



FINNEY INJURY LAW
- TRIAL LAWYERS -

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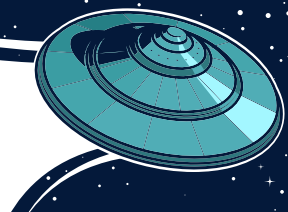
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I WANT TO BELIEVE

Missouri's Brush With UFO Fame



Enthusiasts from all across the globe who believe we're not alone in the universe celebrate World UFO Day on July 2 — and they believe extraterrestrial life has been found right here on Earth. The day marks the anniversary of the Roswell, New Mexico, incident in 1947, which some believe involved a UFO crash and massive government cover-up. But what if that wasn't the first incident?

In the 1980s, Charlotte Mann began claiming her grandfather witnessed a UFO crash site in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, in 1941. According to her, Rev. William Huffman was called to what he believed was a plane crash site to deliver last rites. When he arrived, he purportedly saw no ordinary crash site. A flying saucer was lodged in

the ground, and three extraterrestrial figures were lying outside the ship.

Mann says her grandfather stated two of the aliens were dead, and one was barely breathing. They were your standard alien figures — gray and short with big heads and gigantic eyes. He prayed over the surviving creature while taking in the spaceship design with strange knobs, dials, and hieroglyphics.

But before long, Mann recounts, the military arrived and cleared the scene after swearing every witness to secrecy. Huffman, however, was so unnerved that he told his wife and two sons. Sources differ on whether Mann learned the story from her grandmother on her deathbed or directly from her

grandfather, but she claims to have seen photographic evidence.

A photographer present that night supposedly captured a picture of officials holding up a dead alien for inspection. "He felt like someone else besides himself should have a copy, and Grandad was the only one he trusted," Mann told East Texas news broadcaster KITV. As luck would have it, the photograph has since gone missing, but Mann helpfully recreated it as a pencil drawing.

Regardless of its accuracy, the story of Huffman's encounter with aliens is now Cape Girardeau urban legend. So, what do you believe? On July 2, we should all take a moment to look at the sky and wonder what might be out there.



TRIALS & THEIR TALES

- NEWSLETTER -

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

Trial Takes an Unfortunate Turn BUT RESULTS IN A POSITIVE OUTCOME

We didn't catch lightning in a bottle in our trial. The jury returned a solid verdict but not the one we wanted. However, we did something even bigger than any verdict and more powerful in this case. You see, we were able to see, in black and white, the difference between what we do and what the other side does. And it isn't even close.

What I saw the defense lawyer do in our case was more than unfortunate. Let me explain. As you may recall from my previous article, this case had been going on for six years when we went to trial in May. Only one side has been paid, and it isn't us. So what happened that was so unfortunate? Well, in a nutshell, the defense attorney fell on his own sword.

After three days of picking a jury, putting on evidence, and arguing motions, we were set to argue closing statements — a culmination of the evidence and the lawyer's take on that evidence. It is the one time a lawyer is allowed to argue and make inferences about evidence and what it means. The lawyer is usually given wide-latitude, and there are few rules. Well, there is really one rule. You are absolutely not allowed to ask or tell the jurors to "place themselves in the shoes" of either the plaintiff or the defendant. It is called the "Golden Rule." It is such a well-known "no-no" that the United States Supreme Court (the highest court in the land) says you cannot say that statement. Even a first-year practicing lawyer knows you cannot do it.

Well, you can probably guess what happened. About 15 seconds into the defense lawyer's closing statement, he implored the jurors to "put yourselves in her shoes." I am rarely shocked in a courtroom, but I was then. And it wasn't like we hadn't brought this up six or seven times before the closing argument — starting one month prior to the case when we argued motions *in limine*. Even right before the closing arguments at the Instruction Conference (where the instruction to the jury is hashed out), we specifically mentioned this concern — that the defense attorney would make a sympathy plea for this client. It was the only concern we mentioned to the judge. The defense lawyer said he was absolutely not going to do it, and the judge said he could not.

This defense lawyer has been practicing for over 30 years. He has tried over 100 cases. He was brought in specifically for this case against us. He knew exactly what he was doing when he said that. When I objected and spoke with the judge, he offered a half-hearted excuse and then just gave up. We knew things were going okay for us, but he apparently thought they were going better for us than we did, so he tried to dump the case. When a statement like that is made, the bell is considered rung, and you cannot un-ring it — it is impossible for the jurors to not think about being in the defendant's shoes once the idea has been placed. That is why you cannot say it. Because we

cannot tell the jurors that what is in her shoes is unlimited insurance money, she didn't have to spend a single dime on lawyers or a judgment. It is fully covered by insurance. But we cannot say that. And we didn't.

We had two options — either ask the judge to tell the jurors to ignore the statement or end the trial with a mistrial. It is like being force-fed a meal you didn't want and don't like. There are no good options. We decided it had been six years and to keep moving forward. The verdict was \$100,000. We may still get a new trial because the statement by the defense lawyer was so egregious.

If you recall, I told my wife that when I left my insurance job, I didn't care if I won a case. I just wanted to be proud of what I did. This incident gave me a chance to show that our office is more than a trial win or loss. It is about doing the right thing and standing up straight. This trial showed the difference between right and wrong. And we know what side we were on. I can go home at the end of the day, look my kids in the face, and know I didn't take the easy way.

And you know what? We are going to get them the third time around. I'll keep you posted.

Ch.



READY TO SUCCEED

3 IMPORTANT LIFE SKILLS TO TEACH YOUR TEEN

Leaving the nest can be tough for young adults. There are so many things to remember, like making sure they have all the right supplies and remembering to keep important paperwork. So, before your child heads off to college, help them strengthen these three skills.

How to Ask for Help

Being capable starts with understanding what you need and asking for it. By having your child order their own food at a restaurant, make medical and dental appointments for themselves, and check out at the supermarket alone, you'll be helping your child develop independence while encouraging them to take the lead.

How to Seamlessly Get From Point A to Point B

When your teen leaves the house, they'll be traveling on their own on a bus, on a plane, by car, and by foot, so they'll need to understand how to navigate airports, subway stations, bus hubs, and roads. Ask your child to give you directions when describing how to get to the mall or have them even drive you there if they are licensed. This will reduce stress during solo travels, and they're less likely to feel overwhelmed if plans unexpectedly change.



How to Handle Emergencies

When children are fairly young, they learn how to call 911 in the event of life-threatening and serious emergencies. But other emergencies tend to pop up in life that don't necessarily warrant a call to the police. Show your child how to put on a spare tire, turn off utilities, patch a hole in clothing, and other basic but necessary skills so they don't panic when something goes wrong in their dorm room or on the road.

As a parent, it's your job to teach your children the right skills to set them up for success and independence and to take care of themselves when they finally go off on their own.

TO ERR IS HUMAN

BUT IS FORGIVENESS ALWAYS DIVINE?

When someone wrongs you, it can be hard to move past the hurt. July 7 marks Global Forgiveness Day, which encourages people to free themselves from old resentments. Many people tout forgiveness as good for our mental health. So, when you're recovering from an accident, should forgiving the negligent person who injured you be part of the healing process?

It's hard to say because forgiveness can be complicated. Forgiveness is an integral part of many people's religious faith. To others, the concept is permanently tied to the phrase "forgive and forget." But some things, you'll never forget — so how can you forgive them? Many people also associate forgiveness with reconciliation. To forgive someone, they believe, you must be willing to form a new relationship based on mutual trust.

Despite all its baggage, the concept of forgiveness at its root means moving past resentment for someone who did you wrong. What you choose to do once your resentment ends is an

entirely different subject. Further, many people find it possible to resent someone without letting bitterness take over their lives.

Most research into forgiveness involves breaches of trust in existing relationships, which is quite different from suffering permanent disability because a stranger ran a red light. Still, the findings hold some interest. Research has shown that people who forgive are less likely to suffer from mental health effects like anxiety or depression. Holding on to anger also results in stress, which we know is unhealthy for our bodies in many ways.

Of course, it's much easier to forgive someone when they're willing to admit they were wrong and apologize. Many accident victims never receive that. Forgiving someone who isn't sorry makes many people feel like a doormat, especially when they're still suffering from the effects of the incident. The point of forgiveness is to feel better, but it might make some people feel worse.

Ultimately, the choice to forgive is highly personal based on your life experiences, personality, and faith. If you choose to forgive, remember to do it for yourself, not the person who did you wrong. And if you don't, you can still move forward in other ways. If the effects of your accident are causing mental distress, we recommend speaking with a trained mental health professional who can help you on a path toward healing that feels right to you.

He's So *Fined*

GEORGE HARRISON'S PLAGIARISM SAGA

In November 1970, George Harrison released his first solo single and biggest hit, "My Sweet Lord." The song shot to No. 1 internationally and achieved the rare feat of bringing religious devotion to the pop charts. Only one problem arose — despite what the record label said, George Harrison didn't write it.

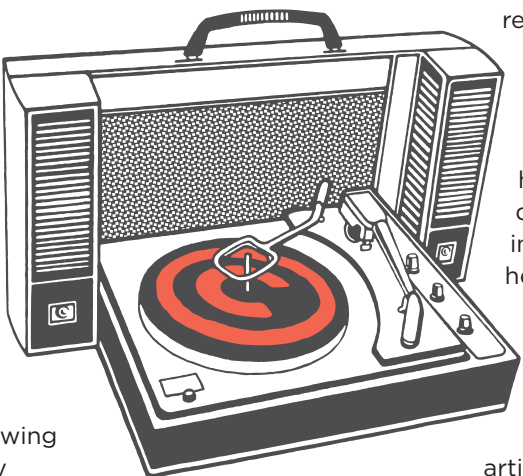
"He's So Fine" was written by Ronnie Mack and recorded by The Chiffons only seven years earlier. It became a hit in its own right, with Billboard ranking it as the fifth-biggest single of 1963. Though Harrison had dramatically rearranged the song and written new lyrics, the similarities between "He's So Fine" and "My Sweet Lord" were undeniable to even the casual listener.

Despite Harrison's lyric that "it takes so long," the song's owner, Bright Tunes, wasted no time filing a plagiarism lawsuit in February 1971. It also didn't take Harrison long to realize his mistake. In fact, the "quiet Beatle" later confessed to the similarities in his book "I Me Mine," asking, "Why didn't I realize?"

Harrison's manager, Allen Klein, thought he could make the matter go away by throwing money at it. He suggested that the wealthy

Harrison buy Bright Tunes so that he would own the rights to both songs. Bright Tunes rejected the offer, and the case went to court. The judge found Harrison guilty of "subconscious plagiarism" in 1976 and ordered him to pay lost royalties.

But Klein had a ruthless reputation and made an unexpected move. Having been fired by Harrison in 1973, Klein began pursuing a purchase of Bright Tunes on his own starting around 1975. By 1978, Klein owned the catalog and had effectively switched sides in the case, leaving Harrison stunned. It took several more years of legal wrangling (the case was finally resolved in 1998!), but in 1981, Klein sold Harrison "He's So Fine" for \$587,000. Many experts declared that price to be a steal.



Despite the public spectacle, Harrison had few regrets about his copycat hit. "I don't feel bad or guilty about it," he wrote in his autobiography. "It saved many a heroin addict's life. I know the motive behind writing the song in the first place far exceeds the legal hassle." In fact, the ordeal served as inspiration for his tongue-in-cheek single, "This Song," released in 1976 — proving that a good artist can find inspiration anywhere.

Healthier Hot Dogs With Slaw

Inspired by RachelRayMag.com

Craving a healthy dog for National Hot Dog Month? We've got you! Follow our recipe for a dog packed with protein, fiber, and vitamins. (Serves 8)

INGREDIENTS

- 2 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 green apple, peeled and diced
- 1 red onion, thinly sliced
- 1 small head red cabbage, cored and shredded
- 2 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tbsp grill seasoning
- 3 tbsp apple cider vinegar
- 2 tbsp maple syrup
- 8 organic chicken sausage links
- 8 whole-wheat hot dog buns, toasted

DIRECTIONS

1. In a large skillet over high heat, warm the vegetable oil. Saute the apple, onion, and cabbage and toss until wilted. Season with cumin and grill seasoning and cook for 10-12 minutes, until tender.
2. Add the vinegavr and maple syrup, then toss to combine. Cook for 1 minute and set the slaw aside.
3. On the grill, cook your chicken dogs according to the package instructions.
4. Assemble the works, starting with the bun and piling in the chicken dog and slaw.
5. Dig in! For an extra health boost, serve with grilled summer vegetables.

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.