



FINNEY INJURY LAW  
- TRIAL LAWYERS -

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



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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1 This Client Is Lightning in a Bottle

2 Woman Sues Weatherman

2 The Dangers of Traumatic Brain Injuries

3 Kid-Friendly Summer Activities!

3 Scholarship Deadline Approaching!

4 Celebrating the Importance of Dads

## HONORING FATHER FIGURES WHY DADS AND MALE ROLE MODELS MATTER

Coming after Mother's Day, Father's Day often feels like an afterthought. In many ways, our society still considers mothers the more important parental figures, and there are plenty of jokes about the supposed ineptitude of dads. But a father's role in raising well-adjusted adults is equally crucial, and the science bears it out.

Though serious research about fathers' role in children's upbringing only started about 50 years ago, plenty of studies now show that a dad's level of involvement significantly impacts a child's well-being. Those with involved fathers tend

to do much better in school, have higher-paying jobs, and have healthier romantic relationships. Kids with engaged dads are also much less likely to have a teen birth or spend time in jail.

It's not the father's presence that makes a difference so much as their taking an active part in raising and caring for the child. Quality time matters much more than simply being around. Those kids who thrive most have fathers who play with them, talk to them, help them with homework, get them ready for school, and generally engage in the daily aspects of parenting. Unlike stereotypical fathers of yore, these dads are also much more likely to express affection and share other emotions openly.

For many reasons, not everyone is fortunate enough to have a dad in their lives. That's why it's so important when other men step up to care for and mentor kids. Stepfathers, uncles, grandfathers, older brothers, coaches, and family friends profoundly impact children. Even when a child has an active dad, these additional positive role models still make a substantial difference in many lives. Research even shows they can mitigate the difficulties of not having an involved biological father.

But if you've had a great father or father figure in your life, we don't have to tell you how much their love and support mean. Father's Day is the perfect opportunity to express how you feel. Your father figure will cherish your heartfelt appreciation far more than a new tie.



# TRIALS & THEIR TALES

- NEWSLETTER -

1600 S. BRENTWOOD BLVD., SUITE 220 • ST. LOUIS, MO 63144 // FINNEYINJURYLAW.COM // 314-293-4222 // JUNE 2022



I am behind my deadline on this column. I said I would have it done almost a week or so ago. I feel like I am starting these with the same line. The spring has gotten very busy. The older boys are playing a lot of sports, and it is probably too much. It is still less than a lot of people, but I don't like running around every evening. I love seeing them compete, but I am constantly thinking of burnout — mine and theirs.

We also have a lot of trials and deadlines coming up. In the past two weeks, we took the depositions of a metallurgist (science of metal), a cause and origin expert (where and how a fire began), a mechanical engineer, an accident reconstructionist, another accident reconstructionist, and a highway design expert.

By the time you read this, we will have completed a trial in the city of St. Louis. It is a case that we cannot seem to close. I took the case over six years ago, and the crash occurred nearly 10 years ago. Before this event happened, I had no children, and I now have five. Things change. Life moves on whether we are ready or not.

We originally obtained a great verdict in this case. We worked hard, we have a great client, and the jury understood. It felt like catching lightning in a bottle.

## CLOSING THE 6-YEAR CASE *Overcoming Challenges in Law*

They originally offered our client around \$11,000. They finally offered us \$25,000. Our verdict was \$1,500,000. The court of appeals erased it.

So we start over. Since we do not get paid by the hour, I don't track them. The defense could tell you to the sixth of an hour how much they've worked on this case and what they have been paid. They've done well on this case financially. They've even told us as much. My client has not. She hasn't received a penny, and neither have we. She has been steadfastly working since this crash to adjust to the changes in her life and make the most of them. Most people would accept their new reality after 10 years, but not our client. She wants her old life back. She wants her freedom back. She wants her control back. And she deserves to be heard. I am fortunate she chose us.

You see, this case will be tough. The new defense lawyers already saw our game plan last time. They have spent serious time and effort to dismantle our case. The number of motions being filed on the same subject has caused my head to spin. By my count, at least seven defense lawyers have worked on this case. I'm sure there are more behind the scenes. Part of their strategy is to upset us, get under our skin, and make us feel uncomfortable. They will win if they can make this case about a clash of personalities rather than a battle of principles. We cannot let this case devolve into that.

How do we approach a case like this? I wish I had a standard formula or method. What I usually do is remind myself that we will do our job as best as we can. We will fight with integrity and fairness and be professional. The case isn't about the lawyers and those personality games. The case is about what we focus on. And I remind myself that losing is an option. The best cases can lose because the result is out of our control. It is in the hands of 12 people I have not met yet, and as I write this, they don't even know it. My hope for those 12 people is that they are open to hearing a story about what has happened. That they reach beyond their own lives to understand what my client has gone through, is going through, and will go through. My job will be to show them.

I also remind myself of a dinner my wife and I went out to 10 years ago. It was very likely just before this crash, now that I think about it. I told Christine I hated my job at that meal, and I wanted to quit. I told her I didn't care if I ever won a trial or made any money. I just wanted to try cases, represent people, and be proud of my work. This trial is another chance for me to walk the walk.

Who says you can't catch lightning in a bottle twice? Let's go.

Chi.



School’s Out! What Can You Do?  
4 ACTIVITIES TO KEEP YOUR KIDS BUSY



It’s summertime, which means your kids are out of school and at home during their break. This is an exciting time because you get to spend more time with your children, but it can also be stressful. Since your kids are not engaged in school every day with their peers, you may have to find ways to keep them entertained during the summer. Luckily, there are a few activities your children can do to stay busy and active while they’re on summer break.

**Visit your local library.**  
Make a habit of visiting your local library once a week for your children to pick out books they can read. You can challenge them to see how many books they can complete over the summer. Although your child may read educational books for school, now is their time to pick out something they want to read just for fun. Some libraries offer summer reading programs and activities that your child can participate in. By going to the library

over the summer, your child’s mind will stay engaged, and their love for reading can increase.

**Go to local attractions.**  
In most states, there are history and science museums, art galleries, and zoos that you and your children can visit. If these attractions are state-funded, they often have free admission for visitors. These activities are great if your child is a visual learner. They can touch and interact with exhibits and learn more about history or science. Who said learning couldn’t be both fun and educational?

**Create a craft station.**  
Do you have creative children? Then a craft station is a perfect activity to get their creative minds turning! You can either go to your big-box store and pick up some arts and crafts supplies, or you can use items from around your home, such as used printer paper, toilet paper rolls, old colored pencils or crayons, and

items from nature. If you need inspiration on what to make, you can look online for different crafts your child can create.

**Visit parks and recreation areas.**  
Summer camps can be expensive; luckily, some parks and recreation centers host day camps that are much cheaper than private camps. Sometimes they will have daily activities that your child can participate in to burn off some energy. If you’re looking for a place where your children can play outside and stay active, going to your local parks is a great resource. If they aren’t hosting day camps, you and your children can play outside by throwing a Frisbee, having a picnic, or going on a nature walk.

Summer is an exciting time, and with these activities, you and your child can spend some quality time together!

Disabling and Deadly Wrapping Our Heads Around Traumatic Brain Injuries

This spring, the media buzzed with the tragic news of legendary actor Bruce Willis’ retirement from show business due to aphasia. Aphasia is a condition that affects the brain’s language centers, causing difficulty processing and using verbal and written communication. Though we don’t know the details of Willis’ condition, traumatic brain injury (TBI) is one of several causes of aphasia. And it’s only the start of a long list of ways TBI can upend a person’s life.

At Finney Injury Law, we regularly meet people suffering from the effects of a TBI. Some of our clients are lucky enough to have only suffered a mild concussion. Other times, they’ve incurred a permanently disabling condition. And even minor head injuries can lead to serious health problems when not treated promptly.

Most of the traumatic brain injuries we see result from car accidents. Collisions can cause lacerations or the skull slamming against another object. Even without direct contact, the brain can still suffer. Our bodies want to keep moving forward, not suddenly decelerate. A violent stop can cause the brain to bounce back and forth inside the skull, potentially causing many injuries.

Brain injury risks can also hide in unexpected locations. For example, consider your summer plans to cool down with a swim. Roughhousing or running around a pool can lead to head injuries, for a start. But deprivation of oxygen can also cause traumatic brain injuries with lifelong repercussions. That’s why it’s critical to use good judgment around water, frequent pools and beaches with on-duty lifeguards, know the signs of drowning, and always carefully watch your children while swimming.

Slip and falls, physical assaults, and even acts of clumsiness can also cause a traumatic brain injury. The most crucial thing is to seek medical care immediately after a motor vehicle accident or other head trauma. Failing to receive treatment can be deadly — as another celebrity case, the death of Bob Saget, has reminded us.

Finally, if you’ve suffered a TBI due to someone else’s negligence, you have recourse to receive compensation for your medical bills, lost earnings, and other expenses. Finney Injury Law has extensive experience with these types of cases, and we would be honored to review your situation. Call us today for a free consultation.

WHEN IT RAINS, IT POURS  
A CASE DRENCHED IN DISORDER

Some people love the rain. After all, there’s something magical about thunder rolling through the clouds as lightning illuminates a multitude of raindrops. Yet, if the storm is too strong — or even dangerous to be in — people might not enjoy it at all. And that certainly appears to have been the case in 1996 when an Israeli woman in Haifa, Israel, sued a television station because of their incorrect weather report.

The weather forecaster, Danny Rup, predicted that the day would be beautiful and sunny, but the weather had a mind of its own and ended up being rainy, dark, and gloomy. Because the woman relied upon the accuracy of the report, she left her home without a raincoat or an umbrella and got caught in the pouring rain.

As the old wives’ tale goes, if you get caught in the rain, you’ll catch a cold. Well, the woman claimed that after being exposed to inclement weather, she caught the flu and subsequently was

out of work for four days, had to visit the doctor, and spent \$38 on medicine. Due to such a daunting experience, she also said that she suffered additional stress from the entire situation. The woman ended up taking Channel 2 news station to a small claims court where she sought financial compensation to cover her sickness and suffering — as well as an apology from the forecaster who wrongly predicted the weather. The woman stated that weather forecasts are legally binding.

Many of us would see this as a frivolous lawsuit, but the TV station settled out of court and the woman received \$1,000 for her pain and suffering and an apology from Danny Rup.

Despite this case, most people take weather predictions from television and radio forecasters with a bit of skepticism, thinking that forecasts are just a well-educated guess based on available resources — and it can change on a whim. It’s just the nature of it!

LAST  
CHANCE  
TO APPLY!



Finney Injury Law is proud to continue our scholarship program for its third year. This year, we’re giving out five scholarships, each worth \$2,500. 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 1, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. CST.**

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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.**