



**FINNEY INJURY LAW**  
- TRIAL LAWYERS -

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June is Pride Month! St. Louis is usually packed with local events, festivals, and parades to celebrate the local LGBTQ community. Though PrideFest — the biggest event in the city — has been canceled for a second year due to COVID-19 restrictions, organizers say it will be back and better than ever in 2022.

If you want to show your LGBTQ support this month in STL, here are some safe ways to do so:

### Support

Small businesses have had a tough year! Show a little extra love to your favorite local queer-owned businesses this month. Grab a coffee or treat at MoKaBe's Coffeehouse or treat yourself to small-batch frozen yogurt from Bella's Frozen Yogurt. (Bonus: Both places offer plenty of vegan or dairy-free options, so everyone in the family can find something to indulge in.)

You can also leave a review online for your favorite shops. This is a free, easy, and high-impact way to give businesses a boost.

### Educate

Make a goal to learn something new this month about St. Louis' LGBTQ history. Check out the Missouri History Museum's Gateway to Pride virtual exhibit, which launched earlier this year. The exhibit was originally planned to launch in person at the museum, and while that wasn't possible, several in-person events are still planned to complement the programming. Visit [MOHistory.org/exhibits/gateway-to-pride](http://MOHistory.org/exhibits/gateway-to-pride) to see the virtual exhibit and learn about in-person events this summer.

You can support a queer-owned business and educate yourself this month by picking up a read at Left Bank Books, the oldest independent bookstore in St. Louis.

### Donate

We have many great local organizations dedicated to helping those in the LGBTQ community. PROMO is a nonprofit organization fighting for equal representation for all. Their website also includes an awesome list of community organizations that could use your support to continue their work in the community. Visit [PromoOnline.org/services](http://PromoOnline.org/services) to see the full list.

The staff here at Finney Injury Law are proud to live and work in such a beautifully diverse city. Even without the fabulous parades and fun social events, we can all do our part to show our pride this month.



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Recently, I was lucky enough to come across tickets to a Blues game. Because of COVID-19, I had not been to an event in what seemed like forever. We received two tickets from a good friend of mine, and I took my oldest son. He just turned 8, and my wife and I told him it was for his birthday. He was super excited. So was I.

The event was different: not many people but still more than I expected, and no lines for anything at all. Parking was great. We were able to sit in our own row and no one was near us. Those cardboard cutouts of the fans they use to fill the seats really do throw you off. You think people are sitting all around you but they aren't.

The Blues started pretty poorly in the game. It was not much fun to watch. We bought some food, and I figured my son would want to eat at the game. He didn't touch it. He said he wasn't hungry. He was a nervous wreck. You can see him here on the edge of his seat, just hoping the Blues would turn it on. Relentless hope.

Near the end of the second period, I said to him that we should probably leave about halfway through the third. He said,

## Relentless Hope Pays Off A LESSON FROM MY SON

"Dad, but it isn't over. They can come back." The Blues were still losing 2-1 and their only goal was a lucky deflection off the defenseman for the Wild. They were not inspiring confidence. And I was not going to sit around an empty arena where we were getting pummeled. I told him the standard line of "We'll see." In my head, we were leaving with 6:00 left in the third period.

The second period ended and we went to get a snack. I told him he could get anything ... candy, ice cream, whatever. All he wanted was a soda. He got a Pepsi. He said he wanted to get back to the seats to see what would happen, so we got back with a minute or two left in intermission. He then realized he needed to go to the bathroom. I could see the anguish on his face — one minute till the third period began or restroom? I told him not to worry; he could make it. He sprinted to the restroom and made it back at puck drop.

As expected, the third period was a drag. We were not doing well and couldn't get anything going. He sat totally engrossed in the game. He just couldn't let it go. I told him we were leaving soon and his eyes got watery. He said, "Please, Dad. Please. Just till the end."

I told him, "Bud, we are not going to win. It doesn't look good, but we will stay a bit longer."

He would not relent until I agreed to stay for the entire game. I gave in. It

was his birthday after all, and he was so excited. With about two minutes left, the Blues pulled their goalie. This game was going to end 3-1 or more. But when they pulled the goalie, he got so excited. Mike Hoffman came on for the Blues. With 35 seconds left, he ripped a shot that somehow trickled into the net. I couldn't believe it. The game was tied. Mac was going insane. I was so happy. He was pumped for overtime.

Well, his favorite player, Ryan O'Reilly, delivered an incredible backhanded goal with two seconds left in OT and the Blues won. While I had been plotting our exit for 2 1/2 periods, my son was enjoying the game. Pure passion. He would not give up on them. He was relentless in his hope and belief that his team would pull through.

I left that game admiring my young son more than ever. He taught me an incredible lesson — one I knew but needed reminding: Never give up on something you believe in. Be relentlessly hopeful. I will take that lesson with me through this year and beyond. We will never give up on what we believe in and stand for: our clients and their lives, their families, their hopes, and their human experiences. We are relentlessly hopeful in the power of human beings.

*Chi*



# EXPLORE A NATIONAL FOREST FOR FREE

## ON NATIONAL GET OUTDOORS DAY

Many people in the U.S. and across the world have a national park trip on their travel bucket list. While Zion, Yellowstone, and the Great Smoky Mountains are all awesome locales, outdoor enthusiasts often overlook a resource that is less busy, less expensive, and usually right in their backyard: national forests.

All but 10 states have a national forest (or more than one!), so if your home state doesn't have one, it's very likely a neighboring state does! And there's no better time to hike, bike, forage for mushrooms or berries, or camp at a nearby national forest than this month. The tree-filled landscape will provide shade and help you beat the summer heat, and to further incentivize visitors, the U.S. Forest Service (the organization that oversees the national forests) is offering a fee-free day on Saturday, June 12, in honor of National Get Outdoors Day!

While parking and day-use fees to access national forests tend to be relatively modest, fee-free days open up the opportunity to all visitors. The U.S. Forest Service has a great interactive map tool that prospective park-goers can use to learn more about the forests in their area, amenities and activities, and accessibility. Visit [FS.fed.us/ivm](https://fs.fed.us/ivm) to access the map and see what's near your hometown!

If you're dreaming up travel plans beyond your state's border, consider visiting these notable U.S. national forests.

- **El Yunque National Forest:** Located in Puerto Rico, El Yunque is the only tropical rainforest in the United States.
- **Tongass National Forest:** Spanning 16.7 acres and several islands across Southeast Alaska, the Tongass is the country's largest national forest.
- **Salmon-Challis National Forest:** This Idaho forest is the largest contiguous wilderness area in the lower 48 and contains the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness.
- **Cibola National Forest and Grassland:** Spread across north-central New Mexico, west Texas, and Oklahoma, this forest and grassland area is notable for its diverse ecosystems and wildlife. The Sky Islands portion of the park is also home to over 200 rare plant and animal species.



# Explosive Swings Are Allowed on the Golf Course Explosive Balls (at Least in Massachusetts) Are Not

With the U.S. Open coming up in June (barring any major COVID-19-related developments), the participants are sure to leave audiences in awe of their explosive drives. While "explosive" in this context doesn't mean anything is actually exploding, there is a precedent for golf balls that literally explode. In fact, that precedent led to the creation of a pretty interesting state law in Massachusetts: No one is allowed to sell exploding golf balls.

According to Chapter 148, Section 55 of the General Laws of Massachusetts, "Anyone who sells or knowingly uses ... a golf ball containing any acid, fluid, gas, or other substance tending to cause the ball to explode" can be fined \$500 for the first offense and up to \$1,000 or imprisoned for a year for any offense after that. You would think that the existence of this law means that at some point, people were just smacking exploding golf balls around the Bay State before the lawmen kiboshed it. However, the truth is a little more nuanced.

While it's unknown what exactly prompted the legislation, there are a few clues as to what

sorts of incidents Massachusetts governments were trying to avoid. The first clue is that prior to the late 1960s and early 1970s, golf balls were actually manufactured with a caustic liquid at the center. This led to the unforeseen injury of a boy named William J. in 1912, who, while "dissecting" a golf ball, ruptured the rubber fluid sack at the center. Some of the liquid got in his eye and caused permanent damage to his sight, despite multiple visits to the doctor.



Even though golf ball manufacturers stopped using caustic liquids in the centers of their golf balls in the 1920s, the liquid centers of golf balls made in the following decades could still cause harm. If someone dissected a golf ball and ruptured the fluid sack of one of these later balls, the crystalline material within could still cause injuries. Fortunately, solid core golf balls became common during the 1970s, removing liquid core golf balls from the course for good.

However, even though they're gone, their legacy lives on in this strange Massachusetts law.

# June Is National Safety Month

Here at Finney Injury Law, we see the effects injuries have on our clients' lives every day. In addition to the mental and physical pain associated with injuries, our clients must also deal with the financial fallout from missing work and getting medical treatment. We're so gratified to help our clients get the compensation they deserve after an injury, and we're also grateful for organizations like the nonprofit National Safety Council (NSC), which aims to eliminate preventable injuries and deaths in the U.S.

The NSC has designated the month of June as National Safety Month, and it's a great time to get educated on the leading causes of preventable injuries and how to create a safer world for our families at home, in public, or at work.

### Are things getting safer?

Given technological advances and our access to information, the answer to this question is unfortunately not a straightforward "yes." The number of preventable injuries increased 3.1% from 2018 to 2019 (when an astonishing 48.3 million injuries were reported), though opioid overdoses and poisoning deaths drove much of this. Fortunately, both

national and local campaigns (like RecoverSTL) are addressing this serious threat to safety, and more resources are being put toward the cause.

### Where can we make the biggest impact?

While it's important to address safety concerns wherever possible, the NCS focuses their efforts on three key areas: workplace safety, roadway safety, and mitigation of impairment.

One point of light is that driving-related injuries were slightly down in 2019, according to a recent NSC study. We know the three biggest causes of driving fatalities are alcohol, speeding, and not wearing a seat belt. So, when it comes to you and your family, buckling up, obeying the speed limit, and never getting into the car with an impaired driver will go a long way to ensure your safety on the road. And if you are the victim of another driver's negligence, we'll help you hold them accountable.

We all want to live in a safer world. To learn more about National Safety Month, visit [NSC.org](https://NSC.org), and visit [FinneyInjuryLaw.com](https://FinneyInjuryLaw.com) to see how we can help if you've been injured.

## APPLY FOR THE FINNEY INJURY LAW SCHOLARSHIP!

Finney Injury Law is proud to continue our scholarship program for a second year. Last year, we intended to give out one scholarship, but after seeing the need for more, we ended up giving out seven. This year, we're giving out five worth \$2,500 each. Recipients can use the funds for tuition, books, housing, or LSAT course reimbursement.

### About the Scholarship

The Finney Injury Law Scholarship empowers students who are historically underrepresented in the legal profession to pursue their educational dreams. Cost,



support, and guidance are often barriers preventing smart and driven individuals from seeking higher education. Our scholarship will help deserving students break down those barriers, accomplish their educational goals, and prepare them for a future in law.

To see the list of eligibility criteria and application requirements, visit [FinneyInjuryLaw.com/the-finney-injury-law-scholarship](https://FinneyInjuryLaw.com/the-finney-injury-law-scholarship).

### Application Deadline

All applications must be submitted via the website above by **July 31, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. CST.**

## 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.**