



# RUSSELL & LAZARUS APC

PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEYS

*Exceeding Expectations. Uncompromising Results.*



SPRING 2013 Vol. 1, Issue 1

## A LETTER FROM CHRISTOPHER RUSSELL

I would like to welcome everyone to our inaugural edition of the **Russell & Lazarus APC** quarterly newsletter. The purpose of our newsletter is to inform, educate, update, and maybe even elicit a chuckle or two from time to time. Whether you are a friend, family member, or past client, we want you to know that you are highly valued by our firm.

The law can be a fickle thing, making perfect sense in one instance, then absolutely zero sense the next. For the past 28 years, I have responded to thousands of calls from consumers who have been confused and bewildered by what the law is saying...or not saying. This is the inspiration behind the "Ask Chris" section of our newsletter, which will become a regular feature in upcoming issues. I will tackle questions such as "When can I go faster than the speed limit?" or maybe something a bit deeper, like "Why can Blue Cross announce a 33 percent increase in health insurance premiums and then just two months later announce 'never mind, our numbers were

off' in the face of a State Department of Insurance investigation?" I will answer a portion of these questions in the newsletter; I will respond to all of the questions if they are sent via e-mail. I may not know the answer to every question I receive, but I will certainly do some digging and point you in the right direction.

The backbone of our civil justice system is personal and corporate accountability. When someone or some entity decides that they do not want to be held accountable for the harms and losses they have caused others, that is when we step in. We are passionate about what we do. Not only are we on the right side of the struggle, but the results we obtain are positive for our clients and the community at large.

Thank you for taking the time to review our first newsletter. We hope you enjoy this edition. We will do our utmost to make future editions as informative and entertaining as possible.

*Christopher Russell*



Go to our Facebook page and ask us your legal question. If your question is selected to be answered, you will be entered for a chance to win an iPad Mini!\*

## TESTIMONIALS

"I have been represented by **Russell & Lazarus** for two and a half years because my ankles were broken in an accident in April of 2010. Marc Lazarus came to my assistance and filed a lawsuit after a lengthy investigation and documentation of my injuries. The lawsuit was extremely difficult, but Marc Lazarus was courteous, considerate, and kind towards me at all times. I appreciate all his efforts on my behalf and would recommend him to anyone without reservation."—*Susan Edwards*

"Thank you very much for all of your hard work on the settlement of my car accident case. Your team made the process of healing and dealing with the insurance companies very easy."

—*Christa Elliot*

## CASE RESULTS

**Refer to our website's "Case Results" section for additional results**

**CONSTRUCTION ACCIDENT**—Our client, a 40-year-old male, fell from a scaffold that was not attached to the structure he was working on. He suffered numerous injuries, including a fractured foot requiring surgery.  
**Settlement—\$149,000**

**PERSONAL INJURY**—A minor was severely injured while participating in a school sport, for which the school provided him with no safety equipment. He sustained a dislocated hip.  
**Settlement—\$110,000**

**AUTO ACCIDENT**—Our client, a 42-year-old woman, sustained serious injuries when hit by a car while in a crosswalk.  
**Settlement—\$650,000**



**Russell & Lazarus APC**  
*Serving Southern and Northern California*

1401 Dove Street, Suite 310  
Newport Beach, CA 92670  
949-851-0222

Toll-free: 800-268-9228  
www.russellandlazarus.com  
info@lawrussell.com  
chris@lawrussell.com  
marc@lawrussell.com

*Northern California Address*  
2089 Avy Avenue  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

*We represent clients in the following areas:*

- Auto Accidents
- Motorcycle and Bike Accidents
- Serious Slip-and-Fall Injuries
- Construction Accidents
- Wrongful Death Claims
  - Dog Bite Injuries
  - Brain Trauma Claims

*Exclusively handling serious and catastrophic personal injury claims as well as wrongful death claims due to the negligence of individuals or business entities.*



# Mission Statement



We are **Russell & Lazarus**. We provide the highest level of service exclusively to those who have been injured in accidents. We work diligently each day, offering our clients uncompromising legal assistance and support. We continually strive to exceed the expectations of those we represent. We commit to being a positive force in their lives and the communities in which we serve.

## Congratulations to...

■ **Christopher Russell**, who was recently elected to the Board of Governors for TLC (Trial Lawyers Charities).

■ **Marc Lazarus**, who was chosen to present his article, "Diagnosing a Traumatically Induced Meniscus Tear," at the Orthopedics Today Hawaii 2013 meeting, held January 13–16, 2013, at the Fairmont Orchid on Hawaii's Big Island.

■ **Paralegal Rosie Valencia's son, Nathan (7)**, who was selected to participate in the Irvine Pony All-Stars—Shetland A Team Division this past summer. The team advanced to the West Zone Shetland World Series, placing 4th, which was a great accomplishment.

■ **Our office manager, Gina Simms**, who welcomed two new grandsons, **Sebastian** and **Sterling**, who were born two weeks apart.

## Newsworthy...

On August 15, 2012, we launched our new website and are thrilled to be able to share our clients' video testimonials and case results, as well as important information regarding the claims process and other matters related to personal injury claims.

[www.russellandlazarus.com](http://www.russellandlazarus.com)



## Sher Beard's wedding

Attorney **Sher Beard** married her middle-school crush on June 2, 2012. Jason and Sher were married on the Dinkey Creek Bridge in Shaver Lake, Calif., where the couple grew up and attended school prior to moving to Southern California.

## Inspirational quotes

**Christopher Russell** practices law and lives his life by following the lead of former Notre Dame head coach, **Lou Holtz**:

1. *Do right by people at all times.*
2. *Do everything to the best of your ability.*
3. *Show people you care.*

## Referrals

*Thanks to all of you who have recommended our firm to your relatives, friends, and neighbors. We appreciate your vote of confidence and pledge to care for these "VIPs" as well as we care for you.*

# Community service

## Sarah DeMille

Each year the firm sponsors this event to support Santa Margarita Catholic High School's girls cross-country team. The 5k memorial run was set up in remembrance of Sarah Ashley DeMille, SMCHS Class 2005 Lady Runner. Sarah was killed in an automobile accident at Northern Arizona University. Sarah was a true Lady Runner. She loved to run, she loved the team, and she loved her ability to make each member believe it was all about their personal best. Sarah was also a close friend of fellow runner **Stephanie Russell** (daughter of Christopher). ●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●



## Safer 3 Water Safety Foundation

**Russell & Lazarus** is not only a Gold-Level Sponsor of the Safer 3 Water Safety Foundation's annual Ocean Swim, it also plans to train to swim in the 2013 Ocean Swim. Safer 3 Water Safety Foundation is Based in Tustin, Calif. Their mission is promoting the lifelong benefits of swimming for safety, health, fitness, and recreational enjoyment. Their vision is to bring about a reduction in the number of drowning events with the Safer 3 Program, and to support research, education, and programs that promote swimming and water safety in California and beyond.

## Wounded Warrior Project

**Russell & Lazarus** has been a proud supporter of and donor to the Wounded Warrior Project. Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP) takes a holistic approach when serving warriors and their families to nurture the mind and body, and encourage economic empowerment and engagement.

To read more about WWP, visit [www.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org).

## Buena Vida Orphanage

The entire firm of **Russell & Lazarus** came together and created Christmas gift boxes for the 29 orphans who live at the Buena Vida Orphanage, located in Mexico. ●●●●●



# Baby you can drive my car *by Christopher Russell*

The Beatles popularized that line in their 1965 song "Drive My Car." It was one of their biggest sellers in their heyday. In the real world, however, giving permission to someone to drive your car can be fraught with indecision due to liability concerns if heaven forbid the person who drives your car gets into an accident. Confusion abounds regarding this fairly simple issue, based on



the calls that come into my office. The following should bring some clarity.

Under California law, the owner of a vehicle is only responsible up to \$5,000 in PROPERTY DAMAGE caused by their car when they loan it to someone else. If someone is INJURED in the

accident, the liability for the owner of the car is capped at \$15,000 for each individual who was injured, and also capped at \$30,000 for EVERYONE who was hurt or even killed. In other words, you could have 10 people in a car all seriously hurt or killed, but the owner of the car which caused the accident only has liability up to the \$30,000 BODILY INJURY cap.

There are exceptions to the rule, such as when an employer loans a vehicle to its employee or when someone makes a bad decision and gives their keys to someone who they know is likely to cause an accident.

Thanks to Proposition 103 (the subject of a future article), the good news is even better for car owners, since even though your insurance is first in line when your car is involved in a collision, your rates cannot be increased if you were not the driver.

In summary, take a page from the Beatles, since there is not much to worry about when loaning your car to someone else as long as you have the minimum coverage here in California.

# White bean chicken chili

Recipe by Helene Russell,  
wife of Christopher Russell

Prep time: 20 min.

6-8 servings

Cook time: 1 hr. 15 min.

¼ cup margarine or butter  
(can substitute olive oil)

1 large onion, chopped

2 garlic cloves, finely chopped

4 cups cut-up chicken (½-inch cubed)

3 cups chicken broth

2 T chopped fresh cilantro

1 T dried basil leaves

2 t chili powder

¼ t ground cloves

2 cans great northern beans (15 oz.), undrained

1 medium tomato, chopped

Sour cream (optional)

Shredded Mexican cheese (optional)

Corn tortilla chips (optional)

Spinach or arugula (optional)



Heat margarine in Dutch oven over medium heat. Add onion and garlic, stirring occasionally until onion is tender.

Add chicken and cook until outside of chicken is white. (Do not cook chicken all the way.)

Stir in chicken broth, cilantro, basil, chili powder, and ground cloves.

Add beans and heat to boiling; reduce to low. Cover and simmer an hour, stirring occasionally.

Serve with tomato, sour cream, cheese, and chips. You can also add spinach or arugula.



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**RUSSELL & LAZARUS APC**  
**Personal Injury Attorneys**  
**1401 Dove Street, Suite 310**  
**Newport Beach, CA 92670**

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## CASA HOGAR BUENA VIDA, A.C.

Carretera Libre Tijuana-Ensenada Km 65 Ejido La Mision, Ensenada, B.C.

E-mail: [buenavidaorfanatorio@hotmail.com](mailto:buenavidaorfanatorio@hotmail.com) Tel: (646) 155-0257

<http://facebook.com/buenavida.orfanatorio>

### Queridos Amigos,

Queremos Agradecerles Sinceramente el apoyo que nos han dado en este momento de necesidad.

Agradezco a Dios Misericordioso que ha puesto en el corazón de todos Ustedes a Todos Nosotros y así mismo El con su infinita Bondad sabrá compensar en sus vidas ese gesto de Generosidad. Multiplicando las Bendiciones a todos Ustedes y a sus Familias. Dios los Bendiga.

### Dear Friends,

We sincerely thank the support they have given us in this time of need. I thank a merciful God who has placed in the hearts of all of you to all of us, and so He knows his infinite goodness in their lives make this gesture of generosity. Multiplying Blessings to all you and your families. God bless you.



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\*Does not constitute legal advice. Each case is different. For an in-depth evaluation, contact our office today.

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