

# NEVER SETTLE FOR LESS

## BLACKWELL COOK LAW

INJURY & CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS

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#unlax

### Fear vs. Freedom

In the "good ol' days," kids rode their bikes through the whole neighborhood. Seems like now, if kids know how to ride a bike, they never go past the driveway without an adult--even if they are ten years old! Kinda sad. Think about the friendships you made and ditches you jumped riding your beat-up Huffy bicycle.



In 1975, Roger Hart conducted a study on where children felt safe to play. He focused on 86 children between the ages of three to twelve in a small town in Vermont. Hart would follow the kids throughout the day documenting everywhere they went by themselves. He then took that information and made physical maps that measured the distance each child was allowed to go by himself and what the average was for every age group.

Hart discovered that these kids had remarkable freedom. Even four- or five-year-olds traveled unsupervised throughout their neighborhoods, and by the time they were 10, most of the kids had the run of the entire town. And the kids' parents weren't worried either.

Then several years ago (about 2014), he went back to the same town to document the children of the children that he had originally tracked in the '70s, and when he asked the new generation of kids to show him where they played alone, what he found floored him. Hart said, "They just didn't have very far to take me, just walking around their property." In other words, the huge circle of freedom on the maps had grown tiny.

Hart added, "There is no free range outdoors. Even when the kids are older, parents now say, 'I need to know where you are at all times.'" But what's odd about all of this, is that the town is no more dangerous than it was before. There's literally no more crime today than there was 40 years ago.

So why has the invisible leash between parent and child tightened so much? Hart says it was absolutely clear from his interviews. The reason was fear. Here's the conclusion to his new study: fear of the world outside our door narrows the circle of our lives.\*

This fourth of July, live a little and enjoy your freedom. Go ride bikes with your kids. Go find a swimming hole. Catch some fireflies and eat some Moon Pies. Let your hair down just a little, expand your circle, and enjoy your freedom--while you can.

source: "World with No Fear," Invisibilia 1-15





## What's David Doing?

What are the sayings that either drive you crazy, cause you to cringe, or that you think are just plain stupid? For me, "It is what it is." Really? What else would it be? Why say anything? If you can't think of anything better to say to describe a situation, why declare the obvious? And, "thinking outside the box." What box? When did we ever think inside a box? Here's another good one--"I'm not lying to you." So, all the other times you were lying? That's awfully close to, "If you don't believe me, go ask my mama," a phrase that, unless you are still in kindergarten, is senseless.

Some sayings we really like. For me, Yogi Berra had some great sayings like "if you don't know where you are going, you might wind up someplace else." And Winston Churchill best described Russia when he said "It is a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma."

What are the sayings you like or dislike and why? Please send them to me or post them with your explanation. I look forward to "agreeing to disagree or disagreeing to agree." Thanks.

david@blackwellcooklaw.com

## Fun Fourth Facts

- Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence on a "laptop" which was a writing desk that could fit on one's lap.
- Thomas Jefferson changed the wording of the Declaration of Independence from "the pursuit of property" to "the pursuit of happiness."
- John Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died on July 4, 1826.
- Only two men signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, 1776--John Hancock and Charles Thompson.
- Jefferson's original draft of the Declaration of Independence was lost and the one eventually signed is the "engrossed" document.
- Congress declared July 4th as an official holiday in 1870 as part of a bill to officially recognize other holidays, Christmas being one of them.
- The Declaration of Independence was a justification for a revolt against the British, which included a list of charges against the British king.
- Several countries have used the Declaration of Independence as a beacon in their own struggles for freedom. These countries include France, Germany, Poland, Russia and many countries in South America.
- "Yankee Doodle," a popular American patriotic song, was originally sung prior to the Revolution by British military officers in mockery of the unorganized and buckskin-wearing "Yankees."
- The "Star Spangled Banner" was written by Francis Scott Key, and was originally a poem stemming from his observations in 1814 concerning the British attack on Baltimore's Fort McHenry during the War of 1812. It was later put to music, though not decreed the official national anthem until 1931.
- James Monroe was the third president to die on July 4th.
- In 1776, about 2.5 million people lived in the United States.
- The average age of those who signed the Declaration of Independence was 45. The youngest at age 27, was Thomas Lynch, Jr of South Carolina. The oldest delegate was Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania at age 70. Thomas Jefferson was 33.
- One out of eight signers was educated at Harvard (7 total).
- 87.5% of imported US flags are from China.
- 97% of imported fireworks are from China.
- An estimated 150 million hot dogs will be consumed on July 4th.
- The White House held its first 4th of July party in 1801.
- In 1954 the words 'under God' were added to the Pledge of Allegiance.
- The oldest, continuous Independence Day celebration in the United States is the 4th of July Parade in Bristol, Rhode Island; it began in 1785.

source: list25.com

## Have a SAFE 4th of July!

# People Matter

A leader, an instructor, a father, a husband, and a protector, Major Matt Shaw is the Chief Deputy at the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office. An alumnus of Fort Mill High School and Erskine College (where he attended on a baseball scholarship), Shaw began his career in law enforcement soon after graduation. After working two years with the City of Laurens Police Department, he moved to the area and started as a patrol deputy. Major Shaw was then promoted to Patrol Sargeant, then moved into training and served as the agency's Training Officer, Professional Standards Lieutenant, and SWAT Team commander. He began his current position as Chief Deputy in 2011.

Major Shaw--or Matt to his friends and family--is married and has two beautiful daughters ages 4 and 14. He enjoys camping with his family and traveling to volleyball tournaments to watch his oldest daughter play. The number one thing on their family's summer to-do list is camping at the beach.

Major Shaw's favorite hobbies include shooting and instructing. He is a competitive shooter and competes in a variety of handgun, rifle, and shotgun sporting events. He is currently classified as a Master Level shooter in the International Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA). But he doesn't keep all this talent to himself--Matt has a passion for teaching others and regularly teaches classes such as firearms safety and fundamentals, defensive firearms use, concealed weapons permits, and personal safety both to private citizens and law enforcement officers. He is heavily involved in our community, regularly speaking at businesses, events, and to groups to educate people about personal safety.

We asked Major Shaw what was the toughest thing about his job. He replied, "Law Enforcement is pretty tough these days. It creates a constant stress on you and your family. It requires a lot of sacrifice from everyone. Of course there is the negativity going on today also. There are people out there that are trying to kill officers just because they are officers. Some people give officers a really hard time for enforcing laws the the officers didn't write. Officers often find themselves in extreme situations and are forced to make split second decisions. We are people just like everyone else and sometimes mistakes are made. Sometimes people expect us to be and do everything perfectly and that's not always possible."

Despite the hardships he faces in law enforcement, there are some pretty amazing rewards. Shaw states, "Every day I get to come to work, I have the opportunity to make someone's life better. It could be as significant as saving someone's life or as minor as helping someone through a tough spot." Thank you, Major Shaw, for being willing to make a difference in our community. The big things and the little things you do to help are all very much appreciated.

Know someone great in the community? Contact [Linzie@blackwellcooklaw.com](mailto:Linzie@blackwellcooklaw.com)



**Training is what you learn from someone else. Practice is a gift you give yourself.**

–Kevin Davis

## Chocolate Filled Strawberries

### INGREDIENTS

15-20 strawberries (the larger the better)  
1 bag of Milk Chocolate chips

### DIRECTIONS

Cut the stems off your clean strawberries and carefully scoop out the top of the berry. The deeper you scoop the more chocolate it will hold.

Pour the entire bag of chocolate chips in a glass bowl and heat in the microwave for 30 second intervals. Make sure to take your bowl out every 30 seconds to stir the chips. Continue until all chips are melted.

Place your strawberries in a tray so they sit straight up. Now you can either spoon your melted chocolate into the berries or use a funnel or piping bag. Place in the refrigerator for about 10 minutes until they harden a bit. Enjoy!

Recipe by LilyShop

Send us your favorite recipe! [linzie@blackwellcooklaw.com](mailto:linzie@blackwellcooklaw.com)



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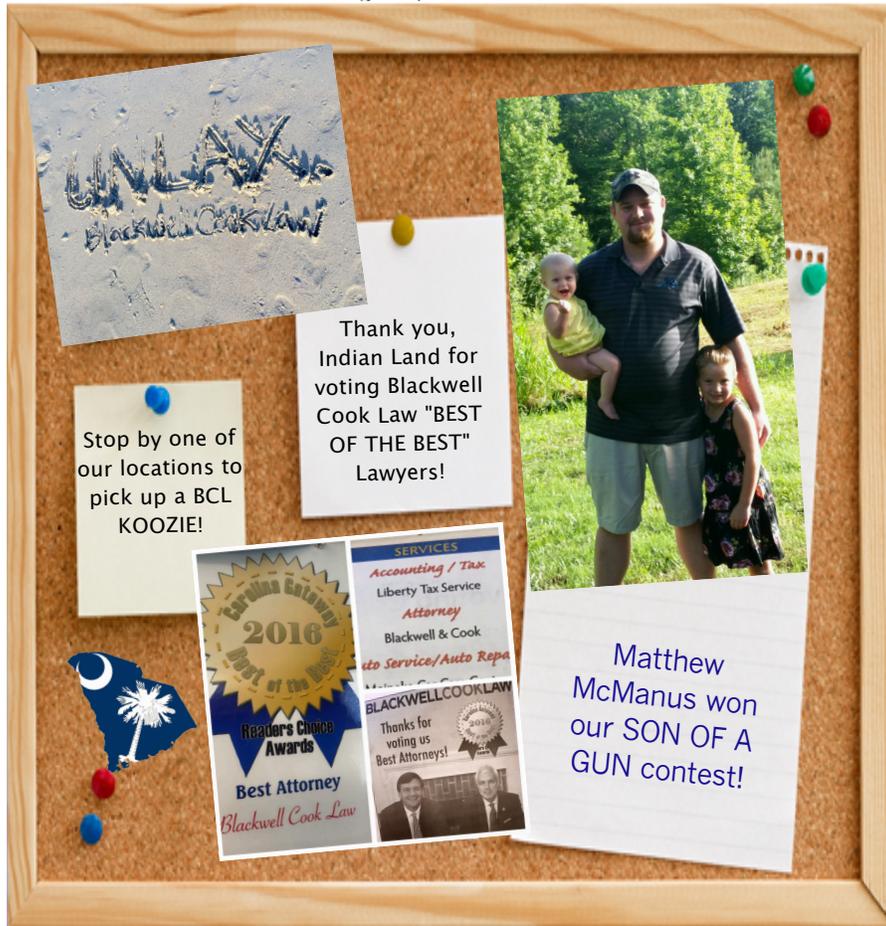
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## #unlax

Summer time is here...you're probably doing the same things we are: vacationing, hitting the beach, and attending weddings! Enjoy!



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