



BEWARE!

NEW PHONE SCAM TRIES TO RECORD YOU SAYING "YES"

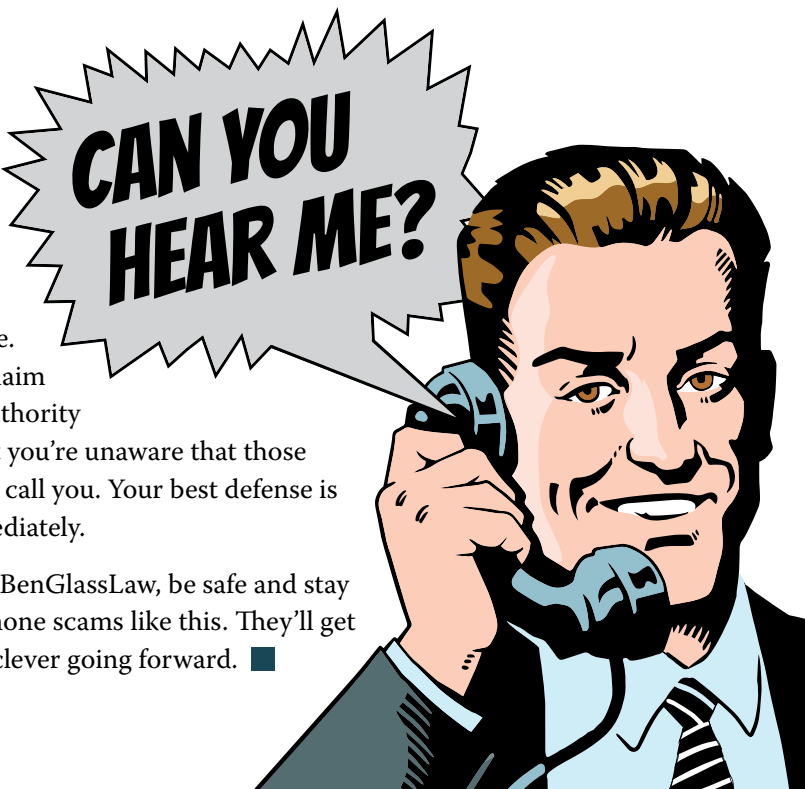
Virginia police have caught on to a phone scam that's having a lot of success around the country. The "Can You Hear Me?" call has one goal in mind: record you saying the word "Yes" so that they can use it to authorize charges on your card or climb other phone trees with your recording.

Even if all they have is your phone number and a recording of you saying "yes," you'd be surprised what kinds of charges can be run. If the criminal has something else of yours, like a cable bill or a credit card number, they can do even more damage. Most Virginians are very careful with credit card information, but there have been so many data breaches in the last few years (Anthem, Sony, CVS, Hilton, even the Commission on Elections) that you can never be sure how much of your information is compromised.

Trust your instincts when you get a call from an unfamiliar number. If they're asking questions that normally get a robotic "yes" response, raise your antennae. "Can you hear me?" is the most common scam at the moment, but "Are you the homeowner?" and "Are you in charge of your phone bill?" etc., are gaining popularity.

Remember, government agencies like the IRS, DMV or Social Security Administration will NEVER call you on the phone. Scammers will claim governmental authority in the hopes that you're unaware that those agencies will not call you. Your best defense is to hang up immediately.

From all of us at BenGlassLaw, be safe and stay wary of tricky phone scams like this. They'll get more and more clever going forward. ■



In this issue...

- **Page 3** Congratulations, BENGlassLaw, on 100 Attorney Endorsements
- **Page 3** BGL's Best Bites: Sharon's Shrimp Pizza
- **Page 4** "I Need it Wiped off my Record!" How Difficult is "Expungement" in Virginia, and Is it Time to Follow Other States in Updating our Expungement Laws?

FREE INSTANT DOWNLOAD THE TRUTH ABOUT LAWYER ADVERTISING



Most lawyer advertising just stinks. Think about it. You can't compare one lawyer to another by the ads, can you? Most of

them just brag about being "aggressive," as though that's something unique.

That's why Ben wrote *The Truth about Lawyer Advertising: The Complete Consumer Guide to Finding the Right Lawyer for Your Case—Every Time.*

Go to TheTruthAboutLawyerAds.com to get your free download now or call 703.544.7876 to have a copy mailed to you.

—continued from page 4

"I Need It Wiped off my Record!" How Difficult is "Expungement" in Virginia, and Is it Time to Follow Other States in Updating our Expungement Laws?

because the political climate creates a barrier that's hard to break. No one wants to be seen as anything other than "tough on crime."

That said, I think one area that needs focus is Virginia's expungement law, which is truly archaic. It's also an area that I believe is generally misunderstood by the public and there should be room for movement even from the most conservative crowd.

Expungements are just plain difficult to get in Virginia.

To be eligible for expungement in Virginia, an accused has to essentially have been acquitted of their charge (or had the case dropped by the government). And even after that, it's the accused's duty to file an expungement petition where, in the most serious charges, the accused maintains the burden to demonstrate that a court should actually grant the expungement.

It goes without saying, if you've been convicted of any crime in Virginia (misdemeanor or felony), your record is permanent. Period. Too often, I've had people call my office to discuss expunging a charge from decades ago, when they were virtually a different person, and, unfortunately, that decades-old charge prevents them from moving on. Despite that, I have to be the bearer of bad news.

What happened to the adage of "paying your debt to society" and moving on?

If someone has been convicted of a charge and complied with their court requirements, I simply don't understand the absolutely permanent label bestowed upon them by a Virginia charge. It's often touted that those labeled as criminals need to "pull themselves up by their bootstraps" and find work. However, because criminal convictions are permanent in Virginia, we are requiring those who have paid their debts to society to serve a life-long sentence, regardless of their circumstances. In times of labeling so many things "un-American," this is truly one that deserves the label.

Well, James, are you saying that we should just let criminals free to run the streets?!

This is an argument (or something similar) most anyone who has worked substantively for criminal justice reform hears consistently. And the answer is simple – no.

Our criminal justice system – at least in theory – is intended to not only punish people, but also rehabilitate individuals and encourage them not to re-offend. In that mission, inherently, every individual who is charged with a crime must be considered individually based upon the charge he or she is facing, the circumstances surrounding their case, their criminal record, and a whole host of other factors in order to craft the best "plan" of punishment and rehabilitation. After all, for example, shouldn't

someone charged with assault for pushing a friend who is unharmed during an argument be treated differently than another person who slugs a person they do not know with no provocation whatsoever? I would think so.

So, too, we should be thinking of more creative ways to treat criminal records (and therefore expungements) in Virginia. It should not simply be the one-size-fits-all scheme currently in place.

So, what should we do?

First of all, misdemeanors should be treated differently from felonies, plain and simple. There should be a certain period of years that misdemeanors stay on an accused's record,

after which time (assuming they comply with the court's requirements and have no further violations of law) the charge should be expungeable.

Secondly, we should also consider certain felonies as eligible for expungement. Of course, these would include non-violent felonies (and thereby exclude violent felonies), but I also believe other convictions that result from drug addiction or mental health issues should be given consideration for expungement, as well.

Think it's not possible in Virginia? Just last year, Kentucky passed a massive overhaul of their expungement laws that permits expungements similar to what I mentioned above.

If you think I'm wrong, that's perfectly fine. I encourage the debate. But liberalizing Virginia expungements can be a great way to improve our imperfect criminal justice system. Feel free to reach out if you have more questions. ■



Expungement Law in Virginia is truly archaic.

BGL's Best Bites: SHARON'S SHRIMP PIZZA



"This is a big hit in my household.
I hope you enjoy it, too!"

Ingredients:

- 25-30 small/medium shrimp-cooked, tails off, and deveined.
(you can use a bag of frozen shrimp if you want)
- 1 ready-made pizza crust- your choice (I use Boboli's)
- 1/2 jar of basil pesto (drain the olive oil)
- 2-3 TBS diced jalapeños-found in the relish section in your grocery store (according to your degree of spiciness)
- fresh mozzarella
- ¼ cup fresh parsley-chopped



Directions:

- 1 Preheat oven to 375 degrees
- 2 Place crust on pizza pan
- 3 Stir in jalapeños with pesto
- 4 Spread pesto/jalapeño mixture on pizza crust
- 5 Add shrimp
- 6 Crumble/tear mozzarella and put on top of pizza
- 7 Sprinkle with fresh chopped parsley
- 8 Bake @ 375 for 15- 20 minutes or until cheese is bubbly and crust is brown. ■

Enjoy!

CONGRATULATIONS, BENGLASSLAW, on 100 Attorney Endorsements



BenGlassLaw has just passed the milestone of **100 peer endorsements** on the popular lawyer directory Avvo. Avvo was originally created to help attorneys refer to each other, but has since ballooned into a place for people to search for lawyers and rate them. We are proud to have passed 100 attorney endorsements, and we're already working hard on the next hundred. ■

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.

3915 Old Lee Highway Suite 22-B
Fairfax, VA 22030
tel 703.544.7876 fax 703.783.0686
www.BenGlassLaw.com

To be removed from our mailing list,
call 800.224.1482 ext 999



What is the BENGLASSLAW
VIP Program? Find out at
BenGlassLawVIP.com!

Inside This Issue...

- » Beware! New Phone Scam Tries to Record You Saying "Yes"
- » BGL's Best Bites: Sharon's Shrimp Pizza
- » And more...

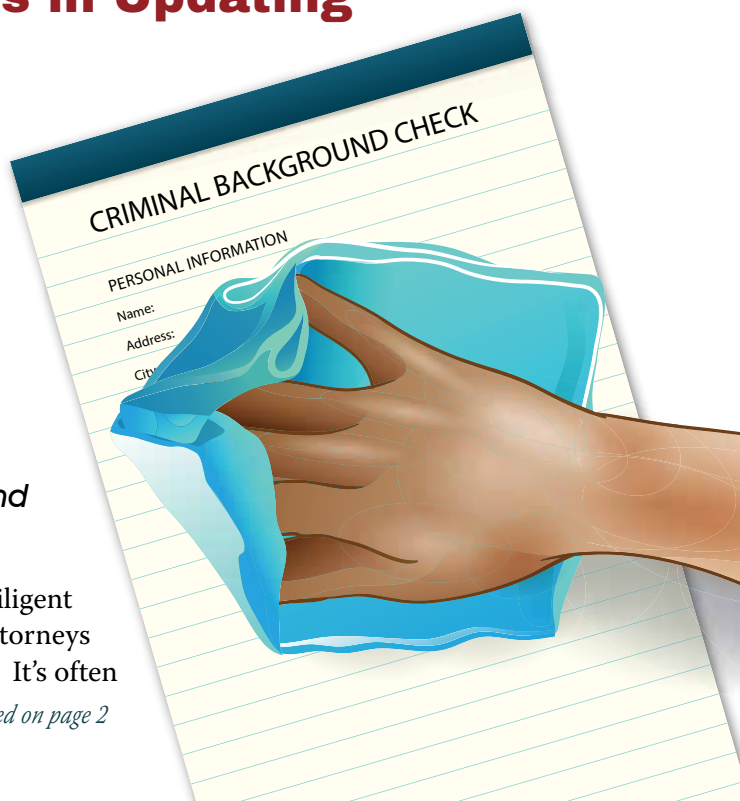
"I NEED IT WIPE OFF MY RECORD!" **How Difficult is "Expungement" in Virginia, and Is it Time to Follow Other States in Updating our Expungement Laws?**

by James Abrenio

Having practiced criminal defense in Virginia for nearly a decade, you don't have to sell me on the idea that we need massive changes in our criminal justice system. In my mind, there's no question that our laws disproportionately affect the impoverished and minorities. Too many people are in jails and our discovery rules (the rules by which an accused gets to "discover" the evidence against him) lag far behind many states.

This flawed system is not due to lack of concerted efforts by a diligent criminal defense bar and local legislatures. I personally know attorneys and law makers who repeatedly push for changes in the system. It's often

—continued on page 2





Thanks to Mothers

Especially the Two who Have Influenced My Life Profoundly

My life has been blessed with being able to observe, first hand, two of the most terrific mothers who have ever walked the earth, my mom, Pat Glass, and my wife, Sandi. Without slighting anyone else's mother (almost all of my friends have great stories to tell about their own mothers), I can honestly say that these two women are models of what "good moms" are.

Many of you know that we have nine kids. What you might not know is that I grew up the oldest of seven! In fact, we have an old family photo of the first five sitting on the sofa. I was six at the time! My mom and dad still live in the same house we grew up in in Annandale. (My kids: "Dad, how could you have lived in such a small house, only two bathrooms and not enough bedrooms for everyone to have their own!")

There can't be any job tougher than being a good mom. My energy level can wax and wane, and when I get a cold, I just go to bed and sleep for a few days, but a mom is expected to be "up" all the time. I run two businesses, but these two moms are essentially helping fund, direct, and manage lots of mini-franchises. There are no true vacations (how would the rest of us eat?).

Here's the top 4 things I learned from my own mom growing up:

1. Always be polite; it's just the right thing to do. You just never know what someone else's day has been like.
2. The world is an open book. Go write your own story, no matter what anyone else thinks or says.
3. Family is important. We are still close geographically and we actually like getting together with each other.

4. Be humble (I know my brothers and sisters will laugh when they read this one, but it's true!).

The journey with Sandi from young adulthood (we met when I was 20 and she was 19, what carefree times those were) to now has just been amazing. Sandi is an incredibly loving mother. With so many moving parts in our family, there's almost always at least "one loose lug nut" that needs to be tightened, and usually there are several. It is simply incredible to see the number of things that she gets done in a day. While there are many things I have learned from my wife, here at the top 4:

1. Family first is a good way to look at life. It's the way our parents parented us.
2. Different kids have different parenting needs. What worked for one might not work for another. We need to learn a lot of parenting styles and we need to keep learning.
3. When we communicate with each other, we must always remember that we are on the same team, no matter what.
4. Everyone, but certainly children, needs connection. We are wired to connect. It's what make us human. Connect first!

Happy Mother's Day to You Both! ■



Patricia Glass: "Always be polite, You just don't know what kind of day they've had."

THANKS TO MATTEL

THE DUMBEST PRODUCT IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND

I'm a capitalist and I'm glad I live in America, the country where, for the most part, anyone with an idea can take bold and brave action, launch the idea into the marketplace in order to make money, and see if he's right.

I like Mattel. It's an enduring, creative, innovative American company. From indestructible Fisher-Price toys, to Barbie dolls, to Hot Wheels cars, Mattel has been a part of my (and my kids') life forever.

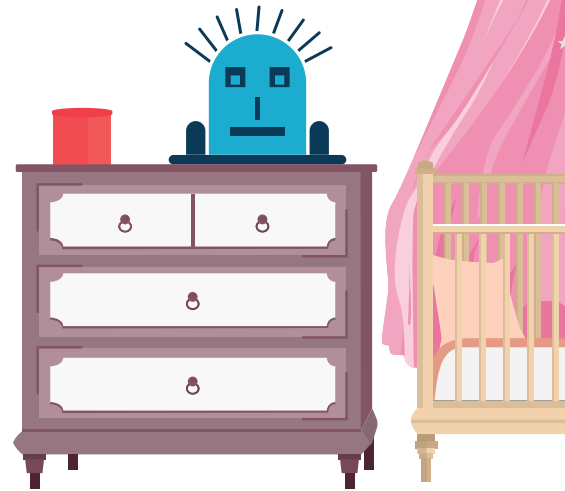
Now, Mattel is coming out with the dumbest product in the history of the world. Cheers for being creative, but I hope you don't buy it (and don't let your kids buy it for your grandkids).

It's called Aristotle. Launched this month, Aristotle is a \$349 voice-activated speaker built to be placed in a baby's/little kid's room so that it can answer their questions! Lazy parents no longer need to know the answer to "where is the moon?" because the child can simply ask

Aristotle. Parents no longer need to get up in the night to soothe a distressed child back to sleep because Aristotle can do that for them, humming a lullaby when it "hears" the child start to rustle. You won't even need to think about whether you need more diapers when you go shopping because the device can record diaper changes and order for you.

Who needs a brain anymore?

Don't get me going on this. We have already become a society crack-like addicted to our devices. (You know that looking at your cell phone a million times a day affects the same "pleasure center" of the brain that gambling does, don't you?)



Your kids need YOU. They need to hear YOUR voice, feel YOUR touch. They need to know that when they cry, mommy and daddy will come.

I wonder if anyone at Mattel even raised this question when the idea (how can we compete with Amazon's Echo?) was floated. Were I the maker of Legos or building blocks or an ant farm, I'd be marketing hard against this insanity. Sadly, there will be a market for Aristotle. ■



High School and College Students

How to Make a Great First Impression

Whether looking for a summer job (Yes, "J-O-B-S" still exist. You know. You get up and go work for someone else. Follow their rules. Show up on time. Develop good habits. Go look it up if you've never had that experience.) or heading out into the working world on a full-time basis, making that first impression is, oh, so important.

There's a great new book out that was recently profiled in Entrepreneur magazine. (Real magazine. Printed on P-A-P-E-R. Mailman brings it right to your door.)

Captivate, The Science of Succeeding with People, looks at the research that has been done to try and figure out how humans arrive at their first impressions and which kinds of behaviors will help cement a great first impression.

Here are four ideas from the book:

1. Put your hands up: Research shows that the most popular TED Talkers used hand gestures to instantly connect with their audience. Where does this come from? Best guess is that cavemen approaching a stranger would put their hands up to show they held no weapons!
2. Stand like a winner: Researchers looked at both blind and sighted athletes and

observed how they behaved after they won or lost a race. Winners raise their arms over their heads, expand their chests and tilt their heads toward the sky. Losers bow their heads, slump their shoulders and pin their arms to their sides. We are wired to follow winners, not losers!

3. Look people in the eye: People you meet are asking themselves, "Will this person like me?" Truth is, when you like someone, you look at them more. Research suggests that looking at someone 60-70 percent of the time you are interacting with them will strike the right balance between looking timid and putting someone off by staring at them!
4. Ask great questions: If you don't want to have a memorable conversation, then just ask someone, "how are you doing?" or "what do you do?" Research shows you will be more remembered if you ask more interesting questions like, "What was the highlight of your day?" or "What's your biggest headache in your business?" The secret here is to be truly interested in hearing the answer. ■

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 insert may be freely copied and distributed as long as the insert is copied in its entirety.