



*A little about the law - A lot about everything else!*

# news

January 2019

## A NOTE FROM MARK & ALEXIS

Throw back to Halloween...Happy New Year!

It's been a while since Halloween but we still love that time of year. This year our office had a superhero theme which was lots of fun.

Ariella got to decide that we had to buy extra costumes...that may not be the best way to solve the problem!

Karina picked between a "server at a diner" costume and a "candy corn witch" costume. She ended up picking the candy corn witch and then a week later she decided she wanted to be a regular witch so back to the party store we went. On a related Halloween note, each year my dad carves a pumpkin with her. Karina wasn't home and he started to carve the pumpkin which when she got home she let my dad know she wanted to carve the pumpkin also. A potential pumpkin carving crisis was averted when my dad came up with a great idea - partially putting the pumpkin back together so Karina could start carving some of it with him. Karina found that acceptable. In the end, she was mostly interested in the pumpkin seeds. **Editor's Note From Mark:** Karina set up a great Halloween. Her friend had a bunch of people over and they allowed our family to join in. Pierce, Cade, Alexis, my Dad and I all went trick-or-treating with Karina and her friends had a great "home base" for the night. Karina - along with her friends - really included Cade, and I was proud of her.

Talia dressed up as one of the characters from Mean Girls. It was actually a pretty simple costume. I'm sure all of the kids will tease her to a certain degree about her costume whenever she tries to be even the slightest bit mean to them. Talia loves trick-or-treating and going out with her friends. She is one of the kids who always wants to stay out the longest and then she never eats the candy! **Editor's Note From Mark:** Talia sees Halloween as a competition for the most candy. I think she has almost always been that way. The success of Halloween is



Cade and Ariella always dress up as costumes that go together but this year Cade, our youngest, decided he wanted his own costume instead of one that went along with his big sister. Ariella was not going to allow that, so she decided that Cade should get two costumes - one for school and one that matched her. For the "matching" costume they both dressed as superheroes. Later, Ariella changed into a devil costume. Interestingly, Cade had originally planned to dress as a "scary devil" but then he changed his mind and got a Black Panther costume. **Editor's Note From Mark:** First, I think it is awesome that a high school sophomore wants to continue the tradition with her 7-year-old brother of wearing the same costume. The fact that Cade thinks he has to listen to his big sister is nice too. The fact that

## ★ VICTORY OF THE MONTH

Our client was working as an electrician on a new building in Cottonwood when an employee of the general contractor hit him with a nail gun in his rib cage.

Unfortunately, the nail forced itself into his liver and he required an extended hospital stay to be treated. While he was hospitalized, he suffered from a blood clot in his vein where his IV had been inserted which required additional care, follow up treatment, and additional medical expenses.

During our initial investigations, we found that the contractor's liability policy contained a type of exclusion that limited a subcontractor's personal injury recovery which meant there was no coverage available for our client. Regardless of our findings, or the odds against us, we went to work to pursue the best possible outcome for our client.

During questioning, the contractor testified that he was not aware of the limitation in the insurance policy and he would have never approved of such a limitation. Following his testimony, we were able to get the insurer to open up the policy limits due to the contractor's testimony and secure a large settlement for our client.

We went from no coverage whatsoever to a large in-pocket settlement. A big win!

## A NOTE FROM MARK & ALEXIS (cont'd)

measured by how much candy is in the bag. This year, she dug out my favorite candy and Alexis' favorite and brought it to us because I don't think Talia cares much about candy at this point.

I personally always eat the Reese's Peanut Butter Cups from the kids. It's their "tax" at Halloween time! They never seem to notice much which always surprises me. **Editor's Note From Mark:** That's what Alexis claims...but she actually only tried a couple and then made Talia take away all the rest. I guess it's harder for her to turn away the candy if it is too close to her.

Pierce has had the same costume since about fourth grade. He dresses up as a football player every year. I think he puts on a different football jersey each year but that is the extent of his costume. This year he actually went for the longest walk I think he has ever gone. Maybe because we brought our dog and he was having fun with her. **Editor's Note From Mark:** Pierce actually walked more than a block this year. Normally he is ready to go home right after the trick-or-treating begins. He just never has much interest and the energy of walking outweighs the value of candy. However, this year he walked along with Cade and went all around the neighborhood, probably the longest he has gone. And he is such a "chill" kid he did not seem to care that he was stuck with his younger siblings and friends instead of his friends.

Tate went to a Halloween party and dressed up as the main character from Risky Business. I'm surprised he even knew who that character was but I guess it's a film he's seen. It was actually a pretty easy costume and he ended up having a great Halloween. **Editor's Note From Mark:** For those that remember Tom Cruise, there is the famous scene where he is singing alone in his home. I think I am responsible for showing the movie to Tate. I think Tate picked that costume as his one chance to leave the house wearing boxers without other pants!

I called Kailey the day after Halloween and asked her how her Halloween was. She said it was great and she went to a movie and dinner with her friends. We always get family pictures for Halloween and we missed having Zev and Kailey home. It's just not the same when you're missing two kids. **Editor's Note From Mark:** We did FaceTime Kailey near Halloween where she assured Pierce and Cade she was going to eat their faces off. She does that on every call, and her younger brothers are chased around the house every time she comes home now while she tells them she is going to eat their faces off. The boys, of course, love it.

Zev was lucky enough to go to a music festival over the weekend of Halloween and to be honest I never even found out if he dressed up or not! I do know that he had a great Halloween weekend though and that he was not answering his phone and that we were worried. It's funny how you can worry more about the college kids than

the kids at home. I thought it was supposed to get easier as they got older but not thinking that anymore! **Editor's Note From Mark:** Um, "we" were not worried. Zev was at a music festival with his friends so I was not expecting him to call home. In fact, if he ever calls us on his own initiative I am not sure what I will do. My parents told me I never called them in four years of college, I only called them back. I think Zev - 3.5 years into college - is on the same pace. The difference is now we have text messages, and I think Alexis texts the kids regularly!

I think our dog, Brezlynn, had the best time at Halloween with the long walk and all the attention she was getting from everyone. She also had an amazing time at the Alzheimer's walk that we took her and the kids to in honor of Mark's mom who we all miss very much. **Editor's Note From Mark:** I lost my mom to Alzheimer's/dementia last year so a bunch of us went on the walk to support the Alzheimer's Association. And yes, Brezlynn loved being around all the people.



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A LITTLE ABOUT

Law

## Text Message Bank Alert Scams

A new text messaging scam could target you and your bank account.

According to the Better Business Bureau, scammers may send messages to make it seem as though your bank has put your account on hold. They will provide a link to click on or a phone number to call to reactivate the account. Once the person clicks on the link or calls the number, scammers will gather banking information to access your account.

If you receive an unfamiliar text message regarding your bank account, contact your bank directly.

*Raving Fan!*

**THANK YOU**  
**Friedl Richardson**  
**for the**  
**holiday gifts!**



a yummy recipe:

# CANDIED PECAN SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE

## INGREDIENTS

- 5 POUNDS SWEET POTATOES, PEELED AND CUT INTO 2 INCH PIECES
- 1 CUP WATER
- 2 EGGS
- 1 TEASPOON VANILLA
- 1/2 CUP BUTTER, MELTED
- 1 CUP BROWN SUGAR
- 2-3 TEASPOONS SALT (OR TO TASTE)
- 1/2 CUP MILK OR HEAVY CREAM
- TOPPING**
- 1/2 CUP BROWN SUGAR
- 1/3 CUP FLOUR
- 1/3 CUP MELTED BUTTER
- 1 CUP CHOPPED PECANS
- 3/4 CUPS MINI MARSHMALLOWS

## DIRECTIONS

- Potatoes can be boiled, drained and then mashed OR cooked in a slow cooker. If using a slow cooker, add sweet potatoes and water to slow cooker. Cover and cook on high for 4 hours or until potatoes are easily pierced with a fork. Drain slow cooker.
- Preheat oven to 375. Mash cooked sweet potatoes. Add eggs, vanilla, 1/2 cup melted butter, brown sugar, salt, and milk (or heavy cream) and mix until smooth.
- Spread potato mixture in the bottom of a greased 9x13 baking dish. In bowl combine brown sugar, flour, 1/3 cup melted butter, and pecans and mix well with a spoon. Sprinkle mixture over potatoes. Bake uncovered for 15-20 minutes or until pecans are caramelized.
- Spread marshmallows evenly over pecan mixture. Return to oven for another 5 minutes or until marshmallows are puffy and lightly browned. Serve immediately.

## Monthly top 10

After our client was in a car accident, we successfully obtained the at-fault driver's policy limits. We didn't stop there. We went against her uninsured coverage to increase her settlement amount. The insurance company initially offered a small amount of money so we took the case to litigation. We fought hard and ultimately settled for a huge sum. We also negotiated her medical bills. She was very happy with the outcome!

We had a great time at our Veterans Day Appreciation Night! Thank you to everyone who attended.

Our client was riding her motorcycle when she was struck from behind by a truck. Sadly, she passed away from her injuries. The case presented some challenges and complicated factors due to the fact that there were several theories about the cause of the accident. We collected all of the available insurance monies and resolved all of the claims while supporting the family members through the legal process. We are glad that we were able to help the family through their difficult time.

Thank you to those who came to our VIP Dinner at Grimaldi's! It was great to catch up with everyone.



Our client was walking in a grocery store parking lot when he was struck by a car who was driving in the wrong direction. He suffered from multiple injuries and required extensive medical follow up. We significantly reduced his medical bills and put a large settlement in his pocket. A big win!

Our team had a superhero themed Halloween pot luck!

Our client was hit by a vehicle that was racing another vehicle during what appeared to be a road rage incident. The other vehicle that was racing fled the scene. Not only were we able to secure an offer from one of the at fault driver's insurance but we also dramatically reduced his medical bills and collected the policy limits on our client's uninsured motorist coverage because the other vehicle involved fled the scene. This is a great reminder of why it is important to have uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage!

Our team members had fun at The Crypt Escape Room!

Our client was riding his bicycle when a driver made an improper left-hand turn in front of him. He had multiple facial injuries which required surgeries and led to many medical bills. After fighting hard with the insurance company and the medical providers we were able to reach a settlement more than three times the amount our client anticipated! Needless to say, he couldn't have been happier with the results.

Mark and Alexis hosted Thanksgiving and New Year lunches for the team!



— The Husband and Wife Law Team —

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## Thank you for a great 2018!



## TEACHER *Appreciation* PROGRAM



Congratulations to our Teacher of the Month:

**CHERYL BODNAR**  
CORTINA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

You can see a video of the presentation of her big check on our website, where you can also nominate your child's favorite teacher!

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