

# GLASSGAZETTE

Volume 26  
Issue 7

*A monthly publication of lighthearted stories and information from your friends at BenGlassLaw, a leading personal injury and disability firm*

## From Addiction to Purpose: Amanda's Mission to Help Women



By:  
**Lauren Hill**  
Marketing  
Director

*This month we're spotlighting the amazing work that one of our previous clients, Amanda Roberson, is doing in Culpeper, Virginia. I*

*had never spoken to Amanda before I called to interview her for this article – but after a twenty-minute conversation, I hung up feeling as if I wanted to invite her to Thanksgiving dinner every year. She is SO joyful, and the world is lucky to have someone like her taking action to help other women through some of life's hardest challenges.*



*The official Grand opening of Holy Chic Upscale Thrift in October 2025*

Amanda has struggled with addiction on and off for most of her life. For nearly forty years, she found herself caught in a cycle that often led her back to jail. But during her last incarceration in January 2023, something changed. On her fourth day in jail, Amanda says God gave her a vision. She felt called to pick up a pencil and paper and write down what she was being shown. Ten days later, she walked out with pages of notes, a renewed sense of purpose, and a plan for the future. She has been sober ever since!

That vision became **Holy Chic Upscale Thrift**, a nonprofit thrift store that's now located on Main Street in Culpeper. But Amanda says the store is only the beginning. Its larger purpose is to fund a future women's shelter that will provide hope, healing, and practical support for women facing addiction, homelessness, and other hardships.

Amanda envisions a place where women can stay long enough to truly rebuild their lives—a shelter that provides meals, counseling,

faith-based guidance, and access to resources that help create lasting change.

If you're ever in Culpeper, stop by **Holy Chic Upscale Thrift**, make a donation, or follow their journey on Facebook. Amanda's story is proof that even our hardest chapters can become the foundation for helping others write a better next one. We know she's going to do big things and are honored to call her a friend of the firm. ■



**BENGLASSLAW**  
PERSONAL INJURY | DISABILITY

## Upcoming Holidays

- July: National Ice Cream Month
- July 14: Bastille Day
- July 15: Developmental Disability Professionals Day
- July 16: AI Appreciation Day
- July 28: National Soccer Day

## Out in the Wild

**Autumn,** one of our paralegals, turned a simple road trip into a full-on Southwest highlight reel with Monahans



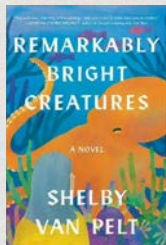
dunes, towering saguaros, endless Sonoran stretches, the sweeping Imperial sand waves, forested climbs through Cleveland National Forest, and a San Diego ocean finale that was the perfect sendoff.

## Did You Know?

### **The Eiffel Tower grows!**

Because metal expands in the heat, the iconic Eiffel Tower grows up to 6 inches taller during the summer months!

## Remarkably Bright Creatures



Through unlikely bonds formed during night shifts at a local aquarium, Tova, an elderly widow, learns of a life-changing discovery that may bring her joy and wonder once again.

This can now be seen on Netflix!

# FRESH from the FIRM

CURRENT EVENTS & STORIES OF THOSE WE'VE HELPED



We're honored to share that we've been voted the **2026 Best of Virginia "Best Northern Virginia Lawyer"** – our fourth year in a row receiving this award. Being recognized by our local community means the world to us, and we're deeply grateful to all of our clients and supporters who took the time to vote. Thank you for continuing to place your trust in our team year after year.

Our client was waiting in her parked vehicle outside her gym when another driver mistakenly hit the gas pedal, slamming into her car and pushing it into three others, resulting in injuries serious enough to require nearly a week in the hospital. Through persistent effort, our PI team recovered the at-fault driver's full State Farm liability limits and additional underinsured motorist benefits, achieving a **\$200K** result that finally closed a chapter she described as a nightmare.

A former Guardian field representative had his long-term disability benefits abruptly terminated after more than two decades based solely on an internal, non-examining reviewer who dismissed his treating provider's opinion.



Our team submitted a comprehensive 2,593-page appeal that included updated medical records, an independent psychiatric IME, a personal statement, and a procedural challenge resulting in a **full reversal and reinstatement of benefits** with back pay.

## AS A REMINDER

Our business is built on referrals. If you or someone you know can relate to the stories above or need help after being injured in an accident or whose long-term disability or life insurance claim has been denied, we'd love the opportunity to use our years of experience and client-focused approach to help them.



# Inside the Mind of ERYN SCOTT

*Personal Injury Attorney, Client Advocate,  
Creative Crafter & Animal Lover*



## Summer Driving Risks and How to Protect Yourself

**Summer is one of the busiest times of year on our roads. With vacations, road trips, teen drivers out of school, and increased pedestrian and bicycle traffic, the risk of accidents often rises during the summer months.**

Here are a few simple ways to stay safe:

**Stay focused.** Distracted driving remains one of the leading causes of crashes. Put your phone away and keep your attention on the road.

**Watch for pedestrians and cyclists.** Warmer weather means more people are outside walking, running, and biking. Take extra care at intersections and in residential areas.

**Be cautious around motorcycles.** Motorcycles can be difficult to spot, especially

in blind spots. Always check carefully before changing lanes.

**Allow extra travel time.** Summer traffic and construction can cause delays. Leaving earlier can help you avoid speeding or making rushed decisions.

**Never drive impaired.** Alcohol, drugs, and even fatigue can affect reaction time and judgment behind the wheel.

If you are involved in an accident, prioritize your safety first. Call 911, seek medical attention, document the



scene with photographs, and gather witness information if possible. Even if you feel fine, some injuries may not become apparent until hours or days later.

A little extra caution can go a long way toward preventing accidents and keeping you and your family safe this summer. ■

### Flower Update

Eryn is trying her hand at growing flowers this year. She started these plants from seed back in April, and they're coming along nicely! Her garden includes cosmos, dahlias, zinnias, celosias, and marigolds.



### Q&A OF THE MONTH

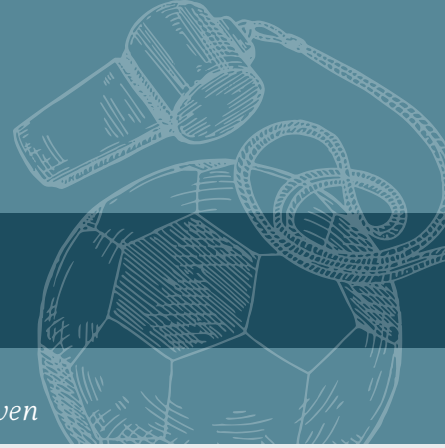
**What song instantly puts you in a summer mood?**

*"Rein Me In" by Sam Fender and Olivia Dean*



# Inside the Mind of BEN GLASS

*Disability Attorney, Entrepreneur, Business Coach, Author,  
Soccer Referee, Husband, Father to Nine, Grandfather to Seven*



## Off to College? Go In With Your Eyes Wide Open



***By now the graduation photos are everywhere. Caps in the air, lawn signs in the yard, somebody's nephew in a gown three sizes too big. And in a few weeks, a fresh crop of high school graduates will load up the car and head off to college.***

I've done that drive a few times. Sandi and I sent seven kids off to six different Virginia universities. So if you've got a young person leaving this fall—or you are that young person—feel free to copy this one and pin it to the dorm wall.

Here's what I'd want them to know.

**Everyone is going to seem smarter than you. They're not.**

I learned this one the hard way, and it cost me.

In the fall of 1976, I went off to William & Mary, where I was recruited to play on a partial scholarship—and if I'm honest, I went mostly to play soccer. I'd grown up lucky, surrounded by a great group of friends who were terrific players. Most of my club teammates went on to play Division I ball or straight into the pros. That was my world, and I knew where I stood in it.

Then somebody told me, "William & Mary? That's a school for smart people." And right there, before I'd sat through a single class, I made a quiet decision that shaped the next four years: *I'm not one of the smart ones. Average will be just fine for me.*

I look back now and wince a little. I turned out okay—better than okay. I've had a long and successful career in the law. But I still wonder what those four years could have been if I'd been a better student, built real relationships with my professors, and been a little less shy. I let one offhand comment set my ceiling. Nobody made me do that. I did it to myself.

Don't do that.

Here's what I wish I'd understood back then: every single person on that campus is great at some things and a complete mess at others—exactly like you. The confident one is terrified of something. The genius down the hall can't do his own laundry. The whole place is full of people quietly faking it that first month. Do not spend four years measuring your insides against everyone else's outsides. It's a rigged game, and you'll lose every time you play it.

And remember this: if you're at that college, it's because that's exactly where you're supposed to be. Nobody let you in by accident. You belong in the room. So act like it.

**The point of college is not the diploma. It's learning how to learn.**

College is a much higher level than anything you've experienced, and that's the point. The single most valuable thing you can walk away with isn't a transcript—it's the ability to teach yourself hard things and keep teaching yourself hard things for the rest of your life. That skill never goes out of style. The specific facts you memorize for a Tuesday exam mostly will.

If you get good at learning how to learn, you will never be obsolete. If you don't, no degree will save you.

**Get to know your professors—yes, even if you're shy.**

This is the one almost nobody does, which is exactly why you should. Office hours are largely empty. The professor is sitting there, often a genuinely fascinating person who has spent a lifetime getting deep into one corner of the world, and almost no student bothers to show up and ask a real question. (Not sure how? Make your first "college textbook"

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*Once Upon a Stranger: The Science of How “Small” Talk Can Add Up to a Big Life* by Dr. Gillian Sandstrom.)

Be the one who shows up. You don’t have to be the loudest student—you just have to be curious. “How did you get into this field? What’s something most people get wrong about it? What would you study if you were me?” You will never again have this kind of free access to that many interesting minds. Use it.

### Stop agonizing over what you want to be.

Here’s a hard truth that should actually take the pressure off: the world you graduate into in a few years (make it four, not six, your parents will appreciate it) will look different from the one you entered. Just ask this year’s graduates. They started college in a world where AI was barely a rumor, and they walked across the stage into a world it had completely reshaped—a lot of them now wondering whether they were really prepared for it. The ignorant ones booed graduation speakers who spoke the truth about AI during commencement addresses.

Don’t be scared of occupation uncertainty. It’s a signal. The play is to become a curious, critical thinker who can spot opportunity and adapt when the ground shifts—because it will shift. Build that, and you’ll always land on your feet, no matter what the job market looks like in 2030.

### Take a class you’d never sign up for.

While you’re at it, take one or two courses in subjects you’re certain you have no interest in. You just never know what’s going to light your fire—or who you’re going to meet.

I once represented a woman who, it turned out, had spent years on the lighting crew for Madonna. Touring the world with one of the biggest superstars on the planet. I asked her how on earth she’d ended up in that line of work. She told me that back in college she’d had a little

### You will never again have this kind of free access to that many interesting minds.

extra room in her schedule one semester, so she signed up for an art class on theater lighting. That was it. That class turned her on, and the next thing she knew she was on the road with rock stars.

That’s America. There’s opportunity everywhere, and a lot of it is hiding in the room you almost didn’t walk into.

### Don’t waste the most protected four years you’ll ever get.

Now the part most people don’t want to hear. The honest truth is that the majority of students will fritter away a big chunk of these four years.

Look—there’s time for play. There’s time for friends, for the boyfriend

or girlfriend, for the late nights and the dumb fun. I’m not telling you to be a monk. But understand what you’re actually being handed: never again in your life will you be in such a protected environment. Shelter handled. Food handled. And one real job—to learn, to grow, to figure out who you are. The world will never again hand you that gift with so few strings attached.

So take it seriously. At times it’s going to feel hard. I promise you the real world is harder. And that’s good news—because the students who go in with their eyes wide open, who treat these years as the runway and not the destination, walk out ready for it. The ones who sleepwalk through it walk out wondering what happened.

Go be curious. Go be the one who shows up. Go take the weird class. Learn how to learn, build relationships with people farther down the road than you, and stop worrying about having it all mapped out.

You don’t need a perfect plan. You just need to start, keep your eyes open, and pay attention to what lights you up.

Live Life Big. Starting now. ■

— Ben

*P.S. If you’ve got a college-bound kid trying to think any of this through—or one who’s already there and a little lost—have them reach out. I’m happy to talk. That’s what LunchWithBen.com is for. A sandwich, an hour, and a real conversation that might just change the direction of things.*



## PODCAST EPISODE OF THE MONTH

### Building a 150-Person Law Firm in One of the Most Competitive Markets (w/ Seth Bader)

**What does it actually take to build—and lead—a 150-person law firm in a hyper-competitive market like Atlanta?**

In this episode of The Renegade Lawyer Podcast, Ben Glass sits down with Seth Bader, founder of Bader Law, to unpack the real story behind scaling a modern personal injury and workers’ compensation firm.

This isn’t theory. It’s the messy, hard-earned reality of growth.



## Q&A OF THE MONTH

**What song instantly puts you in a summer mood?**

*“Come Monday”  
by Jimmy Buffet*



# Inside the Mind of BRIAN GLASS

*Personal Injury Attorney, Entrepreneur, Business Coach,  
Husband, Father to Three Boys, & Avid Traveler*



## They Say You Get 18 Summers With Your Kids

I think that number is high.

The first two are a blur that the kids don't remember.

Then you've got two or three that revolve around naps, snacks, and hoping you packed enough diapers.

We're in the golden stretch right now. 7-13. Mom is the 7 year old's favorite person. The 13 year old still tolerates us. And we can go anywhere and do anything we want with them.

But right around the corner is the time where friends and sports take precedence.

I can feel it already. I lost track of how many times my wife and I looked at each other and jokingly sang "You're gonna miss this..." as we broke up another brother-fight.

(Also, two parents of late-age teenagers offered to trade me their kids on this trip).



And yes, if you do it right, you get more than 18 because the kids still want to tag along...

But I'm gonna live this Memorial Day to Labor Day as if it's one of one, not one of 18 (or 25 or 40).

You Only Summer Once. ■

## Glass House Shenanigans



On our recent cruise, one of the bartenders made a critical rookie mistake. He told our kids that if they could find him around the ship, he'd make them a special mocktail.

From that moment on, Samson became the most popular person on board. Every morning started with, "We have to go find Samson," and every afternoon included another mission to track him down. I'm fairly certain our children spent more time looking for him than they did the ducks that were hidden around the ship.

To his credit, Samson never seemed to mind. To our kids, he wasn't a bartender—he was a celebrity, a treasure hunt, and a beverage magician all rolled into one. ■



### PODCAST EPISODE OF THE MONTH

#### How to Build a Reputation Without Owning the Firm | Will McCreight



***In this episode, Brian sits down with Will McCreight for a conversation about reputation, visibility, and building a meaningful career inside someone else's organization.***

They talk about the career advantages most professionals overlook, why relationships still matter more than people think, and how consistently showing up can completely change the trajectory of your career.

There's also a deeper conversation underneath all of it.

About ambition. About patience. And about the difference between building a title and building a reputation.

Because the people who stand out in this industry usually are not the loudest people in the room. They're the ones who keep showing up, keep contributing, and keep building trust over time.

If you've ever wondered whether you need to start your own thing to build something meaningful, this episode might challenge that assumption.



### Q&A OF THE MONTH

**What song instantly puts  
you in a summer mood?**

*"The Life" by Kenny Chesney*

# Inside the Mind of DAMON MILLER

Long-Term Disability Attorney,  
Husband, Storyteller, & Dragon Slayer



## Summer Adventures

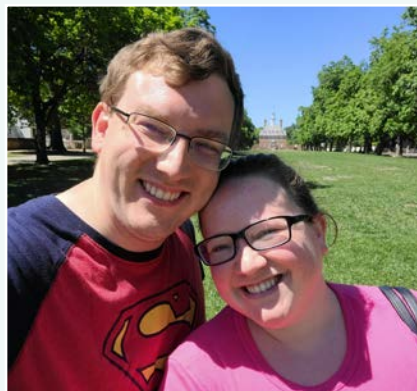
**Summer has officially arrived, and for us, that means making the most of long weekends, family gatherings, and a few adventures close to home.**

One of the highlights of the season was celebrating my brother's wedding. Weddings have a way of reminding us how quickly time passes. It feels like yesterday we were kids causing trouble together, and now he's starting a new chapter of life. It was a wonderful week spent with family, good food, and plenty of memories.

Emily and I also enjoyed some time with her family at Lake Anna. There's something refreshing about slowing down for a few days, spending time on the water, and catching up with family without the usual distractions of work and daily responsibilities. The lake provided the perfect setting to relax, recharge, and enjoy some sunshine.

We also squeezed in a day trip to Williamsburg. As a William & Mary Law School graduate, Williamsburg is always a special place to visit. Walking through Colonial Williamsburg, exploring familiar streets, and revisiting favorite spots never gets old. Every trip seems to reveal something new while also bringing back plenty of memories.

Looking ahead, we're excited about a few new-to-us summer traditions and bucket-list experiences. One



of those is the famous Pony Swim in Chincoteague. Watching the wild ponies make their annual swim across the channel has been on our list for a while, and we're looking forward to finally experiencing it in person.

We're also planning to attend the July 4th Balloons Over Rockbridge festival. Hot air balloons, fireworks, live music, and celebrating Independence Day in the beautiful Virginia countryside sounds like a great way to spend the holiday.

I hope you're finding time to enjoy your own summer adventures and create a few memorable moments along the way. ■



### Q&A OF THE MONTH

**What song instantly puts you in a summer mood?**

*"Island in the Sun" by Weezer*

### Our Long-Term Disability Book is Available Now for FREE

**They Laughed  
and Called You**

**a Liar** exposes

disability  
insurance  
company lies  
and breaks

down how  
people can win  
their long-term

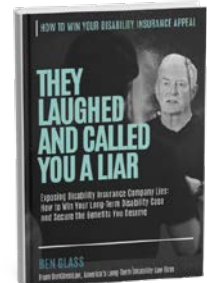
disability case and secure the  
benefits they deserve.

**If your long-term disability  
benefits have been denied, this  
book is more than just a guide—  
it's your roadmap to justice.** Ben  
Glass shares proven strategies

that have helped countless  
clients stand up against insurance  
companies and win their cases.

Don't let them  
control your future—  
take charge today.

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## GLASSGAZETTE

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### Inside This Issue...

- *From Addiction to Purpose: Amanda's Mission to Help Women*
- *Summer Driving Risks and How to Protect Yourself*
- *Off to College? Go In With Your Eyes Wide Open*
- *They Say You Get 18 Summers With Your Kids*
- *Summer Adventures*

# Happy 250th Birthday, America!

By: **BGL STAFF**

***This Independence Day isn't just another summer celebration—it's the 250th birthday of the United States, a milestone big enough to deserve an extra scoop of ice cream and maybe a louder firework or two.***

Since 1776, the nation has grown from a bold idea into a vibrant, ever-evolving tapestry of people, cultures, and stories. Two and a half centuries later, we're still experimenting, still debating, still dreaming—because that's what independence is all about: the freedom to keep shaping who we want to be.

As communities gather for parades, cookouts, concerts, and sky-brightening fireworks, this year's celebration invites us to look back with pride and forward with curiosity. What will the next 250 years bring? Innovation, challenges, triumphs—likely all of the above.

So whether you're waving a flag, flipping burgers, or simply enjoying a well-earned day off, take a moment to appreciate the journey so far. Here's to the past that shaped us and the future we're building together.

***Happy 250th, America—still looking good for your age. ■***