

Free Case Evaluation

Personal Injury

Contact Us

April 2019

"If people did not love one another, I really don't see what use there would be in having any spring."

- Victor Hugo

Warding Off Evil

"We are going to get you back to the condition you were in before you got hurt. That's our commitment to you."

I have to share a story I heard recently that both gave me chills and boiled my blood, while confirming for the umpteenth time that we are doing good, important, noble work in this firm.

This is not a client's story. I really wish the person had been a client -- because stopping things like this from happening is why this firm exists.



In a nutshell, I recently met a young mother who works in a chiropractic office, and she told me about a violent car crash she had been in a couple of years ago when she was rear-ended by a distracted driver. The cause of the crash sounded pretty typical, and the description of the violence of the wreck was consistent with what I've heard over and over again in my practice. Like most of my clients, this young lady initially thought she would recover on her own, but quickly discovered that the whiplash and her other spinal disc injuries would require significant treatment if she was to make a full recovery. Because she worked in the medical industry and understood how important it was to get early, consistent care, she did her best to get all the care she needed. Of course, that was expensive.

Fortunately, the at-fault driver's insurance representatives made sure her initial medical bills were taken care of and checked in with her frequently to sympathize and show their deep concern. They made it clear they were on her

side and doing everything they could to ensure she was completely taken care of. Eventually, these insurance-company representatives who had put in the effort to develop a rapport -- maybe even a friendship -- with this young lady offered her a settlement. A small payment for her pain and suffering, but also, they told her, a commitment to provide her all the medical care she needed to make a full recovery. "We are going to get you back to the condition you were in before you got hurt," they told her. "That's our commitment to you."

This young lady, the mother of small children and a full-time worker, accepted the offer and signed a release, grateful that the extensive treatment she would need for her injuries wouldn't be a financial burden to her family.

She didn't hire a lawyer. Her "friends" at the insurance company warned her against hiring a lawyer, telling her they wouldn't offer more money if she got a lawyer involved, so all it would do was cost her a portion of her settlement. That, for sure, was the last thing she needed, so she kept lawyers out of it.

After continuing her course of care for about a month, she got a phone call from a doctor's office. Her upcoming appointment was being canceled, she was told, because the insurance company was refusing to pay for it. She called the insurance adjuster who had been so kind to her.

She asked, "Why will you not pay for my appointment?"

"It has been a month. The release you signed says we will pay for your care for 30 days."

"You told me you would get me back to the condition I was in before I got hurt. That is going to take a lot longer than 30 days!"

"The release you signed says we will pay for your care for 30 days."

"But I'm still in a lot of pain! I need more care!"

"I guess you'll have to find some other way to pay for it."

And so, years later, with eight herniated discs in her neck and back, this young mother continues to live with the pain inflicted on her by a careless driver. The promises of the sweet-talking insurance adjusters were worthless. Their warnings about hiring a lawyer were just self-serving lies. The details, the fine print -- it all benefited the insurance company and did nothing for her or her injuries. As too many people find out too late, what insurance company representatives tell you when dealing with a claim is what they want you to believe, and their words are motivated by nothing more than the insurance company's interest in protecting its own bottom line.

The insurance company does not care about you. The insurance company's representatives do not care about you. They care about money, and keeping as much of it as possible, no matter what is true, what is fair, or what is right. Remember that.

This young lady not only allowed me to share her story -- she asked me to. She made the mistake of not recruiting to her side a skilled, caring personal injury firm before negotiating her claim with the insurance company, and it cost her immensely.

Don't let that happen to you or the people you love.



How to Put Personal Injury Attorneys Out of Business

This past weekend I accompanied our oldest son, on the cusp of earning his driver's license, to the B.R.A.K.E.S. class, held at the Atlanta Motor Speedway.

B.R.A.K.E.S. is the brainchild of professional racecar driver Doug Herbert, who in 2008 lost his two sons in a fatal car crash caused by his older son's reckless driving. Doug founded B.R.A.K.E.S. "to prevent injuries and save lives by training and educating teenage drivers and their parents about the importance of safe and responsible driving." It is an impressive program.

The course lasts about four hours, starting with a short classroom session with both parents and their teens, covering positioning yourself in the car, the blind spots on tractor trailers, and the sobering statistics about the dangers the roads pose to teenage drivers. After the class, the instructors take the kids outside for several hours of hands-on, behind-the-wheel training in a variety of dangerous and stressful situations.

Kids learn and practice panic stops, crash avoidance, skid recovery, dealing with distractions in the car, and recovering when a wheel drops off the side of the pavement. They learn how to set their mirrors to eliminate blind spots, what behaviors will keep them safe on the road, and how to speak up as a passenger when the driver is doing something dangerous. For some of these drivers, many of the scenarios discussed will never happen; some of these drivers, though, will find themselves in these situations at some point and will be much better equipped to deal with them because of this course.

If all drivers would take the B.R.A.K.E.S. course and put into practice everything they teach there, I'd have to find a new way to earn a living.

And that would be fine by me.

To learn more, visit http://www.putonthebrakes.org.

2019 IS THE BEST YEAR EVER Make It Yours!

2019 Is The Best Year Ever. That isn't a prediction - it is a statement of fact, a commitment, an attitude, a mission and a community. We declare we will live more in 2019. We will do more things we have always wanted to do. We will have more fun and meet more people.

If you also want to put more life in your life, join us. <u>Like our page on Facebook</u> to stay in the loop, and check out our plans at <u>www.2019isthebestyearever.com</u>.

Do What You Love. Be Who You Are. Live Every Day.
#2019isthebestyearever

Puzzle

Have fun, and check back next month for the solution!

ZERO EXTRA

If the digit 0 is written at the right-hand end of a certain number, that number is increased by 3456. Find the number.

Last month's solution:

B L O O DL A R G OO V E R TG A S E S

Be Our Guest

Join us anytime at these recurring events. Email for more details.

BNI Success Masters

Weekly, Tuesdays, 7:30 am, Egg Harbor Cafe, Marietta.

Kiwanis Club of Marietta

Weekly, Thursdays, 11:30 am, Marietta Country Club.

Northeast Cobb Business Association

Monthly, 3rd Wed., 11:30 am, Piedmont Church. *Catered lunch, networking, great speakers*

Main Street Morning Buzz

Monthly, Last Friday, 8:00 am, Woodstock City Chambers. *Coffee, Chick-fil-A, networking, and local updates*

Young Professionals of Woodstock (YPOW)

Thursdays, 7:00 am, Copper Coin Coffee, Downtown Woodstock Coffee, networking, local leadership

Lion's Pride Networking

2nd and 4th Thursdays, 7:30 am, Fidelity Bank, 830 Old Piedmont Rd. *Coffee, doughnuts, and networking*

Everything you Deserve. Don't Settle for Less!

Sincerely,



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