



FINNEY INJURY LAW
- TRIAL LAWYERS -

1600 S. BRENTWOOD BLVD.
SUITE 220 • ST. LOUIS, MO 63144
FINNEYINJURYLAW.COM // 314-293-4222



PRST STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
BOISE, ID
PERMIT 411

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 What Has to Give?
- 2 Will a Night at the Movies Change Forever?
- 2 We Can Help Ease Your Financial Burden After an Accident
- 3 Have Celebrity Divorces Always Been Crazy?
- 3 Easy Foil-Grilled Sausage and Vegetables
- 4 Did You Know These Inventors Are From STL?



INGENUITY FROM ST. LOUIS LOCAL INVENTORS WHO'VE MADE THEIR MARK

From a self-taught engineer who was born into slavery and later invented the friction radiator to a brilliant female physicist who pioneered advances in the plasma field, St. Louis is home to some ingenious individuals. Since August is National Inventors Month, we're taking a look at a few game-changing inventors and the people behind them you may never have heard of.

Charles S.L. Baker's Friction Radiator

Charles S.L. Baker was born into slavery in 1859 and suffered the loss of his mother in his first year of life. He was raised primarily by his father, who worked as an express agent on railroad cars. This had a tremendous influence on Baker's interest in the mechanics of wagons and linchpins.

With no formal education, Baker began a self-study of mechanical engineering and followed his interest in the power of friction to create heat. After over 20 years of experimenting, Baker invented and patented the friction radiator in 1903 and began making them in his own factory. Looking back, Baker's invention is especially notable because it does not require combustion of fossil fuels to produce heat. The language wasn't used back then, but Baker's invention was entirely green.

Betsy Ancker-Johnson's Plasma Workshop

Betsy Ancker-Johnson was born in St. Louis in 1929, and she defied society's expectations for women over and over in her scientific career. Thanks to her mother, who told her to go after her passions, Ancker-Johnson studied physics and engineering and earned a PhD in physics. She went on to become a lecturer, inventor, and senior research physicist!

Her career was an amazing success. She specialized in plasma research, invented a new type of high-frequency signal generator in the 1960s, and was the very first researcher to observe a particular kind of microwave emission from an electron-hole plasma. (We don't understand it either, but she sure did!) Ancker-Johnson passed away in 2020 after decades paving the way for women in science.

Just for Fun ...

There's widespread agreement about Baker's and Ancker-Johnson's inventions, but some inventions have a murkier origin. The 1904 St. Louis World's Fair was said to be the birthplace of food inventions including hot dogs, hamburgers, iced tea, club sandwiches, cotton candy, and ice cream cones.



1600 S. BRENTWOOD BLVD., SUITE 220 • ST. LOUIS, MO 63144 // FINNEYINJURYLAW.COM // 314-293-4222 // AUGUST 2021

WHAT HAS TO GIVE? WHEN TRIALS DON'T PROGRESS

Our office has two trials set this July. By the time you read this, I hope we have tried them both: two very real, very live, very in-person jury trials. It is very exciting. We have been waiting since February 2019, when our last jury trial was. Just writing that out seems so long ago.

We will try these cases in out-state Missouri. We represent two great men who have been dealt a bad hand through no fault or action of their own. Their lives have been permanently altered. We have been doing focus groups, editing down depositions, preparing openings, and working on voir dire (jury selection). The blood is moving again in our veins.

In fact, I have started to resume my pre-pandemic wake-up time. I want to use a little extra time to get more mentally prepared for trial. I am excited to get in front of people to see how they are and what they think these days. What have people learned about themselves during all of this? I intend to ask that to all the prospective jurors. If the focus groups are any indication, I believe I will really enjoy the answers.

I am writing this over the course of a couple days. That timeline is a departure from what I normally do. I usually sit and write this in one sitting. But I just don't seem to have the concentration I need. The trial is taking up too much of my mind. The hearing yesterday went for 3.5 hours over WebEx (the courts use this over Zoom). The hearing was contentious and drawn out. I swear the defense lawyer's strategy is to just draw this out forever and ever. My practiced and intentional patience runs out quicker than I could ever imagine in these hearings. The slime being thrown at my client for the first trial is enraging. I don't like seeing people bullied. And that is exactly what is happening to our client.

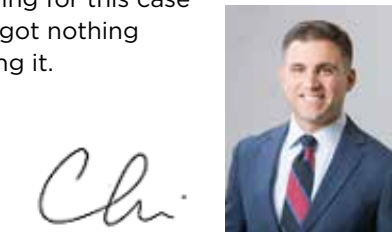
The judge is a good judge, but the pre-trial stuff has lingered too long. Different issues have taken on lives of their own. In his effort to accommodate both sides, he has allowed incessant argument and briefing that has now gotten to a point where we really aren't sure what we are getting done. Both sides feel this way, but neither can decide where to give ground due to the fear that giving ground will bleed into other



areas. The paranoia is crippling. The energy expenditure is taxing. No one can operate like this over an extended period of time, and the trial is fast approaching.

The judge has promised rulings on several occasions. Now, we are less than a week out, and he has failed to live up to those promises. And the lawyers on both sides suffer as a result. However, each hearing has allowed me to think about what this case is really about. Is it about a man whose life has been permanently changed through no fault of his own? Or is it a trial about values and morals? More and more, I am leaning toward it being a trial about values and morals. My client got a DWI in 1983. The defense claims that this is relevant to his back surgery in 2019. Obviously, it's not. But it is just a way to smear my client for things that occurred 40 years ago. And the judge should put a stop to it. I am not hopeful he will.

This rambling has gone on for too long. I don't think I have provided any useful info in this column. I feel as if I merely checked off a box for a due date. I simply wish the judge would just issue his rulings. Belaboring the point is killing both sides. We have another hearing for this case at 2 p.m. today because we got nothing done yesterday. I am dreading it.



Will a Night at the Movies Change Forever?

MOVIE THEATERS IN POST-PANDEMIC TIMES

Out of all the businesses hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, few were affected more than movie theaters. For the past year, as movies have debuted on streaming services rather than in theaters, many industry leaders, critics, and theatergoers alike have raised the alarming question: Did COVID-19 kill the movie theater industry?

In short? No. Not by a long shot. Though the past year has left the industry somewhat beleaguered (AMC closed 60 theaters permanently, Cineworld reported losses totaling \$2 billion, and the Alamo furloughed more than 5,000 employees). Yet, despite all of this, a night at the movies is here to stay.

When a Vox reporter reached out to various moviegoers about whether they would attend theaters once the pandemic ends, many of them said

yes because streaming a film in their living room just can't provide the same experience.

Watching a movie in a theater completely immerses one in the experience — you can't pause the film to watch later or do chores. And you're in it with the whole theater. Comedies are funnier when you laugh with others. A hero's triumphs are more spectacular when you cheer them on together. (Who didn't go nuts when Captain America caught Thor's hammer in "Avengers: Endgame"?) When you leave the theater, you feel a little closer to the strangers around you, and having been immersed in the movie alongside your friends, you can discuss how you liked the movie on the way home.

Of course, movie theaters will still change as a result of the pandemic. Theaters are working to become

more digital, some even moving to eliminate paper tickets and creating options to order concessions before your arrival. More theaters may promote private viewings of movies so people can be more careful about whom they watch movies with. Some theaters are also trying to create more of an "experience" for moviegoers by offering a wider array of food and even comfier seats.

However, these changes, especially given the circumstances of the past year, are hardly surprising. The movie theater industry has been evolving for over 100 years, and it certainly won't stop evolving now.

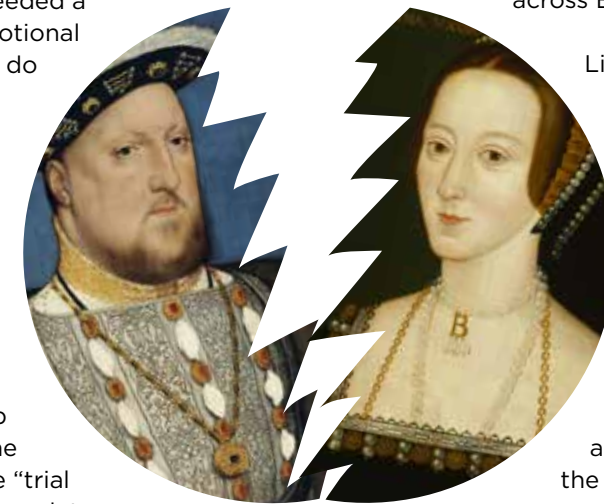


Have Celebrity Divorces Always Been Crazy?

What is it about celebrity marriages — and their subsequent endings — that fascinates society? Depending on how you measure, telling the stories of makeups and breakups is a multibillion-dollar industry for media organizations online, in print, and on TV. Are we really that hungry for nasty headlines? Or is something deeper going on in the human psyche?

In the last 12 months, we've seen some of the worst marriage breakups in Hollywood history, but Amber Heard and Johnny Depp's libel suit took center stage. As usual, "Whom do you believe?" was the question of the day, but it became obvious that both parties needed a therapist to work through serious emotional problems but tried unsuccessfully to do it on their own, instead.

Perhaps the most disturbing element in the Heard/Depp trial was the violence that seemed to pervade their daily lives. But that's nothing new; in fact, the violent behavior of both partners is likely what drew so much attention in the first place. That was certainly the case with O.J. Simpson's breakup with his wife, which didn't get half the headlines her murder would (and the "trial of the century" that followed) two years later.



You could argue, though, that we're getting better. When we look at the roots of the "celebrity divorce" phenomenon, it goes back in time to the realm of myth. The gods of Greece and Rome were always leaving each other and getting back together, a clear indication of the drama that interested our ancestors. But the most famous celebrity divorce of the pre-19th century (and perhaps of all time) was Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. It had all the hallmarks of modern public breakups: People took one side or the other, with other parties still "shipping" Henry and his first wife, Catherine of Aragon.

Henry and Catherine's divorce led to the trauma of war across England and Europe.

Like today's celebrity cases, it didn't last long. Anne was executed a few short years later when someone new caught the king's eye. Henry VIII was the archetype of the modern Hollywood actor with the wandering gaze, and Catherine and Anne typified the women willing to give him "one more chance."

Seeing how that ended, perhaps we should be grateful that things today are aired out in the media — instead of on the battlefield!

I Was Injured and It Wasn't My Fault WHO PAYS THE MEDICAL BILLS?



If you've been in an accident that required medical care, you're likely already familiar with the added stress that can accompany your physical pain as you wonder how you're going to afford the treatment you need. And

if you have health insurance but your accident was due to someone else's negligence, you may be wondering who's on the hook to pay your medical bills.

Aug. 14 is National Financial Awareness Day, so this month, we're talking about how medical billing works with personal injury claims. If you're injured in a car accident and you end up in the emergency room, you'll probably be asked to give your health insurance information. The reason for your visit — the accident — will be recorded in your medical record.

That means you may receive a letter in the mail from your insurer saying that they paid your claim but want the money back since another insurer (whoever was at fault) should be the one to pay for the medical costs. This can feel confusing and stressful, but that's why we step in to help deal with it.

We start what's called a subrogation on your behalf. Subrogation comes into play when you open a claim with a third-party insurer. Insurance companies want to make sure they get paid and that they aren't paying on claims they don't have to. Subrogation allows us to keep track of your medical bills and ensure any insurance companies involved will be paid once your case is settled.

It's complicated to deal with multiple insurers, but the bottom line is that we're here to help. If you were in an accident through no fault of your own, you should not have to pay for the medical treatment that follows or worry about who is going to cover it. You can learn more about medical billing and case valuation on our website at FinneyInjuryLaw.com.

EASY FOIL-GRILLED SAUSAGE AND VEGETABLES

Inspired by NutmegNanny.com

INGREDIENTS

- 4 sausage links of your choice
- 1 lb green beans
- 1 red bell pepper, diced
- 1 yellow bell pepper, diced
- 1 red onion, diced
- 1 zucchini, diced
- 1 yellow summer squash, diced
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, grated
- 1 tbsp thyme
- 1 tsp oregano
- 1 tsp basil
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp crushed red pepper (optional)

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat your grill to medium heat or your oven to 425 F.
2. In a large bowl, add all of the ingredients and mix well. Divide into four equal portions.
3. Prepare four 16-inch pieces of foil and place a portion in the middle of each section. Wrap each foil piece tightly and avoid holes.
4. Grill each foil packet for 20 minutes, flipping halfway through. You can also bake each packet for 20 minutes at 425 F.

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.