



A Monthly Publication of Ben Glass Law
This newsletter is for informational purposes only and no legal advice is intended.

THIS SEASON'S 5 MOST UNDERRATED GIFTS

Here are gifts that almost everyone will need and enjoy (including a few that get a bad rap):

Books

Bookstores are dying, but not the experience of holding, feeling, and smelling a brand new book. Many book lovers still prefer physical books they can fold, write in, and keep on the shelf forever. It feels more personal and intimate than gifting something on a Kindle.

Some book recommendations from the BENGLASSLAW team: *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, *Becoming A Supple Leopard*, *The Martian*, *The Lean Startup*, and *Wonder Boys*.

Socks

Everyone needs socks. All the time. I don't know why socks got a bad rap all of a sudden for being a crummy gift. Socks are awesome. Maybe don't give socks to your kids when Santa promised a PS4, but for adults, socks are what we all secretly need every holiday season.

Tickets to Events

Experience is one of the better gifts you can give someone. Tickets to a show will be remembered and appreciated forever. People love something to look forward to, and if you hit the nail on the head, you'll have given their favorite gift of the year (even though they can't admit it publicly).

Board Games

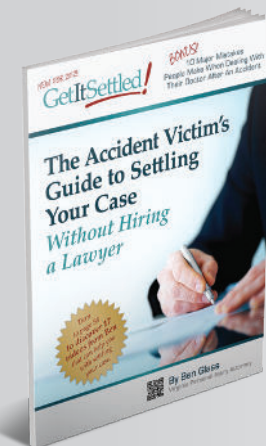
In the age of micro-pay phone apps and pretentious, overpriced Apple products, board games have secretly gotten better and better over the past decade. Our interpersonal relationships feel so disconnected now that it's really refreshing to sit down and play a board game with the people you love - without checking



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This Season's 5 Most **UNDERRATED** Gifts

your phone. Some board game recommendations from the BGL Team: *Ticket to Ride*, *Carcassonne*, *Forbidden Island*, *Bananagrams*, *Scene It*, and *Upwords*.

Betamax

Imagine it. Up to 60 minutes of vivid, high-density color video programming on a single self-contained video cassette smaller than an ordinary paperback book.

Betamax is the next step in video evolution. Finally,

a rugged, reliable mechanism that will stand up to repeated videocassette play. (In all seriousness, last month, Sony announced that it will stop selling Betamax videocassettes in March 2016, and we wanted to pay tribute by including some copy from a Betamax ad in 1977.)

Now you've got everything you need to enjoy the holiday shopping season. Happy gift hunting! And from all of us at **BENGLASSLAW**, we truly want to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

On the flip side...

THIS SEASON'S 5 MOST OVERRATED GIFTS

Giving the right gift is an amazing feeling. There's a lot of pressure though, right? You don't want to give a gift that's secretly re-gifted or returned in January. Here are some gifts to stay away from if you want to be memorable:

Gift Cards

Giving a gift card is basically acknowledging that you don't know someone very well. Unless someone is all about Starbucks all day every day, avoid gift cards. Unless, of course, you're giving someone a Tower Records or a Blockbuster gift card, which is hilarious.

Fitness Bands

OK, if you spend \$250 on a FitBit for someone, they're going to be grateful, but is it really a good gift? First, the receiver will now think, "It's so obvious that I'm overweight, people are giving me gifts for it now." Second, the FitBit experience mostly consists of being reminded daily of how little activity you're doing while at work. "Congratulations on those 0 miles you just walked!" Thanks, FitBit.

Star Wars BB-8 Toy

Move over R2-D2, there is a new droid in town, and the BB-8 is already flying off the shelves. It's activated by a phone app, and rolls around the floor using special gyroscope-like technology. The problem is that the initial reviews are shedding light on a lot of problems, and it seems that Disney rushed this one into production. At a high price point, wait for them to work out some of the bugs first.

Those New Two-Wheeled Personal Scooters

Is this what America has come to? Have we really gotten this lazy? Even walking is considered a chore now? Rest assured that if you buy this for someone, you're really buying them a sign on their back that says, "Laugh at me, take a picture, and post it on Facebook."

Red Ryder BB Gun

You'll shoot your eye out, kid. ■

BGL's Best Bites:

WHITE CHOCOLATE DIPPED GINGER COOKIES

Ingredients:

2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
1 tsp baking soda
1/2 tsp salt
2 tsp ground ginger
1 tsp ground cinnamon
1/4 tsp ground cloves
1/4 tsp ground nutmeg
3/4 cup unsalted butter, softened
1/2 cup + 3 Tbs granulated sugar, divided
1/2 cup packed light brown sugar
1 large egg
1/4 cup molasses
2 tsp vanilla extract
3 cups white chocolate chips
3 Tbs shortening
Red and green candy melts
(or tinted royal icing)

Directions:

In a mixing bowl, whisk together flour, baking soda, salt, ginger, cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg for 20 seconds, set aside.

In the bowl of an electric stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, cream together butter, 1/2 cup granulated sugar and brown sugar until well blended. Mix in egg, then blend in molasses and vanilla. With mixer set on low speed, slowly add in dry ingredients and mix until combined. Cover bowl with plastic wrap and chill 1 hour. Preheat oven to 350 degrees during last 10 minutes of chilling.

Scoop dough out about 1 1/2 Tbsp at a time, shape into balls then roll in remaining 3 Tbs granulated sugar. Transfer to Silpat- or parchment-paper-lined baking sheets, spacing cookies 2 inches apart (keep dough chilled that is not currently baking), flatten tops just slightly (to evenly level). Bake in preheated oven 8-10 minutes. Cool on baking sheet several minutes, then transfer to wire rack to cool completely.

In a microwave-safe bowl, melt 1 cup white chocolate chips with 1 Tbs shortening at a time in microwave on HIGH power in 10-second intervals, stirring between intervals, until melted, smooth and fairly runny (I did batches of it because it will cool as you're dipping, plus it's easy to burn, so you don't want to work with too much of it at a time. Then once you've used it up, melt more; you may not need all 3 cups). Dip half of each cookie in melted white chocolate mixture, then run bottom of cookie slightly along edge of bowl to remove excess, then return to Silpat or parchment paper to set at room temperature.

If doing the holly decoration, melt candy melts according to directions on package (I worked in small batches because it sets quickly, maybe 9 chips at a time, plus you won't need much). Pour into a piping bag fitted with a #4 tip and pipe decorations. Allow to set at room temperature. ■



FOR OUR ATTORNEY REFERRAL PARTNERS

If you are one of our many attorney referral partners, we thank you for the people you've allowed us to help this past month. We always make sure the client knows that you are the hero for having made the connection. If this month you find yourself with a personal injury, long-term disability, or medical malpractice case that you don't handle, give that person the BenGlassLaw number, 703-584-7277, and make sure they say, "Attorney (Your Name Here) sent me," so that we know who to thank. If you have any questions about how we handle referrals, email info@benglasslaw.com with the subject line "Referral Partners" to learn more about our program.

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'RE HERE TO HELP

We get asked all the time which situations BENGLASSLAW can help with. We see lives changed in our office, and we're honored and blessed to be serving this community. Here are the main things we help with:

My Long-Term Disability Claim was Denied. We are one of the few firms in Virginia that regularly practices and tries ERISA Long-Term Disability cases. If you've gotten a denial letter from your insurance company for no apparent reason, we can help you fight back.

I was in a car Accident. Someday, we'll all be riding to work in our self-driving Google Teslas or whatever, but until then, we have to deal with the mistakes drivers make on Virginia roads on a daily basis. If you have been injured in a car accident in Virginia, you should definitely give us a call.

I was Injured by a Medical Professional. We have free books we want to give you, and we want to hear your story. We have tremendous respect for doctors and the work they do, but if you have been unnecessarily injured (or permanently injured), you deserve financial help, and as a community, we need to ensure that it doesn't happen to someone else.

So, give us a call! Now is the time to enjoy the holidays, but injuries and pain don't care what time of year it is. If you ever need us, you have a legal team standing by to answer your questions and guide you through the process, even if you don't need an attorney. ■