand in hand.

She can spend time working through the smallest details while keeping the family behind those details at the front of her mind. The outcome for these families matters to her, and she is willing to put in the effort it takes to move things forward.



Her commitment also extends to the people working beside her.

As managing partner, she brings that same thoughtfulness and determination to helping our team do its best work.

For Russell, the trust they built at work became something deeply personal, too.

Ashley became one of his closest friends, with a bond built on loyalty and showing up for each other.

"She's like a sister to me," Russell says. "I feel incredibly lucky that I found someone so early in my career who complements me the way Ashley does. Having that kind of partner and friend is something I don't take for granted."

Nine years later, there is so much to celebrate about the person Ashley is and the firm she has helped shape. Her dedication shows up in the work she does, the relationships she has built, and the passion she brings to help the people around her.

Ashley, thank you for 9 years of leadership, friendship, and putting your heart into BLF. Our team and the families we serve are better for having you in their corner.

BLF CLIENT REVIEW

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Russell and his entire team at The Button Law Firm worked incredibly hard throughout our daughter's case. They treated our family with compassion, fought tirelessly for her, and never lost sight of what she deserved.

They helped bring this incredibly difficult chapter to an end while holding the school accountable and pursuing the justice our daughter deserved. We are truly grateful for the dedication, hard work, and support they gave our family every step of the way.

Thank you, Russell and the entire Button Law Firm team, for standing up for our daughter and helping give her a voice. We will always be grateful for what you did for her and our family.

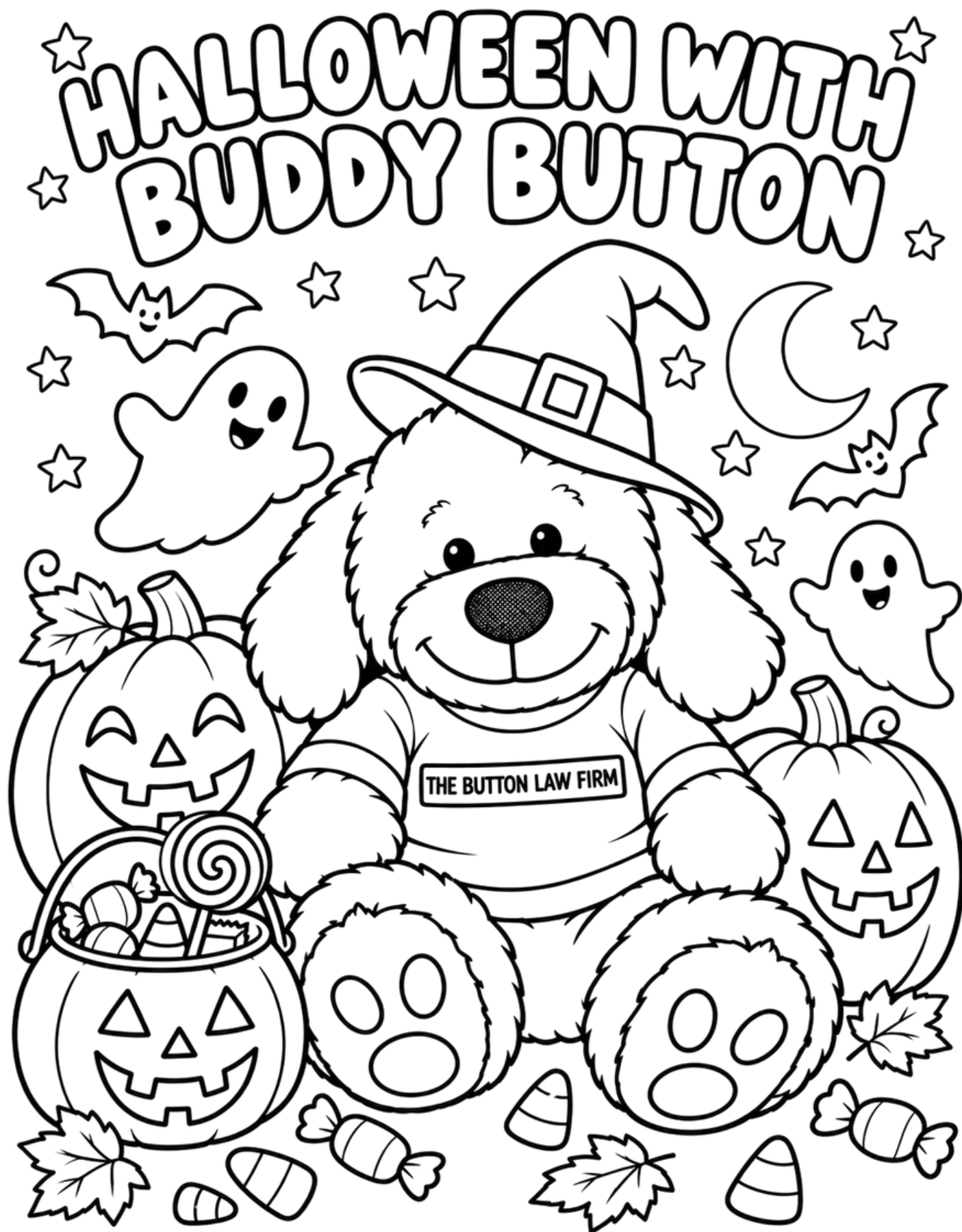
- Patrick K.

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BUDDY'S HALLOWEEN ADVENTURE

GIVE BUDDY'S COSTUME A SPLASH OF COLOR!

Buddy Button has his witch's hat and candy ready. Now he needs a little color! Grab your crayons and bring his pumpkins, friendly ghosts, and Halloween treats to life.



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ARRRE YOU READY
FOR HALLOWEEN?

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THE FEAR THAT FOLLOWED HIM HOME

BLF SECURES JUSTICE AFTER A TODDLER LOSES PART OF HIS FINGER

For one Texas family, walking through a doorway became a reminder of what their little boy had experienced at daycare.

Their one-year-old began pulling his hands close to his body as he passed through, as though protecting them from being hurt again.

Last year, a caregiver at a preschool closed a heavy classroom door on his left hand, amputating the tip of his pinky finger and damaging his nailbed.

Children were being moved in and out of the classroom when one caregiver became distracted by a conversation through an adjoining doorway. Before another caregiver closed the door, no one made sure the little boy's hands were safely out of the way.

He needed emergency treatment at the

hospital. But as his parents soon discovered, the injury would affect much more than just his hand.

Their son became increasingly afraid of being separated from his mom and struggled with sleep and night terrors.

Every day routines became painful or frightening. His damaged nail could catch on his sleeve while getting dressed, and he resisted putting his injured hand underwater at bath time. Naturally left-handed, he also began relying more on his right hand to play.

His parents came to BLF looking for answers and accountability. Our team listened to what they were seeing at home and worked to understand the full impact on their son.

The fearful reactions to doorways, difficult

nights, and changes in how he played were all part of his story.

Our team held the daycare accountable and secured a life-changing result and justice for this family, giving them additional resources to support their son as he grows.

His parents couldn't undo what happened, but they could stand up for him and make sure the impact on his life was understood. We were honored to stand beside them.

