

NEVER SETTLE FOR LESS

BLACKWELL COOK LAW

INJURY & CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS

201 West Dunlap Street, Suite B Lancaster, SC 29720
102 East Caston Street Heath Springs, SC 29058
7580 Charlotte Hwy Suite 500-B Indian Land, SC 29707

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#seelancaster

Back to School 2016

As we are preparing this newsletter, the media is flooded with coverage of shootings in Baton Rouge and terrorist attacks in France. Last week five police officers were murdered in Texas. Brain-eating amoeba killed a young lady not far away. There's a bully and a crook running for office to replace a man who has taken his presidential power to new levels. It seems that every week holds some unsettling event...uncharted waters we have to navigate with caution. The only certainty in our midst is uncertainty.

Although your pubescent student may be more concerned about chasing Pokemon, or your elementary school diva more occupied with the Secret Life of Pets, you may find yourself in a different place this school year. A place where you're a little worried about sending your kids back to school. In this crazy, unpredictable world that we are living in, how do you even prepare yourself and your child to walk out the door—whether it's to a local preschool or a college dorm? Here's a little list we think might help. To prepare you, and your minis...for whatever their schooldays may hold.



1) Be kind to others.

The golden rule. We've heard it all our lives—treat others like you want to be treated. It's simple. Let's bring it back in style. Be a friend to someone who needs to talk. Call people by their names. Even the lunch lady and the custodian. Especially the lunch lady and the custodian. Everybody matters. Treat them like they do.

2) Focus on the positive.

It's a drain to hear the media (and others around us) constantly throwing mud, pointing fingers, and painting a picture of doom and gloom. I like Jon Gordon's quote from The Energy Bus, "The fact is we all have a positive and negative dog inside of us. It's part of our human nature. The key is to feed the positive dog and starve the negative dog. The more we feed the positive dog, the bigger it gets and the stronger it becomes."

3) Be where you are.

There are two reasons to pay attention to your surroundings. One is to be safe and aware of where you are and what's going on around you. Another is to be respectful and appreciative of the opportunities around you. (ie—get off your smartphone and make friends between practices, or classes, or when you're out to eat or at a sleepover. And for Pete's sake, put your phone away when you're at a live performance or in class.)

4) Look for the helpers.

Fred Rogers, star of the classic children's show, Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood, said when he was a child and something bad happened (such as a wreck or in our case a terrorist attack, hate crime, or mass shooting), look for the helpers. When there is a tragedy aired on television, it's hard to watch, and can be quite scary. But if you look closely, you'll see people helping others.

5) Do your best.

Aim to be the best version of yourself. Despite what's going on around you, and a lack of role models these days, worry about yourself, and how you can strive to be a better person. Do your homework. Ask for help. Solicit advice from those you trust. You will rarely have reason for regret if you do your best.

6) Say your prayers and call your mom.

No explanation needed here, really. And most likely, in both instances, you'll feel better after you do.

—Linzie Batchelor





What's Bob Doing?

If there's one thing that irks me, it's being late. There's no better way to show someone how unimportant he is to you. Showing up late is inconsiderate, and quite frankly, downright rude. No matter whether it's family, a friend, client or whoever, I can't stand someone that's late.

Now I totally understand that sometimes things happen that are totally out of our control. A simple 30-second courtesy call just to say "hey, I'm running late because I had a flat tire" will suffice with me, as long as you've got a realistic, honest explanation. Just don't lie to me with some lame excuse that I can see right through. Poor planning on your part isn't really a valid excuse, so I've got no sympathy for you if you can't get somewhere on time without a good story.

If a lawyer shows up late for court, a judge has the power to fine the lawyer. I've seen it happen before. I wish I could have done that every time I've ever been stood up or waited on someone else! I'd probably be retired already.

If you're more than 15 minutes late to a meeting with me, I'm probably going to move on with my day. I don't have time to sit around and wait on people, and certainly don't expect others to wait on me. Not only does tardiness cause my next appointments on my schedule to be pushed back, it affects the rest of those clients' schedules for the rest of their day as well.

A judge once told me that the way to show up on time is to get there early. Truer words have never been spoken and I think of this quite often. So, the next time you go in for a job interview or for an important business meeting, get there 10 minutes early. It shows you care about the job, for your cause, and that you value other's time. Trust me, this will go a long way for you in all aspects of your life.

bob@blackwellcooklaw.com

Back to School Facts

Ever wonder why buses are yellow, or how long a pencil will last? And why do we give apples to teachers? Answers below. Now you know.

- High school didn't exist until the 1930's. High school started during the Great Depression. Due to lack of jobs, it was decided to keep teenagers in school and out of the workforce so more adults with families could get jobs.
- In the U.S approximately 480,000 school buses bring children back and forth to school each day.
- School buses are yellow because yellow attracts more attention than any other color.
- By the time children turn 10 years old it is believed that they have worn down 730 crayons!
- Worldwide more than 14 billion pencils are made every year.
- On average a single pencil can be sharpened 17 times and write 45,000 words!
- It is believed that a single pencil can draw a line 35 miles long.
- The eraser was added to the pencil in 1858.
- Before erasers it was common for people to erase pencil using crumbs from white bread.
- Teachers originally did not want pencils to have erasers because it was believed it would encourage children to make mistakes.
- In the 1300's a pencil was originally a fine paintbrush made of fine animal hair.
- The tradition of giving apples to teachers originates from 16th century Denmark. Parents would pay the teachers with food because teachers didn't earn much money.
- 2.4% of children worldwide suffer from Didaskaleinophobia which is the fear of going to school.



Source: www.kidsplayandcreate.com

Education is the most powerful weapon
which you can use to change the world.

-Nelson Mandela

People Matter

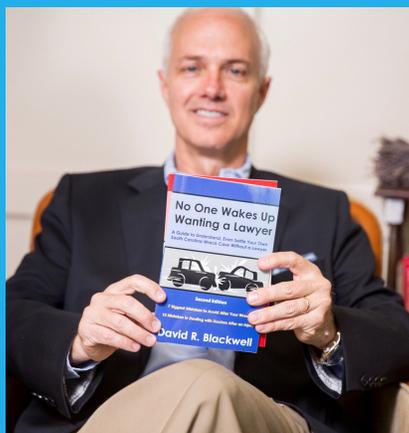
Since we are all ready to watch the 2016 Summer Olympics, we thought we'd flashback to just a few years ago, when one of Lancaster County's own competed in the olympics!

Shawn Crawford was born on January 14, 1978 in the community of Van Wyck. He graduated from Indian Land High School then ran for Clemson University, where he earned eleven All-America honors and three National Championships. Shawn also won the 200 meter at the Indoor World Championships in 2001. He later advanced to the World Athletics Championships where he tied for the 200 meter bronze medal, then claimed his second gold medal of the year at the Goodwill Games.

In January 2003, Crawford starred in an episode of the popular Fox TV series Man vs. Beast. In the show, Crawford raced a zebra and a giraffe over 100 meters on dirt. In the first race Crawford easily beat the giraffe. The zebra race was very close, but the zebra pulled ahead for the victory. After he accused the zebra of a false start, Crawford re-raced the zebra getting out of the blocks first and taking a lead, but the zebra finished 9.957s to Crawford's 10.86s time. Later he boasted to ESPN the Magazine, "tell the zebra I coulda whooped him." At the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece, Crawford ran the 100 m final in 9.89s, finishing in fourth place just 0.04s behind first place finisher. That was the first race in history with four competitors under 9.90s. Crawford went on to win the gold medal in the 200 m in 19.79s. Later, he claimed a silver as part of the US 4 x 100 relay team.

Crawford qualified for the 2008 Summer Olympics in the 200 m dash, with a second place finish at the trials. He then won the 200 m at the 2009 US Championships, and qualified to represent the United States at the 2009 world Championships in athletics. He ran 19.89s in the final of the competition, his best of the season, netting the bronze medal. Way to go, Shawn!

sources: www.lancastercitysc.com and wikipedia Know someone you'd like to spotlight in our community? email marketing@blackwellcooklaw.com



How to Settle Your Own Case

We realize that no one wakes up wanting a lawyer. David Blackwell wrote a book to help you settle your own case so that you don't have to call us. If you'd like a free copy of his book, give us a call at **803.285.0225** or send us an email at marketing@blackwellcooklaw.com and we'll drop one in the mail for you.

Key Lime Poke Cake

INGREDIENTS

CAKE:

1 box lemon cake mix
1 small box lime Jell-o
1/2 cup oil
1/2 cup orange juice
5 eggs

GLAZE:

4 TBS powdered sugar
1/2 cup lime juice

ICING:

8 oz cream cheese
1 box powdered sugar
1 tsp vanilla
1 stick butter

DIRECTIONS

Mix cake ingredients until they are smooth. Bake at 350 degrees for thirty-five minutes. Mix together powdered sugar and lime juice. Using a toothpick, prick holes into the cake. Put glaze onto the cake and cool.

Combine icing mixture and cover the cake. Enjoy!

Send us your favorite recipe! linzie@blackwellcooklaw.com



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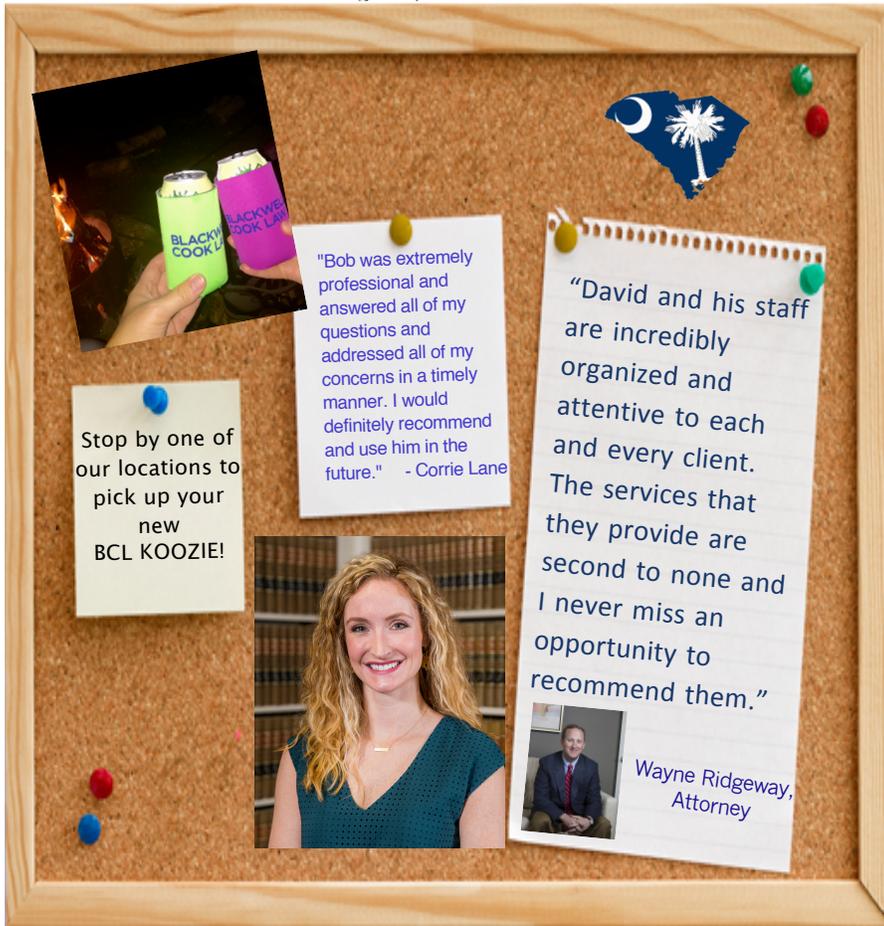
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david@blackwellcooklaw.com

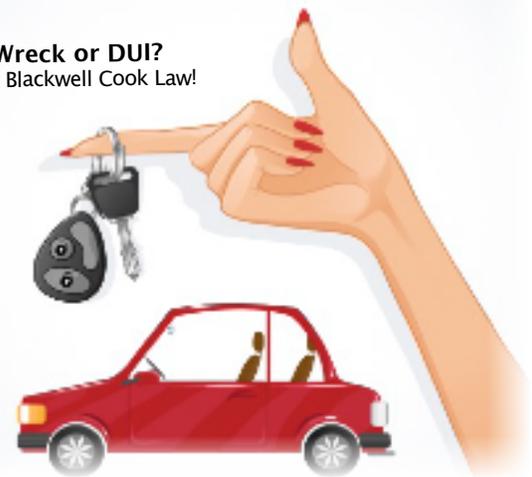
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Car Wreck or DUI?
Call us at Blackwell Cook Law!



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Stop by and see us at one of our three locations: Lancaster, Heath Springs, and Indian Land. We'd love to meet you and hook you up with some koozies, books, insurance folders, and maybe even a Blackwell Cook Law t-shirt.

We enjoy living and serving in Lancaster County. Thanks for sending your family and friends to us--it really means a lot!

www.blackwellcooklaw.com

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