



FINNEY INJURY LAW  
- TRIAL LAWYERS -

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## Breaking Barriers: Scholarships Aim to Help Diversify the Justice System

One of the guiding purposes of Finney Injury Law has always been to ensure that people who come to our firm get justice. That includes *anyone* who needs help — all kinds of people from all levels and corners of society, rich and poor, U.S. nationals and immigrants, clients from Africa, Mexico, Bosnia, and all over the world.

This year, for our fifth annual Finney Scholarship Awards, we are quadrupling the size of our scholarships to two awards of \$10,000 each. Our goal is to attract applicants who feel the same way we do about helping anyone seeking justice. We want to support people who are eager to assist all kinds of clients, strengthen their communities, give back to others, pursue justice, and diversify the justice system.

We are not limiting our scholarship awards only to students planning on or already enrolled in law school. We aim to attract candidates eager to train for any position in the legal profession — paralegals, litigation assistants, legal secretaries, court reporters, contract administrators, compliance specialists, or electronic discovery specialists (whose job is to find and store data for use in legal proceedings).

The average cost of admission to most law schools — a four-year undergraduate degree — has passed six figures in the U.S. Even the cost of the specialized training needed for some other legal specialties has become a bridge too far for many would-be professionals.

Aspiring students from any race, ethnic group, cultural or religious background, or gender preference are invited to apply. Applicants are eligible at any stage of their education, from high school to those already enrolled in law school. The aim is to bring greater diversity to the legal profession.

Clients in need of help, in civil and criminal cases alike, can only benefit from having more choices from among a more diverse pool of attorneys and other legal professionals to support them. When Chris was struggling to gain traction in personal injury law, he had access to helpful mentors who provided lots of encouragement and made a big difference in his career. This scholarship is just one way of paying it forward.



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Another client of mine passed away, a great lady we came to represent after three or so firms didn't want to pursue the case. I really don't blame them. It was a really tough case. But she was an awesome, humble person. I tried the case with my cousin, Craig. We both grew to love our client. A simple lady who told us that all she wanted to be able to do after the case was get a new couch. We were able to do that and a little more. She also took her two best friends out to a restaurant called Gallagher's in Southern Illinois, and I look forward to trying it. When I do, I will think of her. There was no funeral. Just a short notice in the paper. She was more than that. May she rest in peace. She deserves to.

It got me thinking about how some former clients are doing in their recoveries. Their cases were resolved long ago for good amounts. Most of the time, we tend to lose track of clients after the case is over. We need to move on to the ones with immediate needs and trials. But how are the past clients doing? Are they healed physically? Is life better?

I popped into the auto shop of one of my old clients. He is a great man, and his wife works there as well. He was still working, albeit with some new equipment to help him. We chatted for a bit, and I asked him how his injuries were. He told me they are what they are. They are getting worse, and he has made his peace with it. He has to deal with it now, and he will. But he isn't cured, and he knows he never will be. It is part of his life. But he had a calmness and resolution to him. As though he had achieved acknowledgment at trial and that chapter was closed. He was now able to move on to dealing with life, harboring no ill will or resentment. He could move on. It made me realize firsthand that this system works. It doesn't cure anything. But it does balance it all out.

I then called another client. He is a great guy as well. He is a very hard worker who refuses to slow down even though he absolutely should. I asked him for an update, how he was getting around, etc. He told me he had another appointment with a new doctor to see if he could improve. Truthfully, it made me a little sad. Because even though we achieved a large recovery for him, it still wasn't enough. It never will be. He will never be like he was before. But that doesn't mean he will stop trying. He is just that way. He will never stop. He knows no other way. The verdict has allowed him to move on to recovery. But it won't cure him. It has closed that chapter for him. He has been acknowledged, and the wrong has been righted as best we can. The system worked again if you ask me.

It makes me wonder how I can work this into my next trials. Will the jurors remember what they do in each case? I absolutely believe they will if the case is righteous and true. I had a call from a juror in a former case. He remembered me from six years ago. He couldn't remember my name but remembered where my office was. So, he Googled attorneys until he recognized me and then called. It's one of the best calls I've ever received. I couldn't help him, but I thanked him for searching me out.

These experiences, my clients, and the jurors make me believe more and more in the system. The humanness of it. The connection. I could not be prouder to do what I do. My hope is jurors feel the same and my clients do as well.

Chris



# PASS THE SLIME

*A Viscous Game for the Whole Family*

Make memories and have fun passing the slime! What makes this game so great? You only need people, chairs, bins, and masks or eye coverings for an unforgettable experience. Slime is the latest and greatest fad among children, and it's easy to see why: Its unique texture and bright colors keep kids engaged.

## How to Create Slime

Before you can play, you have to make the slime. There are many approaches, but the simplest recipe requires only three ingredients. You can customize it with food coloring and scale up the ingredients for larger quantities.

- 8-ounce bottle of Elmer's white school glue
- Food coloring of choice
- 1 1/2-2 tablespoons of contact saline solution or lens cleaner (make sure it contains boric acid or sodium borate)
- 1 tablespoon of baking soda

To begin, mix the glue and food coloring into a bowl. Stir in 1 1/2 tablespoons of contact solution. If you want a thicker consistency, add another 1/2 tablespoon. Knead the slime. It will be liquid at first, but it'll thicken as you work it. After a while, the concoction turns into slime.

## The Rules

Once you have your slime, have the participants sit in chairs arranged in a row just a few feet apart. Everyone should have something over their eyes (disposable masks work perfectly) and a wide bin in front of them. Make sure to have a lot of slime. It can be any color — but the more, the better.

The rules are simple, but they need some coordination.

1. The person in front starts things off with their bin filled with slime.
2. They pull their bin over their heads, attempting to spill its contents onto the bin in front of the person behind them (without looking to see where the bin actually is).
3. That person pulls their bin over their head similarly, and so on until the end of the line. Directing the slime is the messy part since participants are blindfolded.

That's how you play pass the slime! Hint: If it gets stuck in your hair, try coconut oil. While pass the slime is particularly unique and fun, it's just one of many ways to play with slime. You can also make art, form bubbles, and more. Children are imaginative and constantly invent new and exhilarating slime activities. The family who slimes together stays together.

# 3 FURRY HEROES

## JACK, TOGO, AND BANDIT WENT ABOVE AND BEYOND



Sometimes, heroes come without a cape but with fur, paws, and a keen sense of smell. We've heard the stories of police dogs, bomb-sniffing dogs, and the German shepherd Trakr, who found the last survivor on 9/11. But even untrained pets and strays can be heroic.

Meet Jack, a stray dog in New York City known for scavenging through dumpsters. One early morning, his routine search for food took a life-saving turn. Behind one of these dumpsters was a baby, wrapped in a blanket, vulnerable and alone. Instinctively and with remarkable gentleness, Jack picked up the baby in the blanket with his teeth. Whether guided by fate, an extraordinary sense of purpose, or just because it was the closest open business, Jack took the baby to the hospital. The nurses tried to

shoo him away when he first ran through the sliding doors. One nurse, noticing the bundle in the dog's mouth, was able to get close enough to retrieve the baby. Thanks to Jack, the baby received life-saving medical attention.

In the 1920s, the remote town of Nome, Alaska, grappled with a deadly diphtheria epidemic. Children were dying, and the icebound city was inaccessible by plane or boat in the winter. The only way to deliver the needed antitoxins was by dog sled on the Iditarod Trail. Balto, a Siberian husky, received most of the fame, but Togo, another husky, led the team across the most treacherous part of the journey. These dogs delivered life-saving medicine in time and saved many of Nome's children.

Cats can be heroes, too, as proved by a calico cat who lived up to his name in the most unexpected way. One night in Mississippi, intruders were trying to break into a home. The house cat, Bandit, sensed the danger and sprang into action. The cat's relentless scratching and tugging at its owner's blanket finally woke him. Then Bandit led his human downstairs to discover the attempted break-in, which also scared away the intruders. Bandit proved that size and species don't matter in heroism.

In moments of crisis, these four-legged heroes rose to the occasion, not for glory or reward but out of pure love and loyalty. They are potent reminders of the courage and selflessness that animals are capable of.



Many people blame older drivers. It's true that drivers over age 65 account for 24% of pedestrian deaths but only 17% of the population. However, younger drivers ages 20-39 caused 80% more pedestrian deaths in 2021 compared with 2009, a period when their share of the population only rose by 1%.

Distracted driving is partly to blame. Texting, eating, adjusting car controls, or just talking to passengers can take your attention away for the split-second required to flatten a pedestrian or cyclist. And if those passengers happen to be your children, the risk rises sharply. One study found driving with a child in the car is 12 times more distracting than talking on your cellphone.

Safety experts say drivers need to do a better job of learning laws designed to keep pedestrians and cyclists safe. Motorists also need to be aware that pedestrians have fewer built-in protections in the form of safe sidewalks, crosswalks, and lighting compared with the past, according to a New York Times analysis.

The attorneys at Finney Injury Law have years of experience helping pedestrians and other victims of motor vehicle accidents receive compensation for their injuries. If you've been injured in a similar accident, contact us to review your case and get the justice you deserve.

If you enjoy walking or cycling for exercise or commuting to work, beware: You're traveling side-by-side with drivers who aren't doing a very good job of sharing the road.

Pedestrian fatalities rose by an alarming 77% between 2010 and 2021, reversing a steady 30-year decline in fatalities between 1980 and 2010. Also, 7% more cyclists were injured in motor vehicle accidents in 2021 compared with 2020, and 2% more cyclists were killed.

To avoid becoming one of these statistics, it helps to understand the likely causes of the trend. Safety officials agree on two of them — speeding and drunk driving. Bigger vehicles may be a factor. SUVs and pickups are involved in 40% of pedestrian collisions. If you drive an SUV or Ford F-150, be aware that it can block your view of the ground.



## APPLY FOR THE FINNEY INJURY LAW SCHOLARSHIP!

Education is a key to success, but it can also be expensive. That's why Finney Injury Law is proud to continue our scholarship program. This year, we're awarding two (2) \$10,000 college scholarships!

### About the Scholarship

The Finney Injury Law Scholarship was established in 2020. It is open to high school seniors, current college students, and law students from historically underrepresented groups looking to pursue their educational dreams and establish a career in a legal profession.

You must be a resident of Missouri or Illinois, have a minimum 2.5 GPA, and be enrolled in an accredited college or university within the U.S. to apply.

For more information about scholarship eligibility requirements and how to apply, scan the QR code or visit our website at [FinneyInjuryLaw.com](http://FinneyInjuryLaw.com). All applications must be submitted via the website by July 1, 2024.



## 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 call us at 314-293-4222. Thank you for spreading the word about Finney Injury Law.