



FINNEY INJURY LAW
- TRIAL LAWYERS -

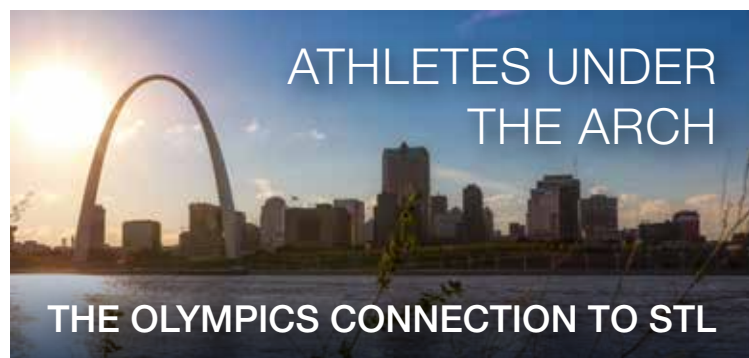
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The Olympic Games are slated to begin on July 23 in Tokyo, Japan, after a yearlong delay due to the pandemic. While five past Olympics have been canceled (all due to WWI and WWII), the Tokyo games are making history as the first-ever to be postponed and rescheduled. This got us thinking about other historic Olympic moments that include our beloved city.

Site of the 1st Games on U.S. Soil

While the Olympic Games are said to have originated some 3,000 years ago in ancient Greece, the modern event was revived in 1896. In a nod to its past, this event occurred in Athens, Greece. But St. Louis has the distinction of being the first place the games were held outside of Europe. That was the Summer Olympics of 1904 where many competed on what's now known as Francis Field on the Washington University campus.

Home of Many Greats

Countless Olympians have hailed from the Gateway City in sports as diverse as speed skating, boxing, soccer, golf, track, and more! One in particular has gone down in American history as one of the great athletes of all time: Jackie Joyner-Kersey.

JJK hails from East St. Louis and first qualified for the Olympic Trials in 1980 as a high school long jumper. She was a track and field *and* basketball star at UCLA, where she went to college. Before graduation, she attended her first Olympic competition in 1984 where she earned a silver medal in the heptathlon. JJK took home the gold in the same event in 1988 and 1992. She also medaled several times in the long jump. In 1988, she won gold, and in '92 and '96, she won bronze in the event. Is it any wonder she was named the Greatest Female Athlete of the 20th Century by Sports Illustrated?

Also hailing from East St. Louis is five-time Olympic gold medalist swimmer Tom Jager. Jo Jo White, a McKinley High School graduate, helped the 1968 U.S. basketball team earn a gold medal after an undefeated season. And St. Louis' own Lori Chalupny and Becky Sauerbrunn made their names by bringing home the gold in soccer. Chalupny has stuck close to home; she now coaches at Maryville University.

Whatever your favorite Summer Olympics event is, we hope you get your fill of watching it this month!



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Office Scholarship

The end of this month is the deadline for our office's scholarship. We started it just last year with the idea that we would fund a scholarship of \$2,500 for one person who came from an underprivileged background who wanted to pursue law. What I did not expect was the quality of the applicants. They were incredible people who took the time to really do what we asked and had all the references needed. We could not choose just one. It was impossible. So, we funded seven. It was much more than we wanted to shell out, but no one at the office could find any downside to any of the seven. So, we did it.

This year, we are doing five. We hope the best and the brightest apply, but also those who would never think they could get this scholarship. I have seen the power of education in my own life and with my own eyes. You see, I went to a top private all-boys Jesuit school. I had a tremendous grade school. I had all the opportunities. This isn't about my experience with school.

So, let me tell you a story about a classmate of mine from high school. Let's call him "James." James was the first kid I met who lived in an apartment. Most of my friends were from single-family homes with two parents, almost all of them white. He was raised by his mom, and he had no siblings. He went to public school. He was mixed race. We had almost nothing in common. But he was outgoing, had a big smile, and a gregarious personality. And he was funny. People liked him. So did I.

Well, James struggled our first semester of high school. Like really struggled. Like he was going to be asked to leave. Like a 1.4 GPA. I'll never forget when we were diagramming complex sentences freshman year, and he looked over at me. He had never done anything like it at his school. It was basically Chinese to him. It easily could have been another defeat for him. Another reason to say he didn't belong at this school and another reason to leave. But he fought through it.

James played football with me. He was a big kid and fairly athletic. He didn't start, but he stuck with it. I assume he enjoyed the camaraderie. I certainly enjoyed having him around. He studied hard enough in school and managed to stay in. He graduated with me, and he went on to college. We lost touch over the years since high school, but I've always considered him a friend.

HELPING PEOPLE LIKE JAMES

I saw James a few years ago at Midway airport in Chicago. I was flying back from a federal court hearing, ranting in my phone about how we were about to get completely hosed by the judge (true) when I saw someone out of the corner of my eye. It was a man in cargo shorts, a T-shirt, and a backpack. It was James. He waved to me with his trademark gentle smirk across his face. I immediately got off the phone and walked over to him. We exchanged pleasantries, and I asked where he was heading. He said he was heading to a job interview in Ohio. I asked how his mom was doing, and he told me she had passed away from a heart attack. I felt a heavy sadness for him. He told me his dad was back in his life, and it was going well. He also told me he was married. I could only smile for him. It seemed like things were going well for him, so we walked over to get a beer together. He was always an artistic guy, so I figured he was interviewing for a graphic design job or something similar. So, I asked him what he was interviewing for. He responded, "Cardiology Fellowship at Ohio State University Medical Center."

What???? Tears came to my eyes. No way. No way. This kid had beaten all the odds — every single one. A single mom, no dad, mixed-race, struggled in school, no support, etc. ... And look at him now. I still get choked up thinking about it. I get choked up because I am so proud to call him my friend.

We texted afterward, and he said I was exactly what he expected me to be. It made me feel proud — that I didn't let him down. But I am also ashamed at my surprise of him. Why did I set the bar low for him and he the bar so high for me? I should never have expected anything less from him. All he needed was a chance, and the Jesuits gave it to him.

James is one of the many reasons behind our scholarships. We know it is a small drop in the bucket, but if we can have the smallest impact to help people like James, we have made an incredible impact. So, please pass the word. Have people apply.

Let's help support more like James.



Fun Facts About the Fourth of July

You Can Share With Your Kids

What do your kids know about the Fourth of July? Do they know it's a day when you have a barbecue, spend time with friends and neighbors, and watch a fireworks show? These hallmarks of the holiday certainly do make it fun and memorable, but they don't really exemplify why we celebrate the Fourth of July, the anniversary of when the United States declared its independence from Britain.

So, along with the sparklers and hot dogs, here are a few fun facts about Independence Day you can share with your kids to help them understand the significance of the holiday.

The Fourth of July marks our country's independence because it's when the Continental Congress ratified the Declaration of Independence. This fact might seem like a no-brainer, but it contextualizes the holiday for kids. It's a great jumping-off point to talk about why the United States wanted to be its own country, what the Continental Congress was, what the Declaration of Independence said, and what it means to "ratify" something.

Two future presidents signed the Declaration of Independence: John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. They both died exactly 50 years later, on July 4, 1826. This fact is an interesting coincidence sure to fascinate both kids and adults. It's also a great way to introduce kids to some of the Founding Fathers and share how they helped shape the United States today.

In 1776, the year the United States was founded, only 2.5 million people lived here. Today, the U.S. population is 331 million. Lots of people have been born in the United States since it was founded, and millions more came here from other places, hoping to find a better life. Many succeeded, too. Many people want to call this country home!

On the Fourth of July, around 155 million hot dogs are eaten in the United States. Okay, so this fact might not have anything to do with American history, but it's still pretty funny! If anything, the fact that we have so many hot dogs to eat on that day is evidence of the prosperity so many people enjoy in the United States of America.



If you don't know what enamel is, you've probably seen it around: It's the colorful, protective coating that covers tiles and all kinds of fancy cookware. But how does it get on to things? For that, you need heat — enough to melt enamel into a workable, molten-hot liquid. It's dangerous stuff to work with, which means facilities need to provide extensive training, personal protective equipment, and proper maintenance.

POOR SAFETY MEETS MOLTEN ENAMEL

NOTHING COLD ABOUT *THESE* REFRIGERATORS

The Grand Rapids Refrigerator Company of Grand Rapids, Michigan, had not met its duty in any of those three areas when Harry Adams, an employee, was working for them in the early 1900s. The company used enamel to line the inside of its refrigerators in a process that involved introducing molten enamel to water, a hardening reaction that had a high potential for disaster.

And disaster struck in November 1906 when, in the course of Adams' normal duties, the holding tank full of molten enamel exploded while he operated it at close distance — at the instruction of his foreman who was overseeing the operation.

It's a miracle that Adams wasn't killed, although he lived in severe pain for the rest of his life. His employer attempted to dodge all responsibility, and Adams was forced into the courts to get some kind of justice. As you can imagine, the judicial system took note of the incident

and, after examining everything in detail, came to some groundbreaking conclusions, at least for the day.

The chief one was that Adams' injury could not have been foreseen by an average person, because although he had experience, he lacked understanding of the materials he was working with — an understanding that his employer had not provided.

Molten enamel has similar properties to lava, and an exploding tank full of the stuff is not a hazard anyone should have to deal with in the workplace. The shockwaves of Adams' near-fatal injury have reverberated for over a century now and provide valuable precedence when it comes to the duty employers have to their employees, whether that person has experience or not, which is why even today, when we attend ongoing, yearly safety training, we benefit from the hard lessons learned in Adams v. Grand Rapids Refrigerator.

IF I SIGNED A DAY CARE LIABILITY WAIVER

What Rights Do I Have if My Child Gets Hurt?

Many of us here at Finney Injury Law are working parents. We know just how much trust it requires to leave your children under someone else's supervision and how tough it can be to find a day care center that you feel will provide a safe, caring environment for your child — one properly staffed with well-trained professionals. While there are many excellent child care centers, a survey by the National Institute of Child Health Development found that the majority of U.S. day care centers were "poor" or "fair," with just 10% ranked as high quality.

Once you find a provider you feel good about, it's standard practice to sign a liability waiver, releasing the facility and staff from liability for injuries your child incurs on the premises. As any parent knows, some bumps and bruises are unavoidable and to be expected from normal childhood play while at home or day care. However, if you suspect negligence, neglect, or an overall failure of the staff to exercise due care (including proper supervision and ensuring a safe, hazard-free environment), it's worthwhile to reach out to us to talk through your concerns and see if you have grounds for a personal injury or premises liability claim.

The bottom line is liability waivers do not absolve day care centers and providers completely. They are still expected to provide proper supervision, meet state safety requirements, create and follow internal policies and procedures, and properly train staff.

If you have an inkling that something is amiss at your child's day care, don't hesitate to reach out to us at 314-293-4222 or submit an inquiry online at FinneyInjuryLaw.com, where you can also find more resources and information on this topic. Our attorneys have extensive experience with child care and day care injury cases, and our consultations are free and can help put your mind at ease about your child's care or understand the next steps of pursuing a claim.



LAST CHANCE TO 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 for a future in law.

To see the list of eligibility criteria and application requirements, visit 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.