



# BENGLASSLAW'S \$1.85 MILLION MEDICAL MALPRACTICE VERDICT RANKED AS 8TH HIGHEST VERDICT IN VIRGINIA IN 2016

Last year's case involving a gallbladder surgery turned out to be a top-ten verdict in the state for the whole year. Congratulations to the BenGlassLaw team for their hard work on the case, although we'd gladly trade it in to spare the client from ever being the victim of medical malpractice in the first place.



## What Happened?

First, the happy ending: ultimately, with our help, the 65-year-old woman was awarded \$1.85 million by a Fredericksburg, VA, jury.

During a routine gallbladder surgery, our client had her bile duct severed. It went undetected, and as a result bile started to drain into our client's body cavity. Our client called the hospital on the afternoon of surgery, five days later, and then again fourteen days after the surgery, to complain of a variety of symptoms, including pain that could not be controlled by narcotic medication, the inability to eat anything and, two weeks after surgery, "black bile" being regurgitated.

These calls were never passed on to the surgeon by the nurse. The nurse on the phone not only didn't tell the doctor, but prescribed a change in medication without a doctor's counsel. Meanwhile, over time, over *two liters* of bile drained into the patient's body cavity.

The patient testified that she believed that the nurse was communicating with the surgeon during these calls, when, in fact, she was not. Three surgeries later, the client and her husband decided that something was grossly mishandled here and they should look into finding an attorney.

They found BenGlassLaw online, downloaded Ben's free medical malpractice book, and made a call which turned out to be life changing.

The final verdict is helping our client take back a lot of her life, but as with many cases, she would have gladly traded the money to have not gone through this ordeal at all. If you or someone you know has been injured by a medical professional, tell them to call BenGlassLaw. Even if we don't take on the case, our mission is to educate and point people in the right direction. ■

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## WHY MOST MEDICAL MALPRACTICE VICTIMS NEVER RECOVER A DIME

*The Ultimate Guide to  
Medical Malpractice  
Cases in Virginia*

In this free book, Ben Glass shares what he has learned about fighting insurance companies for over 30 years. Medical malpractice cases in Virginia can be expensive, lengthy, and risky. Virginia is a very pro-doctor state, so winning your medical malpractice case requires a lot of strategic planning and an experienced attorney. This book reveals:



- **Why catastrophic injury is not necessarily malpractice**
- **How your insurance company may try to take your entire recovery**
- **How medical malpractice law works in Virginia, and much, much more...**

To receive your free copy, call BenGlassLaw at 703-584-7277

# Letters to the Editor

## In Response to "Skills Every High School Student Should Know"

Thomas writes:

Mr. Glass,

*I enjoyed your article in this month's newsletter, and I wish it were required reading in every high school.*

*Until I joined Fairfax County Public Schools in 2012, I'd always worked in schools where the entire population was in special education. After some exposure to the general education population in FCPS, I was shocked at the lack of skills needed for work in the real world. Heck, I was shocked at the lack of interpersonal skills! I don't know what was going on in the general education curriculum, but I began to realize that my students with special needs weren't the only ones who could benefit from direct skills instruction and job coaching! I sorely miss the opportunities I had to help students during my career.*

*When I bought my house in South Boston, Virginia, I thought, oh, this is the South; everyone will be so personable! Well, folks at church certainly are, but I was in for a shock at local retailers and restaurants. Almost no eye contact or smiles, rarely a "how can I help you?" heard anywhere, or a "thank you." If I ever regain my health, I'd love to get my foot in the door of the local high school! I don't know what they think they are preparing their students for!*

*Thank you for spreading your message, and don't stop!*



We love getting responses to the newsletter. Want to comment on an article? Email [staff@benglasslaw.com](mailto:staff@benglasslaw.com)

## BGL's Best Bites: IRISH SODA BREAD

### Ingredients:

- 2 cups flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp baking soda
- ½ tsp ground nutmeg
- ½ tsp salt
- Cube 4 oz. cold, salted butter.
- 1 cup raisins
- 2 TBS sugar



### Directions:

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

- 1 Combine and mix well: flour, baking powder, baking soda, nutmeg and salt.
- 2 Add butter to flour mixture, working in with pastry blender until pea-sized pieces form.
- 3 Stir in raisins and sugar.
- 4 Turn dough out on floured surface and knead 10-12 times.
- 5 Cut in half and pat each half into a 6-inch circle. Slice each circle into 6 wedges.
- 6 Transfer wedges in a circle to ungreased baking sheet.
- 7 Bake 18-22 minutes. ■



*Tastes great with butter and honey or jam!*



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### **The New Card I Hand Out When I Ref Youth Soccer Matches**

and he shouted to his kid on the field, “Don’t argue with the referee, Joey! You’ll never win!”

I love what I do, but there’s one aspect of youth soccer culture in America that has *got* to go: disrespectful parents. You’d be shocked at the language you hear at a match of 15 year olds. It’s about setting a good example for our kids and respecting the game.

I guarantee you no one else in the country is handing out a card like this at youth matches. If you find someone who is, put them in contact with me! I’m always looking for like-minded folks to share the love of the game with. ■



*P.S. The yellow part of the card is also a banner that we've partnered with local schools to have hung at their stadiums. If you think the banner should be hung for all to see at your school, contact [info@benglasslaw.com](mailto:info@benglasslaw.com) and we'll get in touch with you and your school.*

## **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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VIP Program? Find out at  
[BenGlassLawVIP.com!](http://BenGlassLawVIP.com)

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## THE NEW CARD I HAND OUT WHEN I REF YOUTH SOCCER MATCHES

by Ben Glass

*For those of you who know what I'm all about, you know I like to "show up like nobody else." I've been a youth soccer referee since 1974 and I absolutely love it. I love the sport, I love healthy competition, and I love the exercise.*

One of my employees was taking some photos of me at a game a few years ago, and a parent asked, "Which one's your kid?" When my employee replied, "I work for the referee," the parent asked what I do for a living. "He's a car accident and medical malpractice attorney." Immediately, the parent's eyes widened,

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### ATTENTION COACHES AND PARENTS

When adults yell at referees, they are saying:

**"In our family, we don't  
respect authority!"**

Let's set a good example for our kids.

**BenGlassLaw.com**



TODAY'S REFEREE

**Ben Glass**

Soccer Referee Since 1974

email: [Ben@BenGlassLaw.com](mailto:Ben@BenGlassLaw.com)

[TheRefMentor.com](http://TheRefMentor.com)

#### Reminders for Today's Game

- 1 Don't use language towards a match official that you would not use to a teacher or employer. (For example, saying to a referee, "you suck" = Red Card)
- 2 Respect the Required Distance at Free Kicks – No, the other team doesn't have to "ask" for 10 yards – you must move back.
- 3 Play the Whistle – The signals of the assistant referees are for me.
- 4 Enjoy the Game – You are privileged to participate.

Want to Be a Referee? [VADCSoccerRef.com](http://VADCSoccerRef.com)





# DID YOU GET ACCEPTED TO YOUR NUMBER ONE COLLEGE CHOICE?

*It's that time of year. High school seniors are getting their college acceptance letters. Some of you may be disappointed that you didn't get into the college of your choice. Others, faced with multiple acceptances, will stress over making the right choice.*

Look, I get it. I've got a bunch of high school kiddos in my house, including one senior. I also know that as much as I say "don't sweat it," you'll still sweat it, but I'm going to say it again.

It matters little, in the long run, where you go to college.

Let's do it again. *It matters little, in the long run, where you go to college.*

I say that as business owner and dad to nine, four of whom have graduated from college and are living productive lives. Four different Virginia colleges. Where a potential new employee of one of my two businesses went to college is never an important question to us.

This was reinforced recently in a conversation I had with one of our BenGlassLaw VIP members. Both of her twenty-something-year-old college graduates were out working in cool jobs, jobs they never envisioned they would be in even as they graduated from college. The jobs they now have not only have no relationship to where they went to college, but they have little relationship to what they studied there, either.

"Oh," you say, "but I'll get a better education at one college than another."

No, you won't. Ever. No college or university "gives" you an education. You TAKE your education from wherever you go. What you get out of the dollars it costs to put you there totally depends on the decisions you make, every day, as to what value you will EXTRACT out of the place you choose to go.

Whichever college you go to, promise me this:

1. Don't worry if you don't know what you want to do with your life as you enter. It's not a big deal. Caitlin Lewis, the VP of Science and Algorithms at Netflix, tried three different majors at William & Mary before she found her passion. (She still graduated in four years. Changing major is no excuse for hanging around more than four years.)

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2. You will learn to think for yourself;
3. You will learn how to communicate your thoughts in speech and in writing;
4. You will learn how to learn stuff you don't know so that when you speak or write about your thoughts, you will communicate from a position of knowledge;
5. That you will understand that where you end up four (not four and a half, not five and, for heaven's sake not six) years from now will be totally dependent on the decisions you make every day while you are in college. Your getting a job or moving on to graduate studies is not dependent on the economy, Wall Street, your parents, your professors or your friends. This is on YOU.

Free free to contact me if you disagree. If you want to read a good book on the subject, pick up Frank Bruni's *Where You Go is Not Who You'll Be*.

## Reducing Poverty - Finland's Idea is Dumb

*Time* magazine reported recently that Finland will start paying \$587 a month to a randomly selected 2,000 unemployed citizens as part of a social experiment to reduce poverty and increase employment rates.

How silly.

The biggest factor in determining whether you will be poor or not is the decisions you make, not how much the

government gives you. According to the Brookings Institute, you have a 72% chance of being in the middle class or above, in terms of wage-earning ability, if you follow three simple rules:

1. Get a high school degree
2. Get a job
3. Get married

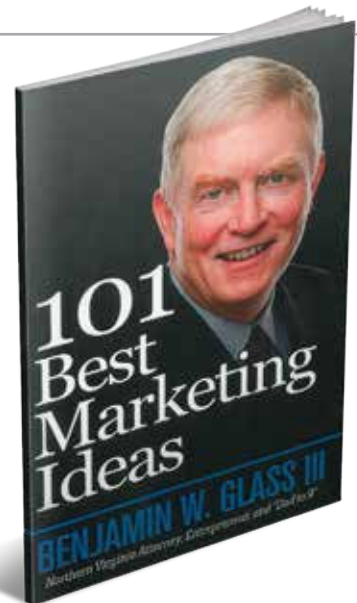
Don't tell me that it's the government's responsibility to mandate a certain level of wages for a job. If a job pays less than a so-called "living wage," then it's because the employer has plenty of choices of whom to hire. It's because there are plenty of people willing to work for lower wages. You need to differentiate yourself.

By the way, do you know which industry is currently experiencing a shortage of workers? The fast food industry. According to Bloomberg, "In today's tight labor market, restaurants are enmeshed in a full-on food fight over workers. Rank-and-file crew members are winning referral bonuses, free meals and days off and the dearth of candidates may be raising the industry's minimum wage without any help from law makers."

That's the way an economy is supposed to work - without interference from government. Rational business owners will seek out the best employees and, yes, they will pay for them. If you are "underpaid and overworked," it's because you haven't done enough to make yourself indispensable. Your fault. Not theirs. ■

## SMALL BUSINESS TIP OF THE MONTH

*Well, we have 100 of them in Ben Glass's newest book written specifically for the small biz owner and entrepreneur. If you are a small business owner in Virginia, reach out to us and we'll get you a copy. ■*



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