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FINNEY INJURY LAW

- TRIAL LAWYERS -

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RECOGNIZING THE ST. LOUIS HISPANIC COMMUNITY

In order to recognize National Hispanic Heritage Month, we thought this would be a great time to celebrate the achievements and contributions of Hispanic Americans and how we can help support our St. Louis, Missouri, Hispanic communities.

Greater St. Louis Hispanic Festival

This annual event is one of the largest Hispanic celebrations in the St. Louis area that shares the colorful and rich Hispanic culture. With Hispanic folk dancers, over 50 vendors, live music, delicious foods and beverages, and so much more, you are able to experience the true Hispanic culture right before your eyes.

This event will take place at Soulard Park on September 24-25 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information regarding this exciting event, check out HispanicFestivalStl.com.

How You Can Help the Hispanic Community

Volunteering, donating, supporting, or even just advocating for our Hispanic community makes all the difference. It brings awareness and a better appreciation for their contributions to our city.

Here are a few ways you can get involved to help local Hispanic communities:

Understanding Cultural Differences

It is important to know which specific cultures exist in your community, and generally speaking, most Hispanics and Latinos value family, youth, cultural art, food, and music within their cultures. With this knowledge, there are ways to incorporate those aspects in projects, programs, and meetings to create a welcoming environment.

Donate to Organizations that Support Hispanic Communities

There are many organizations in St. Louis that support the Hispanic

community, such as the Hispanic Leaders Group of Greater St. Louis and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan St. Louis. But there are plenty of others, too!

Most of these organizations' goals are to improve business opportunities, unite the diverse Hispanic community, and present their voice to the larger society.

Support Local Food Vendors and Food Trucks

Food is a significant part of the Hispanic culture. It is a way to express love and passion while unifying friends and family. Most food vendors rely directly on sales to provide for their families, so if you're looking to go out for dinner, stop by one of their trucks and support their business by enjoying their delicious meals.

We are very thankful for our Hispanic communities here in St. Louis and will continue to support and advocate for them to strengthen their voices.



TRIALS & THEIR TALES

- NEWSLETTER -

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EMOTIONAL CASE BRINGS REFLECTION

We are preparing for trial in the next week. It is a very sad case where a 19-year-old boy was killed on Highway 70. Honestly, it is difficult to express what happened to him. My hope is that we get a fair recovery for his family. He has two younger brothers in addition to his mom and dad. My cousins represent mom, and we represent dad. It is the biggest case I have handled to this point.

I was just explaining the case to one of my office mates. As I was talking about the case, I was becoming aware of the way in which I was relaying what happened. The problem is clear — I have the curse of too much information. Every time I try to explain this case, the recipient of my retelling is drinking from a firehose. There is no way they can catch up to what I am saying, much less digest the information. This is a horrible way to convey the case. Crucial information won't be retained because of the avalanche in which it is conveyed. This is never good for a plaintiff. It takes much less emotional energy to find for a defendant than to invest oneself in the struggle of a plaintiff.

We are less than two weeks from trial. The next week will be refining the story of the case — what needs to be told, what doesn't need to be said, what speaks for itself, and how can I make this understandable? These strategic points will keep me up as I go through the case and decide how to present it. How can we get each juror to invest themselves in this case, to see what happened and how it could have been prevented?

My cousin, Toni, has kept this case alive on a mission to discover the truth about why this boy died. The work she has done is no less than heroic. We've won meritorious motions, and the judge has done an incredible job of being prepared and contemplating each issue. We've discovered that things are not always what they first appear to be. And that some companies only enforce rules when it is beneficial to them.

The case is going to be tried in a very professional manner. It will be organized, and we will be prepared.



But will the jurors get it? I don't know. As Toni and I discussed the case this morning, we mentioned that losing is a possible outcome; we could lose. The jurors could find against us. It is one of many outcomes. The best we can do is present a strong case. Our job is not to sign the verdict. That is the jurors' jobs. Our job is to give them the information they need to do their jobs. So that is what we will do. We will give them the facts of the case and the damages and let them do their jobs. If they fail to do their jobs, that is not a reflection of us. We cannot measure ourselves based on decisions we do not make. That is a great plan to live a miserable life.

Toni and I will have more cases. We will have other opportunities. We are fortunate. Our clients have one chance to show their son's life matters and that their relationship with him matters. That his dreams matter. We can't give up, but we can't be heavy-handed either.

I look forward to letting you all know what the outcome is. So far, the insurance company has not offered anything to settle the case. They believe they have a defensible case. Maybe they do. That is not for me to decide. This is another opportunity to walk the walk — we are trial lawyers. Trial lawyers belong in the courtroom.

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Teenage Self-Esteem vs. Social Media

What to Know and How to Spend Time Elsewhere



According to Mayo Clinic, nearly 97% of kids aged 13-17 years old use social media, whether it's YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or another platform. Although these platforms come with major benefits — such as staying in touch with distant family and friends — it's a good idea to keep an eye on your teen's social media usage.

Research shows that using social media more than three hours a day can increase risk of mental health problems, including anxiety and depression. Here's why — or at least, a few expert theories.

The Proven Risk Factors

Social media affects everyone a little differently. For teens, thankfully, there are some studies about these differences.

Beyond simply the number of hours spent on social media, there are other ways that researchers have noticed the negative impact of social media on teens. A 2016 study of more than 450 teens found that greater social media use, nighttime social media use, and emotional investment in social media (such as feeling upset when prevented from logging on) were linked to worse sleep quality and higher levels of anxiety and depression.

It even matters how your teen is using social media. Is your teen interacting or only looking? A 2015 study found that social comparison and feedback seeking by teens using social media were linked to depressive symptoms. Additionally, a 2013 study showed that older adolescents who used social

media passively, such as simply looking at pictures, reported declines in life satisfaction. In contrast, participants who used social media to interact with others and post their own content didn't experience these declines.

The Alternatives

Instead of staring at a screen, encourage your teens to spend time face-to-face with their classmates and friends; that's especially important for teens who are vulnerable to social anxiety. Remind your teen that certain behaviors aren't okay on social media: gossiping, spreading rumors, bullying, or damaging someone's reputation (online or otherwise). Even if these activities can seem harmless at first, they are extremely damaging and hurtful to the people involved.

Face-to-face contact is one of the most promising ways to deflect the negative aspects of social media. Don't miss a chance to give your teen the one-on-one time that they may need.

Know the Signs

CONCUSSIONS SHOULDN'T BE TAKEN LIGHTLY

Concussions have become an epidemic in the U.S., with millions of traumatic brain injuries happening each year. From playing sports and car accidents to direct hits to the head, these bumps or blows can cause problems that may lead to serious issues down the road.

What Happens to Your Brain Following a Concussion

Though our brains are protected by the skull and shock-absorbing spinal fluid, a major blow to the head can cause the brain to bounce around inside the skull. In other cases, cells and nerves can be stretched or twisted, which damages the tissue that protects the brain.

These damages can cause the neurons to stop communicating with each other and cause the victim to have difficulty thinking, moving, or even talking.

Signs of a Concussion

The signs and symptoms of a concussion may not show up immediately, and they can last for days, weeks, or even longer.

Common symptoms of a concussion include the following:

- Headaches or dizziness
- Nausea/vomiting
- Fatigue or drowsiness
- Vision or hearing disturbances
- Sensitivity to noise or light
- Difficulty concentrating

Some more serious signs include:

- One pupil is larger than the other
- Inability to wake up
- Slurred speech, weakness, numbness, or decreased coordination
- Loss of consciousness, even for a brief moment
- Convulsions or seizures

Depending on the severity of the blow to the head, even the smallest sign should be taken seriously.

The Danger of Missing Concussion Warnings

As mentioned before, signs and symptoms may not occur immediately. So, it's important to be aware of the

signs so that you can promptly seek medical attention, if need be. If left untreated, a concussion can lead to many long-term complications.

These include chronic headaches, memory loss, vertigo, and post-concussion syndrome, which are headaches, mood swings, and brain fogs that can last for months or even years. Though mild concussions may heal on their own, serious ones can cause permanent brain damage.

If the symptoms are serious, seek emergency care as soon as possible.

It's important to know the signs and dangers of concussions to raise awareness and support for those who are suffering from the effects. If you have suffered brain trauma, whether mild or severe, reach out to one of our experienced Finney Injury Law attorneys at (314) 293-4222 so that we can be your advocate.

Thinking Outside the Bun Leads to Legal Action

THE STORY OF 50 CENT VS. TACO BELL

In 2008, rapper 50 Cent filed an unlikely lawsuit against the fast-food chain Taco Bell. Was it an endorsement deal gone wrong? Quite the opposite. According to the rapper, the company had implied an endorsement deal in the media when there was none.

Taco Bell, known for their quirky and humorous ads, had released a print ad formatted as a faux “letter” to 50 Cent, requesting that 50 Cent change his name to 79, 89, or 99 Cent as a part of their latest promotion. The letter reached the national press and even television ... except for 50 Cent’s actual mailbox. In fact, 50 Cent had no idea Taco Bell used his name.

By releasing the letter, 50 Cent became the face of Taco Bell’s whole campaign, too. The letter was part of a larger hip hop-themed campaign, and customers could go to the Taco Bell website and participate in a “Rap Name Creator” to discover their rap name. They also had a “Why Pay Mo’ Rhyme Generator” that played hip hop music and a montage of “hip hop-themed scenes,” according to the rapper’s lawyer, Peter D. Raymond.

As soon as 50 Cent found out about the letter on the news, he wasn’t happy. On July 23, 2008, 50 Cent — whose real name is Curtis Jackson — filed a federal lawsuit saying they featured the rapper in an ad campaign without his permission and profited directly from his celebrity status without paying

him a multimillion-dollar fee. Raymond said his client sought \$4 million in damages.

In response, Taco Bell Corp. spokesman Rob Poetsch issued a statement saying: “We made a good faith, charitable offer to 50 Cent to change his name to either 79, 89 or 99 Cent for one day by rapping his order at a Taco Bell, and we would have been very pleased to make the \$10,000 donation to the charity of his choice.”

In the end, both sides settled, keeping the terms of the settlement confidential and paying their own legal fees. So, it’s possible that 50 Cent was paid after all, but we’ll never know the exact terms of their legal agreement, except “both sides are satisfied,” according to Raymond.

Since then, more companies have been careful about using celebrity names in their marketing without permission. It pays to think inside the bun, after all.



GREEN BEAN AND EGGPLANT STIR-FRY



Inspired by ThePlantBasedWok.com

INGREDIENTS

- 2 Chinese eggplants, cut into 1/4-inch strips
- Salt, to taste
- 3 tbsp vegetable oil, divided
- 6 oz green beans, trimmed
- 6 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2-inch piece of ginger, thinly sliced
- 1 red chili pepper, thinly sliced
- 2 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tbsp vegan stir-fry sauce (like Lee Kum Kee Vegetarian)
- 1/8 tsp pepper

DIRECTIONS

1. In a large bowl, add the eggplant and coat with salt. Cover the eggplant with water and soak for 15 minutes. Drain and pat dry.
2. In a wok over medium heat, warm 2 tbsp of oil. Add the eggplant and fry for 4–5 minutes. Remove and set aside.
3. Add the remaining oil and green beans to the wok. Fry for 5 minutes, then remove and set aside.
4. Add garlic, ginger, and chili before stir-frying for 1 minute. Return the green beans and eggplant to the wok and add the soy sauce, vegan stir-fry sauce, and pepper. Toss to coat, then serve over rice!

YOUR REFERRALS MEAN THE WORLD TO US

There is no greater compliment we can receive than a client telling a friend or loved one about us. If you know somebody who has been injured and needs an attorney who will fight on their behalf and give their case the attention it deserves, please pass along this newsletter and have them give us a call at 314-293-4222. Thank you for spreading the word about Finney Injury Law.