

NEVER SETTLE FOR LESS

DAVID
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LAW

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October 2014 Newsletter

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How Did We Survive?

My mom used to cut chicken, chop eggs, and spread mayo on the same cutting board with the same knife and no bleach, but we didn't seem to get food poisoning. My mom used to defrost hamburger on the counter AND I used to eat it raw sometimes too, but I can't remember getting E-coli. As children we rode in cars with no seat belts or air bags. Riding in the back of a pickup truck on a warm day was always a special treat. Our baby cribs, toys and rooms were painted with bright colored lead based paints. We often chewed on the crib, ingesting the paint. We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors, or cabinets, and when we rode our bikes we had no helmets. We ate cupcakes, bread and butter, and drank sugar soda, but we were never overweight; we were always outside playing.

Little League had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. Some students weren't as smart as others or didn't work hard so they failed a grade and were held back to repeat. That generation produced some of the greatest risk-takers and problem-solvers. WE had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned to deal with it all.



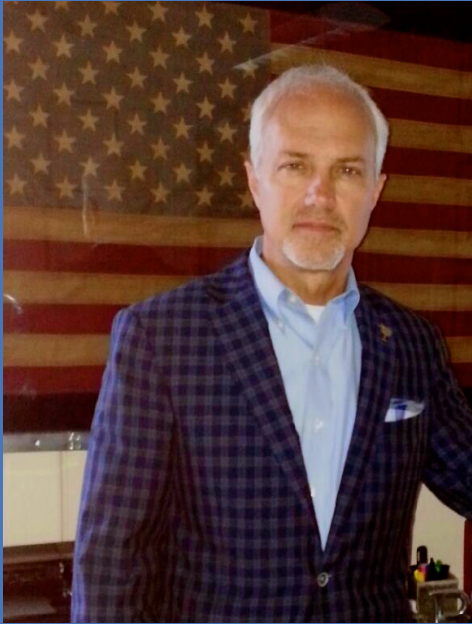
We all took gym, not PE...and risked permanent injury with a pair of high top Ked's (only worn in gym) instead of having cross-training athletic shoes with air cushion soles and built in light reflectors. I can't recall any injuries but they must have happened because they tell us how much safer we are now.

How much better off would we be today if we only knew we could have sued the school system. Speaking of school, we all said prayers and the pledge and staying in detention after school caught all sorts of negative attention for the next two weeks.

I can't understand it. Schools didn't offer 14 yr olds an abortion or condoms (we wouldn't have known what either was anyway) but they did give us a couple of baby aspirin and cough syrup if we started getting the sniffles.

We played king of the hill on piles of gravel left on vacant construction sites and when we got hurt, mom pulled out the 48 cent bottle of mercurochrome and then we got our butt spanked. Today it's a trip to the emergency room, followed by a 10-day dose of a \$49 bottle of antibiotics and then mom calls the attorney to sue the contractor for leaving a horribly vicious pile of gravel where it was such a threat.

-Author Unknown



What's David Doing?

The weather is a little cooler and the school year is well underway. Maybe this year will be the same in that good dedicated teachers will properly instruct students that are eager to learn. And just maybe, it will be different in that certain whining, complaining parents will finally catch on that *their kids* are the problem. Nah, probably not going to happen.

This school year, David Blackwell Law would like to highlight the people that are doing a great job. Wouldn't it be nice if by simply focusing on the folks that are doing a great job, others might follow suit? Here's what I would ask you to do. When a teacher or a student goes above and beyond, let them know that you appreciate them. And let us know to because we would like to recognize them.

In the section of our newsletter called 'People Matter,' we plan to feature a star student and a star teacher this school year. Please share their story with us so that we can share it with our crowd.

HALLOWEEN SAFETY

Halloween is a time when we let our kids dress up in costumes and go out after dark to knock on strangers' doors and ask for candy for them to eat. There's not really anything that sounds safe about it--right? Fortunately, there are safe ways to celebrate this day that can be fun for kids of all ages. Whether your child is dressing as a Frozen character or a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle, be sure to follow these safety rules on Halloween night:

1. **Be sure your child can easily move around in his or her costume.** Children are more likely to fall if their costume is dragging the ground.
2. **Visit local trunk-or-treats or fall festivals.** If you don't feel comfortable visiting neighboring homes in your community--follow your parental intuition and DON'T GO! Your child will have plenty of fun participating in many other Halloween activities offered in our community.
3. **Check out that candy.** Before you allow your child to dig into their 'loot,' check it out. Discard any unwrapped pieces of candy, and anything that looks suspicious. Decide which candies are appropriate for their age and only allow them to have those pieces--some candies pose a choking threat to little ones.
4. **Wear bright clothing.** Drivers can't see Batman in the dark. Or Spiderman. Or La La Loopsy. Be sure that your child's costume incorporates some reflective material so they can be seen and be safe.
5. **Follow that child!** Kids often feel very comfortable in their own neighborhoods and may want to go trick-or-treating alone. Keep in mind that there will be other people out on Halloween night and the best practice would be to go with your child and stay with him or her.



LEARNING THE LAW

litigation /litē'gāSHən/ noun

1. the act or process of litigating; "a matter that is still in litigation."
2. a lawsuit.

People Matter

Linzie Batchelor is the Director of Marketing at David Blackwell Law. She and her husband, Greg have two young girls. After graduating from Presbyterian College with a Bachelor of Science, Linzie completed her MBA at Winthrop University. Before beginning her marketing career, Linzie taught business classes at Midlands Technical College and Winthrop University. Originally from Hartsville, she loves the outdoors and anything to do with water--fishing, boating, and going to the beach.

Linzie is the author of David Blackwell Law's new children's book due out this fall--**Bark, Wag, Bite**. This book, the first of many in a series of child safety books, teaches kids how to play it safe around pups. If you'd like to reserve a copy of the book, call us at 803.285.0225



Car Wreck FAQs

We are often asked--Can I settle my South Carolina car wreck claim without a lawyer?

You may not need a lawyer, but it does not hurt to discuss your case with a lawyer. For cases that only involve minor property damage, it is unlikely that a personal injury lawyer can offer much assistance. In more serious cases, it is much more likely that a good personal injury lawyer can assist you.

I would always recommend that you consult with a lawyer, and I can say with certainty that you should have a lawyer review your case under the following circumstances:

- The other driver was intoxicated
- Bones were fractured;
- Medical bills and lost wages together exceed \$5,000;
- Pre-existing medical conditions are aggravated by the wreck;
- The at-fault driver does not have insurance or enough insurance;
- Tractor trailer wreck;
- Medical liens are filed by your health insurer.

The basic information that you need to share when you speak with a lawyer should answer the following questions:

- When was the wreck?
- Where was the wreck?
- How did the wreck happen?
- Did the police come to the wreck and issue any tickets?
- Were you or was anyone else hurt or what were the injuries?
- What kind of medical treatment have you received?
- What damage was done to your vehicle?
- Do you have insurance?
- Does the other driver have insurance?



Chocolate Chess Pie

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 pie shell | 1 stick of margarine |
| 2 eggs | 1 square of unsweetened chocolate |
| 1 cup sugar | 1 tsp vanilla flavoring |

Combine and beat eggs, sugar, and vanilla. Melt margarine and chocolate and add to mixture, mixing well. Pour into unbaked pie shell. Bake at 325 degrees for 30-35 minutes.

Got a favorite recipe? Send it to us!

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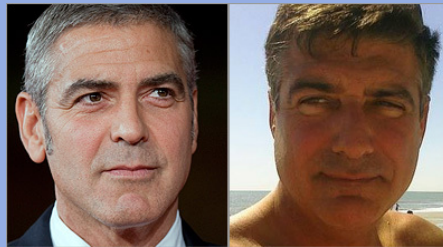
LET'S GET SOCIAL

Congratulations to Heath Springs Elementary School who won \$775 for our Winner Takes All School Contest. Thanks to all schools who participated!



We hope that **Vernelle Braun** enjoyed her tickets for two to see **The Charlie Daniels Band** live at Bundy Auditorium. Stay tuned for more contests coming soon!

CELEBRITY LOOK-ALIKE CONTEST!



Some of you (or your friends) look a WHOLE LOT like a famous person. Do you have people stopping you for autographs? If so--you have to enter our Celebrity Look-Alike Contest on Facebook. Check us out on our Facebook for more details. Contest begins October 5.

WELCOME NEW CLIENTS!

We appreciate your confidence and look forward to serving you.

KNOW SOMEONE WHO NEEDS OUR HELP?

Thanks for telling others there's a law firm you know and trust that cares about their clients. Your referrals continue to be one of the best ways clients find us and we deeply appreciate it.

Has David Blackwell already helped you or your loved ones? Leave a testimonial on our Facebook page, or send us a letter or an email! We'd love to hear from you!

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This newsletter is published for informational purposes only and no legal advice is intended.