



FINNEY INJURY LAW
- TRIAL LAWYERS -

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WE'RE MOVING TO A NEW LOCATION!

BEGINNING APRIL 26, 2024

**FINNEY INJURY LAW
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TRIALS & THEIR TALES

- NEWSLETTER -

1600 S. BRENTWOOD BLVD., SUITE 220 • ST. LOUIS, MO 63144 // FINNEYINJURYLAW.COM // 314-293-4222 // APRIL 2024

Not a Multi-Tasker THE RISKS AND REWARDS OF SINGLE-MINDEDNESS

I have not missed a column in five years, I think. It is only once a month, but sometimes it feels like a weekly column. I almost missed this month. The reasons are simple.

I listen to podcasts or books on tape when I drive in after dropping off the boys. They are usually exclusively legal or trial practice stuff. I listen to the same things over and over because I get new ideas from what is shared that I missed the first few times listening. It gets my mind moving and ideas flowing. There is a problem with that.

When I get to the office, I am ready to dive into whatever I have been thinking about on the way in. It's like catching me in mid-sentence. You would have no idea what I was talking about. One of my many faults is that I can't multitask. I cannot jump from case to case to case. I don't know how to effectively do it. Just ask anyone who works here — they might ask me something, and before they are done, I am already saying, "Sure, yeah. That is fine. Whatever you think." I don't see how I will ever learn to move between cases quickly and easily. But it is also a good thing. A singular focus on a topic can produce some amazing outcomes.

That's the rub for these columns. I am supposed to write the columns in the morning. But that seems impossible when my mind is already moving on to something else. Something I am totally engrossed in. So, I push the column off. And I push it off until I have no option but to sit and write.

Even now, as I write this, my mind is on a case we have been working on for the last year and a half. Honestly, it might have three more years of work to it. Hours and hours of work. Over \$100,000 in case costs (if we are not already at that number), so it may reach \$250,000 by the end. That is money the office fronts for the client. Money out of our payroll, health insurance, retirements, etc. It is a commitment to the client. And we have no qualms about spending it. We trust what we are doing. We believe in it.

I cannot wait to finish this task and work on that case. A big deposition is coming up, and I need to know everything I can for it. The problem is, as it is frequently a plaintiff trial lawyer

problem, I have no clue what I don't know. I'm not even sure the other side has a grasp on what they know. They don't even know the identity of some of their employees. Seriously, if they don't, how in the world can I know that?

"I don't see how I will ever learn to move between cases quickly and easily. But it is also a good thing. A singular focus on a topic can produce some amazing outcomes."

There are times when I feel as if this case has us way over our heads; we're spinning our wheels, chasing ghosts, and are completely clueless. It's not a comforting feeling. So why do we keep doing it? Why not get a steady paycheck, leave this uncertainty behind, and do something else?

The answer is easy. I didn't have many other options, and I am not going back to where I came from. We have burned the boats. We did that over 11 years ago when I told my wife I needed to quit my steady paycheck job. The wind has long since carried the ashes of the boats away. This is who we are now. This is where we are. There is no going back. We will fight and push the cases we believe in, or we will go broke doing so. I'd rather face that than go back to where I was.

I hope you have a great spring. I am going back to this case. Talk to you next month or find me on LinkedIn.

Chi



TRUMAN'S LEGACY

This month's historic anniversary marks the swearing-in of one of America's most well-regarded presidents — and the only one born in Missouri.

Harry Truman was sworn in as the nation's 33rd president on April 12, 1945. After making some of the most crucial leadership decisions in the nation's history, Truman has consistently been rated as one of the 10 greatest U.S. presidents, based on surveys of both the American public and presidential historians.

How a farmer and clerk who never earned a college degree became one of the most decisive and highly ranked U.S. presidents says much about the character traits instilled in him by his parents during his Missouri upbringing. Truman was born on May 8, 1884, in the tiny town of Lamar, Missouri. His family moved to Independence when he was 6 years old. In early adulthood, he worked as a farmer, clerk, and construction crew timekeeper.

Truman earned a reputation for leadership while serving in the Army in France during World War I. Assigned to lead a division known for undisciplined conduct, Truman restored order. When his men tried to flee from a German attack, Truman forcefully commanded them to stand their ground, and they turned and fought. Partly as a result of his leadership, none of the men under Truman's command in World War I lost their lives.

THE TENACITY AND TRIUMPHS OF A PRESIDENTIAL TRAILBLAZER

As a U.S. senator after the war, he headed a committee that investigated government waste, saving the nation billions of dollars and earning him a national reputation.



Truman was never briefed during his brief stint as vice president under Franklin Delano Roosevelt on important foreign-policy tensions during World War II. When First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt informed him that FDR had died, Truman asked if there was anything he could do for her. She replied, "Is there anything we can do for you? For you are the one in trouble now." After his first briefings as president, Truman told reporters, "I felt like the moon, the stars, and all the planets had fallen on me."

As president, Truman made the decision to drop the atomic bomb on Japan. He also desegregated the military in 1948. Truman is credited with helping negotiate the North Atlantic Treaty Organization alliance as well as expanding public housing and Social Security.

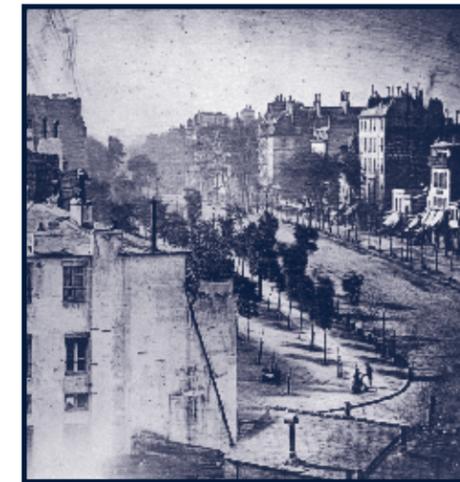
He considered running again in 1952, but stepped aside based on his poor showing in the polls. The aging statesman retired to Independence, where he died in 1972. In 2013, the Missouri legislature declared his birthday, April 8, as Truman Day, in honor of "a distinguished public servant and the only Missourian to be elected to this high office."

Some of History's Quirkiest Moments

Grab your time travel hats! We are peeling back the layers of the past to reveal a few stories you won't find in the history books, though history class would have been much more fun if they were!

When Stillness Created History

Imagine a bustling Parisian street filled with life and activity. A photographer is there, about to take the first known



photograph of a person. But the only person still enough to photograph was a man getting his shoes shined — the exposure time then was several hours, almost a whole day's work! So, the shoe-shining duo became unexpected celebrities in history as the subject of the first known photograph of humans in 1838.

A Whistle Stop for Women's Contributions

When trains first thundered across the American landscape, some women wouldn't ride them — a bizarre myth emerged claiming that traveling at speeds of 50 mph would cause their uterus to fly out of their bodies! Thankfully, at least two women saw past the strange notion to propose genuine improvements in the iron horses. In 1870, Eliza Murfey held 16 patents for her inventions to improve how bearings on train car wheels responded to their axles. In 1879, Mary Elizabeth Walton held two patents for reducing smokestack emissions.

Tale of the Tallest Buildings

The Great Pyramid of Giza is the oldest and last remaining of the original seven wonders of the world. For 4,000 years, this architectural marvel was the tallest building in the world. But all reigns must end, and in 1311, the Lincoln Cathedral in England claimed the crown. It was the tallest building for 237 years until its spire collapsed in 1548. However, it was still the tallest building ever built until the Ulm Minster in Germany set a new record in 1890 — it's still the tallest church in the world.

Shorts Shook the World

In the sizzling summer of 1937, something extraordinary happened on the streets of Toronto that changed fashion forever. Two daring women went out in public wearing shorts. Yes, shorts! The sight was so unusual that it drew overwhelming attention and even caused a car wreck! While this moment caused quite a stir, it wasn't until after World War II that shorts gained popularity.



CRASH COURSE

Common Spinal Injuries Plague Vehicle Accident Victims

It's a nightmare scenario that is all too common: A person starts their day as a healthy, active individual, only to be caught up in a car crash that inflicts lasting pain or even paralysis.

Injuries to the back and neck are among the most common problems suffered by victims of motor vehicle crashes. Hospitals each year treat an estimated 841,000 patients for whiplash, the most common crash-related injury, according to a 2020 study. Fractures of the back are common as well, afflicting 23,500 patients each year.

For the nearly 3,000 crash victims who suffer injuries to the spinal cord, the resulting disability may last a lifetime. Nearly 1 in 3 of these patients return to the hospital repeatedly during the year following an accident. Fewer than half of spinal cord injury victims who were employed at the time of their injury are able to return to work, according to national data.

These life-changing injuries occur when the body's momentum in a moving vehicle is abruptly halted by a seat belt, airbag, steering wheel, windshield, or pavement. The impact can sprain or fracture a victim's neck, spinal cord, or back, causing herniated discs, dislocated vertebrae, pinched nerves, and other problems.

Some victims have difficulty moving their head and neck after an accident. Muscle spasms may set in if the tissue surrounding nerves in the spine becomes inflamed. Other symptoms include numbness, shooting pains, or tingling in the person's back, legs, or arms as a result of the accident's impact. Victims also may have problems controlling their bladder or bowels.

Not all significant back or neck injuries cause intense pain right away. Feeling the full impact of your injury may take a week or more after an accident, and even minor accidents can cause lasting harm. Over time, spinal injuries can cause chronic headaches, neck and back pain, migraines, and fatigue, hurting your ability to work, accomplish daily tasks, or enjoy life.

If you or a loved one has a suspected spinal injury, it's essential to seek immediate medical treatment. Going to the nearest emergency room for medical attention, including a CT scan, MRI, or X-ray, is a wise first step to assessing the damage — and determining whether you may have a solid personal injury case.



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. 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.