

THE BUTTON LAW FIRM

HOT-BUTTON ISSUES

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4315 W. Lovers Lane, Suite A, Dallas, TX 75209 | 1900 W. Illinois Avenue, Suite 101, Midland, TX 79701

HONORING TWO ICONS: How These 2 Women Changed the Course of Legal History

I know that Russell usually writes the front page article of our newsletter, but this month, I — Ashley — am stepping in for a special edition. This month, BLF is celebrating Women's History Month by spotlighting two iconic women. This year's Women's History Month theme is "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories." As lawyers, Russell and I tell the stories of our clients every day in pursuit of truth, justice, and progress, so it's only fitting that I tell you about two "women of law" this March!

Constance Baker Motley and Ruth Bader Ginsburg are icons who fearlessly dedicated their lives to pursuing truth and improving our world. They paved the way for my career. Without their inspiring accomplishments, I couldn't do the work I do today — either for you or alongside you. They're two of my favorite humans who have ever walked this planet.

Most people know RBG, so let's start with a lesser-known icon: trailblazing civil rights activist, judge, and politician Constance Baker Motley.



**CONSTANCE
BAKER MOTLEY**
Sept. 14, 1921–
Sept. 28, 2005

Constance Baker Motley was the first woman attorney for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund and the first Black woman to argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court. Over the years, she represented Martin Luther King Jr., the Freedom Riders, the Birmingham Children's

Crusade Marchers, James Meredith (the first Black student to attend the University of Mississippi), and other plaintiffs in key civil rights battles. She even wrote the original complaint in *Brown v. Board of Education* — the landmark case that established school segregation as unconstitutional.

Motley didn't stop there. She became the first Black woman to become a state senator, the first woman to serve as Manhattan Borough president, and the first Black woman to become a federal judge. Talk about a busy three years! Motley's list of "firsts" is truly remarkable, and her legacy continues with today's "firsts." Vice President Kamala Harris (the first Black woman in the White House) and Associate Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson (the first Black woman on the Supreme Court) both point to Motley as a role model.

**RUTH BADER
GINSBURG**
March 15, 1933–
Sept. 18, 2020



Hopefully, you already know all about RBG and how much I love her (remember my RBG Halloween costume?), but in case you've forgotten how incredible RBG is, here are just a few highlights from her many accomplishments as a women's rights activist, lawyer, and U.S. Supreme Court Justice.

- When RBG attended Harvard Law School, she was one of only nine women in a class of 500. She still became the first woman on the Harvard Law Review.

- After transferring to Columbia Law School, RBG became the first person to join both the Harvard and Columbia law reviews. She graduated first in her class and became Columbia's first tenured woman law professor.
- RBG co-founded the Women's Rights Project at the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). There, she led the fight against gender discrimination and successfully argued six landmark cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.
- RBG was the second woman U.S. Supreme Court justice and the first Jewish woman justice.
- RBG wrote the majority opinion in *United States v. Virginia*, holding that qualified women could not be denied admission to Virginia Military Institute — a huge win for equality.
- When a woman making less than her male colleagues lost her case in *Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.*, RBG not only dissented, but she read her dissent from the bench! Then, she worked with President Barack Obama to pass the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 and hold companies to higher standards.

RBG was a cultural icon whose spirit, tenacity, and impact continued after death. She is a role model for every young girl and every adult woman. There's no better way to celebrate Women's History Month than by celebrating her legacy!

—Ashley Washington

SO LONG, CHIEF ZACH!

*UT DALLAS POLICE CHIEF
RETIRES AFTER 13 YEARS*

If you've visited the University of Texas at Dallas in the last 13 years, you may have spotted two figures zig-zagging cheerfully through campus in a golf cart: Police Chief Larry Zacharias and his loyal sidekick, Arabella. Chief Zach says Arabella (or "Bella" for short) isn't a police dog, but she sure looks like one — especially when he's in uniform. Fortunately, her tough exterior hides a soft heart.

"The students love it when I bring dogs up here," Chief Zach told us during his final days on campus before retirement. "They miss their own pets, so I like to bring the dogs up all the time."

During his tenure at UT Dallas, Chief Zach learned that a few good scratches behind a pup's fluffy ear could ease the worst homesickness. It's one of his many nuggets of wisdom. Throughout his 13 years as chief, he also promoted a tactic called "community policing" that he hopes will outlast him.

"When I took over this police department, it was in shambles. They were not well liked by anybody on campus because they didn't know how to do community policing — it was always us versus them," Chief Zach says.



In contrast, Chief Zach developed partnerships with academic groups, student groups, residence hall groups, student government, and UT Dallas's Alumni Association. Now, the housing department makes the police breakfast. They're also regular fixtures at National Night Out, UT Dallas's award-winning block party.

"We go to one residence hall, set up two big gas grills, and cook about 1,000 hot dogs. We also have a lot of programs and performances by the cheerleaders and the pep band. It's a really good time with the students!" Chief Zach says. Beaming, he adds that National Talent Watch has recognized UT Dallas's National Night Out for 11 years running.

Students will remember Chief Zach as a great cop but an even better friend and educator. When he wasn't grilling hot dogs or chauffeuring Bella in his golf cart, he promoted cooperation and brought the police department to UT Dallas baseball games to boost morale.

Chief Zach will be retiring from UT Dallas after 13 years of positively influencing the community. After a total of 45 years in uniform, Chief Zach deserves to hang up his badge, but we all hate to see him go!

JACQUELINE IS IN IT TO WIN IT

She Excels at BFL *and* on the Tennis Court

A few months ago, our marketing and brand coordinator, Jacqueline Golan, did something awesome: She went back to tennis!

"I played tennis kind of seriously in middle school and high school, then stopped when I went to college," Jacqueline explains. "I recently started playing again with my brother. He also played, and now we play together! We go to tennis drills a few days a week. It's been fun getting back into it and pursuing something I really enjoyed."

Jacqueline is just as in love with tennis now as she was in high school. She's hooked on the whole experience: spending time outdoors at her local park, meeting new people who are serious about the game, and adding an extra workout into her day. Plus, she says, it's a hobby she can enjoy for life.

"I can see myself joining a league or something similar in the future," Jacqueline says.

We weren't surprised when Jacqueline told us about her recent triumphs on the tennis court. She's been just as successful here at BLF! We celebrated her second anniversary with the firm this spring, and in that time, she's taken us to the next level.

"I'm really proud of how far we've come since I started here at BLF two years ago," Jacqueline says. "Our team has grown, and we've put out a lot of great information, especially over the last year! We really stepped up our effort to provide as many resources to parents as we can. I think it is proving helpful, too, because we've started getting feedback from parents. They really appreciate our free guides, blog posts, and videos about what to do if their child is injured at daycare or in a car accident."



We're proud of the team, too — Jacqueline included! We couldn't spread the word effectively without her marketing expertise. She's a key player here at BLF, and we're confident she'll soon be one in a tennis league, too.

To see Jacqueline's work for yourself, head to our YouTube channel (The Button Law Firm PLLC) or follow us on TikTok at [@buttonlawfirm](https://www.tiktok.com/@buttonlawfirm). We're also on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter.

SIGNS YOUR CHILD MAY HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ABUSED

Learn What Steps to Take Next

We hate to say it, but it's true: Sexual abuse appears to be on the rise in Texas daycares. Over the last few months, our team has taken on many sexual abuse cases involving young, innocent kids who should have been safe at daycare or preschool. It's horrifying.

Every parent wants to protect their child from sexual abuse, but the signs of abuse may not always be clear. If you have children in your life who attend daycare, here's what you need to know to shield them from exploitation.

5 MUST-KNOW FACTS ABOUT DAYCARE SEXUAL ABUSE

1. Any sexual activity with a minor is considered child sexual abuse because children aren't old enough to consent.
2. Sexual abuse doesn't always happen privately — it can occur even when

other children or daycare workers are nearby.

3. Sexual abuse isn't limited to inappropriate touching. If someone exposes themselves to a child or shows them pornography, that is also sexual abuse.
4. Staff aren't the only ones who can perpetrate sexual abuse; other children can also be abusive.
5. The nonprofit Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN) estimates as many as 60,000 children are victims of sexual abuse every year.



torn or bloody clothes, those are all very bad signs. That said, there may not be any physical red flags. If your child suffers from nightmares, is afraid to return to daycare, suddenly changes their behavior, throws tantrums around a particular person, or displays knowledge of sexual language or behaviors they shouldn't know, they may be a victim of abuse.

KEEPING YOUR KIDS SAFE AT DAYCARE

As a parent, your kids depend on you to choose the safest daycare possible, watch for red flags of abuse, and take action if you see them. For detailed instructions on how to keep your kids safe, scan the QR code on this page or visit ButtonLawFirm.com/Library.

-Russell Button

HOW TO SPOT SIGNS OF ABUSE

Signs of sexual abuse may differ, so it's important to pay attention to anything unusual about your child. If the child has genital pain, bruising or swelling, trouble walking or sitting, or comes home with

BLF HIGHLIGHT REEL



CLIENT REVIEW

"It can be so overwhelming and stressful when you are in the position of needing an attorney. Finding a team you can trust and who makes you feel like family makes a world of difference when navigating a legal matter. That's why The Button Law Firm is so great. Elizabeth, Ashley, and the entire team are compassionate, dedicated professionals who provide a top-notch client experience. During a trying time, I wouldn't want anyone else on my side, and I highly recommend them for any legal needs!"

-Rachel Gillespie

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Dallas, Texas 75209

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HOW A DOOR CHANGED THIS CHILD'S LIFE

BLF Secured Justice for a Child After a Finger Injury



When you close the door on a room full of small children, do you double-check that there aren't any tiny fingers or toes in the gap? Of course you do. It's common sense to make sure your actions don't hurt another person. But two years ago, a California caregiver failed to take that step — and it almost cost her student a finger.

When the metal door slammed shut on Margaret's* hand, she screamed bloody murder. It was a traumatizing, painful moment she'll probably never forget. Worse, the incident left her with a missing fingernail, deep cuts on her right index finger, and a serious loss of mobility. Even years later, she can't bend her finger or hold a pencil like she used to.

Margaret lives in California, but when our team heard about what happened to her, we knew we had to help. We have experience helping families after daycare injuries. The more we dug into the school's track record, the worse their behavior looked. The problem went much deeper than one absentminded caregiver.

We discovered that within less than a year, the school had failed to report *multiple* injuries to California's Department of Social Services. Several kids — including Margaret — had fallen and hit their heads on the playground. Once, a child even passed out, and the school didn't call 911.

We made it our mission to secure justice for Margaret and her family. Not only was Margaret traumatized and dealing with a

potentially permanent injury, but her whole family was also affected by the incident. They changed their moving plans, canceled a vacation, and rearranged their lives to meet Margaret's needs. Earning them justice was the least we could do.

Our hard work paid off! Earlier this year, we secured Margaret's family the settlement they needed to move on from her injury as much as possible. It's not quite as good as a fully-functional finger, but it's the closest thing we could deliver.

If you know a child injured at school or daycare — even if they weren't hurt in Texas — call or email our team. We'll help in any way we can.

**We've changed this name to protect our client's privacy.*