



FINNEY INJURY LAW
- TRIAL LAWYERS -

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The choice of a lawyer is an important one and should not be based solely upon advertisements.

From Dryer Malfunction to Courtroom Case

ALEX ON ANALYSIS AND ACTION



A dreaded event happened in my house recently: Our electric clothes dryer threw an error code. My immediate go-to was to start the diagnosis myself. I deciphered the error code and its potential causes, and then I began eliminating them. I grabbed my multimeter and started the

diagnosis. As I continued through the diagnostic process, I could not help but think about the similarities to how we investigate legal issues in our personal injury cases. The symptoms guide the investigation.

A “no power” code was the root cause of my dryer issue. When it malfunctions, the problem in one component often causes a cascade of failures elsewhere. A clogged exhaust vent, for example, can cause the thermal fuse to blow, which stops the machine from heating. I started from the electric breaker and worked backward to the dryer. The breaker was working. I tested the outlet voltage. All was normal. The culprit: The neutral on the dryer cord was not maintaining continuity. The dryer’s heat was restored.

In our cases, we’re often playing catch-up during the initial investigation. Evidence vanishes fast. We try to get a boots-on-the-ground investigation going as quickly as possible. We must work quickly and with forethought. We encourage clients to document impacts on their lives and new or ongoing symptoms. It all helps us tell the story later. Moreover, we require similar analysis when we’re intaking a new potential client. As an attorney, I’m required at times to deliver an assessment of a case, essentially its value and/or its likelihood of success in front of a jury. My methodological breakdown of a dryer’s “no power” code reminded me of how I have to break down a legal issue for a client.

Whether you’re diagnosing a broken appliance or building a personal injury case, the underlying process is the same: Gather facts systematically, follow the evidence, trace problems to their root cause, document everything, and don’t skip steps. The dryer repair that gets done right the first time and the injury case that gets built on solid ground both share a common foundation: a methodical, patient, evidence-driven investigation.



TRIALS & THEIR TALES

- NEWSLETTER -

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Flexibility and Family Foundations

A Firm That Works for Real Life

Sometimes, it’s easy to forget that running a business is more than just running a business and trying to make money, provide a service, or stay ahead.

There are actual human beings who work here and are involved in the day-to-day process of everything that happens here. As much as we want to keep our personal and professional lives separate, sometimes they just blur together. It cannot be avoided.

People get sick. People have babies. People deal with tragedies. People’s kids get sick. Things happen to people’s kids. Things happen to people’s parents. School is closed. Daycare is closed. Grandparents can’t watch kids. I sometimes lose sight of all these realities. I only see the times when people are here. I can easily forget that they have lives outside of this place, with pressures and stresses, just like everyone else. If we can’t accommodate those situations as an employer, we are doing them a disservice and failing them. And we will miss out on the best employees.

We try to do more at this office than just provide a service. My goal is that everyone feels ownership and purpose in their position. That they can see, feel, and recognize the help they

provide to each of our clients. That they can do the same for their coworkers. That they see they make a difference in this firm and the way it helps people.

One of the problems is that I’ve never done this before, and we are just kind of building as we go. I make mistakes, and we try to fix them and learn from them. The truth is that the more mistakes we make, the better we become. We have people who are working to implement plans so we don’t make the same mistakes over and over. As I routinely tell people around the office, we’re trying to go from an operation that was basically functioning out of a garage to a mature business that has roles and responsibilities. We are growing up.

If our systems aren’t flexible enough to accommodate the realities of life, we won’t make it very far as a business. Who would want to work here? People with plenty of options won’t have to. We will lose good employees because we are too rigorous and regimented. We can accommodate the unexpected problems if we have a sense of camaraderie, teamwork, and confidence around the office.

We are working continuously to provide greater flexibility. Everyone has a laptop. We have unlimited vacation and personal time with a two-week minimum required. People can work from home if they need to, but we still walk the line of asking people to come in because of the camaraderie it develops. The teamwork it develops. The confidence between team members it develops. The trust it develops.

This firm is a living, growing organism, just like almost any other business. We should treat it that way.



Help Teens Quiet the Pressure

A Practical Guide for Parents

If it feels like your teen is always on edge, you're not imagining it. Grades post in real time, group chats never sleep, and they measure everything they do against what someone else shared online. Kids today carry a lot of pressure, and much of it comes from themselves.

Self-bullying is a real problem. Many teens have an inner voice that jumps straight to negative extremes. One quiz goes badly or one awkward moment happens, and they turn it into a verdict of their worth. An honest self-review is healthy, but the trouble starts when every mistake turns into, "I'm terrible at everything." As parents, we can help by calling out self-bullying when we see it and by modeling something different: owning our own slip-ups without tearing ourselves down.

Social media brings a different kind of pressure. The average teen spends

hours a day online, and the world they see in cyberspace is carefully crafted with edited photos and posts. Everyone online seems to be living their best lives. They get better grades, go on more dates, and get everything to go their way. The best thing adults can do is help pull the curtain back a bit. Let them know about fake photos, filters, and how people often post their successes while hiding their struggles. Encourage them to follow only accounts that make them laugh or feel positive, and mute or unfollow those that leave them feeling inadequate.

Setbacks are another place where pressure builds. As adults, most of us have learned that life is full of detours and things don't always work out the way we'd like. But teens are still figuring this out. Bombing a test



or getting rejected by a college can often feel like a disaster, rather than a single hard moment. We can help our teens build resilience by sitting down with them after a setback and talking through what actually happened and what they might do differently next time.

We can never remove all the pressure our teens feel, nor should that be the goal. All we can do is help guide them through the rough bits and teach them to be kind to themselves and handle stress in a healthy way.

TRUTH TRIUMPHS

Clarity and Confidence in Disputed Truck-Accident Claims

What's just as bad as being involved in a collision with a commercial truck? Having your honesty called into question.

Unfortunately, it's common for trucking entities and their respective insurers to deny or dispute liability in automobile accidents. Naturally, these parties have a vested interest in protecting themselves against claims and judgments that could cost them money. For the innocent collision victim, this creates a frustrating "he said, she said" scenario that can feel impossible to overcome.

Thankfully, people don't need to face this situation alone. Here are some ways Finney Injury Law works to defuse the at-fault party's denial and secure the justice you deserve.

The Clues That Capture Your Case

When your word is in doubt, an experienced injury attorney can assist you in building a case that solidifies your position. First, your counsel will work to preserve physical evidence at the scene of the accident to help prove your side of the story. Common examples include vehicle damage, road conditions, debris patterns, inadequate signage, and skid marks. They will also contact and interview area businesses or residents, road workers, and other potential eyewitnesses who can corroborate your claims. Additionally, your attorney will utilize available technology, including (but not limited

to) surveillance camera recordings and dashcam footage, to better determine how both you and the other driver were operating your respective vehicles at the time of the crash.

The Advantages of Accident Analysis

Fortunately, the federal regulations governing commercial truck use can also work in your favor. Most trucking outfits must use electronic logging devices to track a driver's service hours and ensure compliance with certain safety rules. Access to these devices can help your legal counsel identify the driver's fatigue or other factors that may be used to prove their fault. Additional insight can be obtained from the truck's event data recorder, which records the driver's speed and brake patterns.

While technology and regulations are incredibly useful in proving your case, few tactics are as successful as utilizing the services of outside professionals who can provide expert perspectives and testimony on the nature of your accident and injuries. Physicians, accident reconstruction specialists, and trucking industry experts are among the people who can illustrate the factors behind the collision and lend weight to your words.

If you have additional questions about Finney Injury Law's work in truck accident claims or would like to discuss your particular case, please contact us today for a consultation.

MINOR MOVES, MAJOR MISTAKES

A SPRING DISTRACTED DRIVING REMINDER

By the time this day is over, nine people in the U.S. will have been killed in a vehicle crash involving a distracted driver.

With April being Distracted Driving Awareness Month, it's important to remember this: **Never drive while distracted by anything that compromises your visual, manual, or cognitive abilities behind the wheel.**

From answering that unexpected cellphone call to readjusting your navigational system, your exposure to distractions could mean the difference between life and death. Here are two quick tips to help you avoid distractions on the road and make it home safely.

Consider more than your car.

Traffic safety experts urge drivers to disregard the notion that distracted driving is limited to motor vehicle collisions. According to the National

Highway Safety Administration, approximately 1 in 5 people killed in a distracted-driving crash in 2019 were riding a bike, walking, or outside an automobile in some other fashion. By keeping your eyes on the road, you are less likely to endanger the safety of people not in the vehicles, such as walkers and cyclists.

Look beyond obvious obstacles.

Although some of the best ways to prevent distracted-driving accidents and injuries are also the most obvious (such as not texting while driving), our greatest risks often result from things we don't think to consider. For example, has someone else driven your vehicle since your last time behind the wheel? If so, your mirrors, seat position, or dashboard settings may have been changed to accommodate them. Be sure to double-check these items

before you hit the road. Additionally, take time to check weather conditions, traffic, and construction conditions along your route before heading out. The last thing you want to do is get distracted by changing your vehicle's settings to accommodate a snowy road or a construction area when you should be watching what's in front of you instead.

Additionally, if driving alone, be sure not to use your passenger seat to store items that could easily slide off. Reaching for loose or fallen objects in the vehicle is among the most common, but also one of the most overlooked, ways to cause a distracted-driving incident.

If you or a loved one has been involved in a distracted-driving accident, please contact us to discuss your case and ways to seek a just outcome.

Crab Rangoon Mac and Cheese



INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 lb elbow pasta
- 8 oz Jack cheese, grated
- 8 oz cream cheese
- 1 bunch scallions, chopped
- 1/2 cup pickled jalapeños, chopped (optional)
- 2 tbsp soy sauce
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1/2 tbsp red pepper flakes
- 1/2 lb lump crab
- 12 wonton wrappers

DIRECTIONS

1. Bring water to a boil for the pasta and preheat the oven to 350 F.
2. Drop pasta into boiling water.
3. In a bowl, mix all the ingredients except pasta and wonton wrappers; stir well.
4. Just before the pasta is ready, add about 1/2 cup of pasta water to the cheese mixture; stir well.
5. Strain pasta and add to cheese mixture. Stir, then place it in a baking dish or individual ramekins.
6. Bake for 25-30 minutes until bubbly and creamy.
7. While baking, cut wontons into triangles and fry batches in oil until crispy.
8. Drain wontons and season with salt.
9. Serve pasta with the crispy wonton wrappers.

Inspired by TheFoodInMyBeard.com

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.