

HOT BUTTON ISSUES

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GAME TIME

Practicing Law? It's Similar to Basketball

It's no coincidence that "A Time to Kill" is my favorite movie. The first time I saw it — and I've seen it over 50 times — I was pretty young, but it made a big impact on me. The legal drama, starring Samuel L. Jackson and Matthew McConaughey, showed the high stakes of a jury trial, the art of storytelling, and ultimately, the triumph of justice. I wanted to *be* Matthew McConaughey's character: a highly-skilled trial lawyer who finds a way to win against all odds.

That movie lit a fire in me, and as I grew older, I always kept the idea of being a lawyer in the back of my mind. However, during my high school and college years, my mind was dominated by sports (basketball in particular). I loved to play, perform, and win (as much as I could) in front of a crowd. I also loved watching the hard work of practice pay off during the game. I started wondering what else I could do with my life that would be similar to playing basketball.

Finally, it hit me: Being a trial lawyer is *exactly* like being an athlete. You spend hundreds of hours preparing for a few hours of "game time." Then you get up in front of a crowd — the jury — and perform your best, often making split-second decisions based on all the work you've done. There's even a "referee" in the form of a judge, and you have to adjust your plans to how they are calling the game. If everything goes right, and you perform your best, then your client gets the closure they need. That thought process led me to law school, and it's why I'm a trial lawyer today.

Of course, it's not all work all the time. I'm very busy, but I still make time to work out using a gym I set up in my garage. Nowadays, they



**"BEING A TRIAL
LAWYER IS
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call those circuit workouts CrossFit, but we were doing them during practice years before they became popular. Maintaining good health is important for our well-being, and it helps me arrive in court in top mental and physical shape. Plus, like many of you, I love to hunt, fish, and be outdoors. I've found that being outdoors is a great way to get away from the busy day-to-day of a thriving law practice. I also

practice yoga and meditation, which have had big, positive impacts on my life. I'll be sharing more about those experiences in future editions of this newsletter.

I truly love my work. I love being in front of juries, I love meeting and helping wonderful clients like you, and I love having a job that allows me to help people.

And I still watch "A Time to Kill" before every single trial.

- Russell Button

HONEY

The App That Puts More Money in Your Pocket

“So, I flipped through all these coupon books, tabulated the best day to make my purchase based on historical sales data and weather patterns, and then leaped from store to store like a frugal ninja. Do you like your new backpack that cost me \$3.12? You’re welcome.”

Okay, so maybe you didn’t grow up with parents quite this frugal, but you know the value of a dollar and certainly like to save money when you can. Who wants to throw their money away on a purchase when they could easily have gotten the same thing for less?

Fortunately, like many things in this brave new world, frugality is now automatic. All you have to do to save money is add an extension called Honey to your Google Chrome web browser. It’s an application that works with a number of online stores. When you’re about to hit checkout, simply click on the Honey button, and you’ll see the coupons and sales available for your purchase.

Honey does the hard work of crunching numbers for you, automatically applying the best coupon code so you can sit back and count all the money you saved. On Amazon, Honey is able to look through all of the sellers for a given item and show you the one with the lowest price. But it gets even better, as Honey itself is absolutely free, and it even



kicks back a cash bonus for each purchase you make. These points accumulate in your HoneyGold account, and you can use them for thousands of sellers, including Target, Walmart, Groupon, and more. One thousand HoneyGold points is basically \$10, but the “exchange rate” from HoneyGold to actual dollars varies by store.

There’s really no reason not to add Honey to your browser and see if it can help save you some cold hard cash when you’re buying things online — except for maybe *one* huge caveat. With all the money you’re saving, you may be tempted to spend more than you would otherwise.

The solution is to make a deliberate list of things you need, shop for those items, and get the best deal on the things you intended to buy anyway. Just because you’re saving money with Honey doesn’t mean you should become one of those ... impulse shoppers!

To get started with Honey and make your savings automatic, check out www.joinhoney.com!



Have you ever been laid off from work under weird circumstances? Have you ever gotten in a “fender-bender” that cost you more money than you expected — or led to health problems down the line? Has a member of your family gotten in trouble, but they are convinced they can handle the legal issues by themselves? Those are just a few potential situations where you’d want to ask an expert for advice.

But who do you ask about those things?

Well, I would hope that you’d contact my firm with those questions. Although we primarily focus on personal injury law, I have a lot of

DO YOU NEED A LAWYER?

If I Can’t Help You, I Know Someone Who Can

connections in the legal industry, both in our region and across the state. That means I’m uniquely suited to help you out, and I love answering questions for people — whether they’re my client or not!

I’ve learned two important things doing this job. First, having the right attorney on your side often means the difference between a good result and a bad situation with long-term fallout. Second, the legal system is complicated and sometimes convoluted — not something you’re going to figure out on your own. And you shouldn’t have to, nor should you be charged an arm and a leg just to get a little bit of advice.

If you have a legal question or just want to know who to call about your legal challenges, call our [North Texas number at 214-888-2216](tel:214-888-2216) or our [West Texas number at 432-203-0060](tel:432-203-0060). I don’t care if it’s a criminal issue, a personal injury case, or real estate law! If our firm can’t help you, we’ll put you in touch with a great attorney who can.

THE INSURANCE COMPANY IS NOT YOUR FRIEND

When Dealing With Them, Tread Lightly — And With a Lawyer!



Here's something everybody doesn't know: Insurance companies are not your friend!

No, really. Often, after an injury, the insurance company — yours or someone else's — will try to get you to accept as little money as possible for your claim. They have a lot of tricks up their sleeve to do this, and this month, I want to talk about two of them.

The first trick is to [send you a bunch of forms in the mail](#) to sign. They'll send you a stack of papers and say that if you don't sign and return them by a specific date, you won't get any money at all. Of course, that's not true. They just want to see if you'll take a few hundred bucks instead of what the case is really worth. Heck, they

may even send you a *check* in the mail. If they do that, you should know that the value of your case is exponentially larger than the check, so don't cash it. As soon as you do, your case is *over*. The same thing can happen if you sign and return those forms, so don't do that either!

There's another trick they love to pull, which is [asking you to give a recorded statement to the insurance adjuster](#). They'll call you up and ask if you'd go on "record," so they can ask a few questions. They'll lie and say you're required to do it, and you don't need an attorney present. Just like signing forms, not only do you not *have* to do this, you probably *shouldn't* do it. The adjuster is trying to get all your personal details, so they can look you up and crawl over every detail of your personal life. They want to use this information against you, so they don't have to pay as much money.

If you have a personal injury or wrongful death claim, and you haven't called an attorney yet, you need to do so once the insurance company starts contacting you. Bring your lawyer anything they send you in the mail and refuse to speak to them until after you've talked with us.

MEMES

before coffee



after coffee



THEY SEE ME ROLLIN'



THEY HATIN.

MARVELOUS MACARONI SALAD



Spring is here and summer is on its way, which means picnic season has sprung. Enjoy this incredible pasta salad recipe with friends, or steal it all for yourself. (We won't tell!)

INGREDIENTS

DRESSING

- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons vinegar
- 1 tablespoon mustard
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper

SALAD

- ½ pound macaroni, cooked, drained, and cooled
- 1 cup sliced celery
- ½ cup chopped green pepper
- ½ cup chopped red pepper
- ½ cup chopped green onion

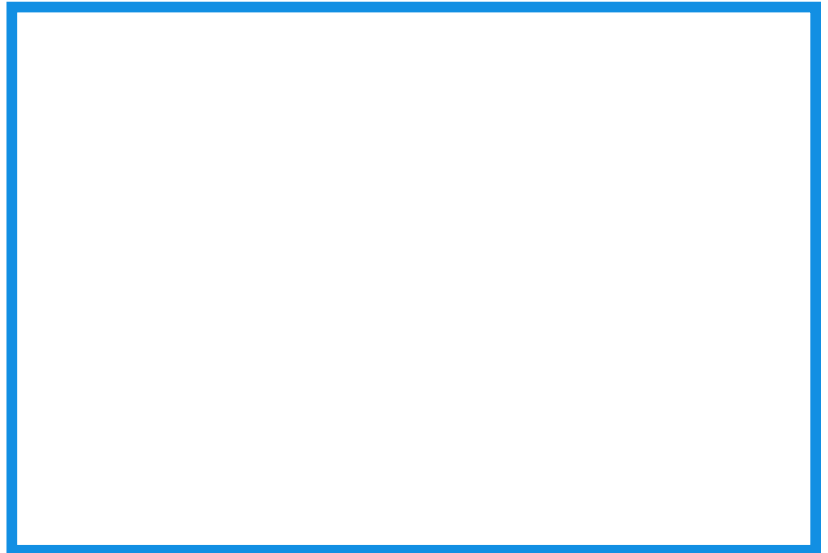
DIRECTIONS

1. Mix together dressing ingredients.
2. Mix together salad ingredients.
3. Mix dressing and salad together. Chill before serving.
4. Enjoy!

Recipe inspired by Food.com.

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AN EPIC AMERICAN JOURNEY

The Story of Lewis and Clark

which can be hard to comprehend for contemporary Americans. Lewis and Clark departed with 33 people and encountered many native tribes, both friendly and hostile, during their excursion. Perhaps the most famous Native American they met was Sacagawea, a Lemhi Shoshone woman who provided the party with invaluable guidance.

If you wanted to, you could go online right now and view a detailed map of every inch of the country with a simple Google search. With technology like that, it's easy to forget that not so long ago, much of the United States was largely an uninhabited wilderness. When Thomas Jefferson organized the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, he knew little of the vast swath of land he had bought on behalf of the country. To survey the newly acquired terrain, Jefferson commissioned two men, Captain Meriwether Lewis and Second Lieutenant William Clark, to lead an expedition across the Continental Divide. They set off from St. Louis 213 years ago this month, on May 14, 1804.

Nearly 18 months later, on November 7, 1805, the expedition became the first party of Americans to see the Pacific Ocean. Remarkably, despite the incredible hardship of the journey, only one man, Sergeant Charles Floyd, died during the trip. The cause of death, innocuously enough, was likely a ruptured appendix. In addition to mapping out a significant portion of the continental United States, Lewis and Clark also identified scores of native species that were previously unknown. The geographical, botanical, and anthropological discoveries of the pair are still marveled at to this day through the remarkable journals they kept.

When asked what is so enduring about the story of Lewis and Clark, historian Stephen E. Ambrose notes, "They were first. They led the way. Everyone who canoes on the Missouri River paddles in their wake. Everyone who crosses the Rocky Mountains does so in their footsteps." The expedition they led was truly a journey into uncharted territory,

The story of Lewis and Clark is an essential part of American history and a powerful account of courage and discovery. Geography professor John Loga Allen succinctly summed up the tale's allure in his remark, "It is The American Epic." When we think of the American ideal of perseverance and ambition against insurmountable odds, it is hard not to think of Lewis and Clark.