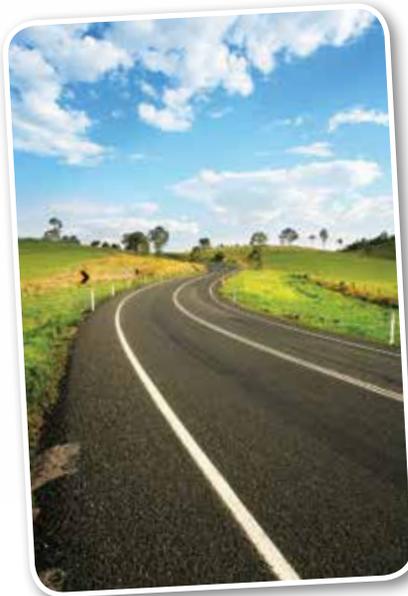


"You are a child of God. Your playing small doesn't serve the world."

A Monthly Publication of Ben Glass Law

This newsletter is for informational purposes only and no legal advice is intended.

Bet You Didn't Know This about DUI Cases



DUI law is very intricate. When an accident is involved, this only complicates matters.

BenGlassLaw Attorney James Abrenio recently helped a client in one of the strangest DUI cases we've seen in awhile.

Having just been in a car accident earlier that evening, the client was recovering from it in a hospital bed when law enforcement came in to question her about the accident. Soon, that questioning transformed into an interrogation to determine if the client was Driving While Intoxicated (DUI) at the time of the accident. Ultimately, the officer decided she should have to take a breathalyzer and give a blood sample.

Now, DUI law is very intricate. As it turns out, in Virginia, you are not compelled to give a blood sample if you're not **arrested** within three (3) hours of your driving (or, in this case, the accident). This makes sense, really. After a certain point, the state of the body has changed enough that you can't get an accurate reading of what was going on at the time of the accident. This is

especially true when sitting in a hospital bed with medicine and fluids flowing through your system. **The client was told by the officer that she had to give the blood test, and she didn't discover until later just how complex DUI law can be in cases like this.**

She took it to court, and BenGlassLaw was able to score her a victory. In discussing the case with James, he was quick to add, "[T]o be clear, the officer was doing his job, was very above-board with myself and the court, and did great work. Drunk driving is a serious issue that puts people's lives at risk. Had I been the officer in that situation, I would have done the same thing. But when you are presented with such a complicated set of facts, it can be hard for them to play out right in court to earn the prosecution a finding of guilt."

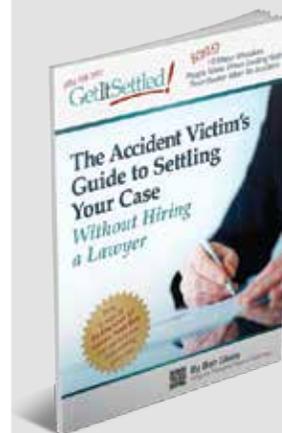
Whenever blood is taken, there are very specific procedures that must be followed. And when an accident is involved, this only complicates matters. Just because an officer THINKS you have been drinking it doesn't mean an arrest is justified. Any time an officer makes an arrest, he or she must prove to a judge that they had a good reason to do it. We recommend that anytime blood is drawn as part of an investigation, you need to talk to an attorney.

Congratulations to James on fighting for this client and getting a fair result. It's not every day you hear about a bedside breathalyzer and blood test, but that's why we're here, and that's why so many Virginians call us for help. ■

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DON'T Settle Your Case Right after the Accident Happens by Ben Glass



I met with a potential client recently. He had been rear ended last November by a guy who was probably drunk.

He still has ongoing neck pain, needs steroid injections, and may need surgery.

What's interesting is the approach the Nationwide Insurance Company adjuster took with the case.

Within days of the accident, and after the guy who was hit told Nationwide that he was on narcotic pain medication, they

mailed him an offer to settle his case for \$2,500.

Having read my free accident book*, he declined.

Here are the reasons that you never want to settle your accident case within days of an accident:

- **Once you settle your case, your claim is over.** There's no going back if, like this guy, you need months of medical care and probably surgery. There is no way to value your case accurately.
- **The defendant may have been drunk.** In Virginia, a drunk

driver can be subject to a punitive damages claim.

- **The insurance companies will NEVER tell you that you may need to repay your own health insurance company out of the settlement.** Thus, if the medical bills mount after "settling" your case, you may end up with nothing.

I thought the insurance companies had stopped this nonsense, but I guess not. ■



*To order my free accident book, go to VirginiaAccidentBook.com to get your free download now or call 877.540.8618 to have a copy mailed to you.

Thank you for your comments and support!

Thanks to past and present clients and to readers like you, BenGlassLaw now has **more positive client reviews and lawyer endorsements on Avvo.com than any lawyer in Virginia!**

This is an incredible accomplishment and we couldn't have done it without the whole BenGlassLaw community chipping in.

Check out our perfect rating on Avvo.com, and feel free to add a message of your own.

Consider this a personal thank you to everyone who follows us and agrees that lawyers should make a positive impact in people's lives. ■



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Little Ray's Progress at LOVE

WITHOUT BOUNDARIES

by Ben Glass

When most people read that I have nine kids, they think it's a typo, but it's absolutely true, and I've got the big ol' Glass family van to prove it. Four of my

children are adopted from China, and those of you who have been around us for a while know that I serve on the board of Love Without Boundaries (www.LoveWithoutBoundaries.com), a charity that helps orphans in China get education, foster care, medicine, nutrition, and just plain love.

We started out in 2003 helping one child get heart surgery. After its success, we realized how much of an impact even a small group of loving people can make. Eleven years later, the success stories that flow in from our Healing Homes in China are just too uplifting to keep to ourselves, so we've decided to share them with you.

This month, you get to meet Ray, who has been with LWB for a little over a year now. Ray is one and a half years old, and was born with several heart defects, including being born with a single ventricle instead of two, and a hole in the wall between the two upper chambers of his heart.

Nothing is getting in Ray's way, though! He's crawling



Meet Ray, who has been with LWB for a little over a year now.

He loves interacting with other children and observing what they're doing.



Ray is a huge fan of mealtime and is on track with weight gain.



at a record pace and is always on the move. He loves interacting with other children and observing what they're doing. His appetite is increasing with all the new movement, and he's a huge fan of mealtime.

Ray is on track with his medication and weight gain, and it's astounding how much he has progressed over the last year. He loves to babble when someone speaks to him, and he's now able to pull himself to a stand with a little help from the couch. He waves goodbye, and he's able to sit well on his own. Let's be honest, it's hard not to draw attention when you're that cute. ■

We hope you enjoyed the update! To learn more about Love Without Boundaries and our mission, visit www.LoveWithoutBoundaries.com.

Reminder About Our Firm's Communication Policy

Our promise to you is that while we are working on your case, we don't take inbound phone calls, faxes or emails. Ben Glass takes no inbound unscheduled phone calls whatsoever. It makes him much more productive and helps get your case resolved faster. You can always call the office at 703-544-7876, and schedule an in-person or phone appointment, usually within 24-48 hours. This is a lot better than the endless game of "phone tag" played by most businesses today. Remember, too, that email is "quick," but is checked no more than twice a day. Replies are then scheduled into the calendar. So if it's really important, don't email—call the office instead.

This publication is intended to educate the general public about personal injury, medical malpractice, and small business issues. It is not intended to be legal advice. Every case is different. The information in this newsletter may be freely copied and distributed as long as the newsletter is copied in its entirety.

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We'd like to say
THANK YOU to
the BenGlassLaw
community for
helping us with
our latest online
accomplishment!

Inside This Issue...

- » The little-known fact that we used to secure a victory for our client.
- » Little Ray's progress at Love Without Boundaries.
- » And much more...



Employee Spotlight: Kristen Mayer

When it comes to hard work and dedication, one of the first people who come to mind is Paralegal Kristen Mayer. After graduating from Northern Virginia Community College with an Associate's Degree in Legal Assisting, Kristen worked as a paralegal at a family law practice in Alexandria, Virginia, and continued at a personal injury practice in Leesburg, Virginia. After beginning a family, she wanted to work from home, but knew it was not an option at that firm. Kristen changed career paths and began an at-home position as administrative support with a security company.

Kristen works with Attorney James Abrenio on personal injury matters, and also does case management of long-term disability and medical malpractice cases with Attorney Jose Caballe.

Several years later, Kristen wanted to return to law. She searched Craigslist for telecommuting paralegal positions and discovered an ad posted by BenGlassLaw. Seeming too good to be true, Kristen applied and was hired shortly thereafter and the rest, as they say, is history.

Kristen began at BGL in August of 2012 and says she couldn't be happier. "BGL offers great flexibility, along with great technology, allowing me to support the firm staff from my

home. I get to see my kids off to school in the morning and take them off the bus in the afternoon." Kristen works with Attorney James Abrenio on personal injury matters, and also does case management of long-term disability and medical malpractice cases with Attorney Jose Caballe. Last summer, she began managing the monthly BenGlassLaw newsletter with the support of Colin Lynch, and recently began assisting Ben and Charley Mann with firm management duties.

Ben raved about Kristen's performance at BGL, "Kristen has done a lot more than we originally asked her to do. She has assumed a lot of responsibility. We call this 'becoming a linchpin.' This is what successful people do, and we are very happy that she is on our team."

Attorney Jose Caballe states, "Kristen personifies diligence and reliability. She balances being a good coworker and a good employee perfectly!"

Colin Lynch, Video Studio Manager, spoke enthusiastically about her, "Kristen is a fantastic person to work with. She is organized and reliable and has a great knack for dissecting problems. She's a caring mother and an all-around wonderful person to spend time with. We're lucky to have her!"

When Kristen isn't hard at work for the firm, she spends quality time with her husband Dennis, and their children: Susannah, 12; Olivia, 9; William, 3; and Charles, 2, at their home in South Riding, Virginia. ■