



Trust- Are You Authentic?

By: Russell Button

Every time I'm in front of a jury, it reminds me that so much of life revolves around trust. For example, if the jury doesn't trust the lawyer, more likely than not whomever that lawyer is representing will not win. The same concept of trust applies to whichever client the jury believes. If the jury trusts that your client is honest with them about the good, the bad and everything in between, then you have a higher chance of obtaining a favorable verdict. So, how do you gain another person's trust?

Many of us do this on a daily basis without even knowing we are. One key to gaining another's trust is being authentic. Be yourself in each and every way possible. Be honest about your weaknesses or concerns. Be firm in your values and convictions. When someone is authentic, their power comes from the faith they have in what they are doing and what they are saying. To be authentic, you need to know the "**why**" you're doing something. Figure out the "**why**" and you have the first tool to be the authentic **YOU**.

This isn't limited just to being a trial lawyer. We can each focus on being authentic in all aspects of our daily lives. It will help us gain the trust of others as well as being true to ourselves.

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Hero—BIND's Very Own Valerie Gotcher

By: Russell Button

When I first met Valerie at a brain injury walk in September 2015, I instantly realized that she was special. She was outgoing to each and every person that walked by. I approached Valerie and wanted to know why she was there. Within 20 minutes of talking, we learned each other's passion for the brain injury community. She told me to come by and think about becoming a board member.

Now 5 months later, I am not only a board member, but also Valerie has gone full-time with BIND. She has taken on the sacrifice to give to others. Valerie put aside her passion of speech therapy to pave the way for BIND to grow, expand, and develop under her watchful eye.

Why did I decide to write about Valerie for this? Because Valerie followed her heart and her passion for brain injury. Her decision is not without risk and uncertainty. Yet, she made the jump because of her faith in what she is doing. To me, that is the true definition of a hero: "Someone willing to chase his or her dreams and passions regardless of the sacrifice". To all of you on the fence about whether or not to follow your passion, I encourage you to get to know Valerie Gotcher with BIND. She is a true hero.



Public Policy Update on Insurance

By: Russell Button

Last month, we tried an uninsured motorist case to a jury. Our client's very own insurance company declined to make him whole after an uninsured motorist hit him from behind and changed his life. A rear-end collision is about as clear-cut as they come for us. Yet, his own insurance company called our client a liar and said sue me. Ultimately, we were successful and our client can now begin to have closure to that life-changing event. Needless to say, my client changed insurance companies after this event.

After speaking with my client, I realized how many people do not know that the laws in Texas limit your recovery on any uninsured motorist or underinsured motorist case to your policy limit. For example, someone is hit by an uninsured drunk driver and sustains a brain injury. They only have a \$30,000 policy. They are limited to \$30,000 no matter what the jury believes the true value is or how long the insurance company denies your claim. Thus, these insurance companies make the victim, who is their own insured; go all the way to a jury trial because they have the resources and power to do that. The insurance companies know that the most they can be on the hook for is the policy limit, so why not take their chances at trial. Most victim's just give in and settle cheap, which is what the insurance companies want.

Until the laws are changed so that insurance companies must properly evaluate claims for the person instead of their pockets, the lesson learned is to make sure that your uninsured and underinsured policy limits are as high as you can reasonably afford. If you'd like to know more, contact us either by phone or email. We'd be glad to help explain.



March Madness Recipe

By: Sheba George

Personally, I am a huge fan of basketball. I may be biased as a college student, but March Madness is always one of my favorite times of the year. So here's a recipe that I prepare for my friends as we watch games. It is sure to be a group favorite!

Ingredients:

2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, room temperature

1 cup mayonnaise

1 cup Mexican blend cheese, shredded (half Monterrey jack or half Cheddar)

½ cup parmesan cheese

1 (4 ounce) can green chilies, chopped

1 (4 ounce) can jalapenos, diced

1 cup panko breadcrumbs

½ cup parmesan cheese

¼ cup butter, melted



Directions

1. Combine the first 6 ingredients in a mixer or food processor and blend until smooth.
2. No need to drain the cans of chillies or jalapenos, it is a personal option. Spread the dip into a greased casserole dish.
3. In a bowl, combine the panko breadcrumbs, the additional 1/2 c Parmesan cheese and melted butter. Sprinkle crumb mixture evenly over the dip and bake in a preheated 375 degree oven for about 20 minutes until the top is browned and its bubbling around the edges.