



1401 Dove St., Ste. 310
Newport Beach, CA 92660

800-268-9228
www.russellandlazarus.com

PRST STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
BOISE, ID
PERMIT 411



RUSSELL & LAZARUS
APC
PERSONAL INJURY TRIAL ATTORNEYS

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



INSIDE this issue



Super Lawyers

PG
1 How We Continue to Improve

PG
2 Why Hobbies Are Important
Meet Mayra Bernal!

PG
3 Katy Perry's Real Estate Battle
Butterscotch Chocolate Pecan Bars

PG
4 Testimonials



The Right Help When You Need It Most!

December 2021/January 2022

- AUTO COLLISIONS
- MOTORCYCLE COLLISIONS
- BICYCLE ACCIDENTS
- TRIP/SLIP-AND-FALL ACCIDENTS
- CONSTRUCTION SITE ACCIDENTS
- ELDER ABUSE CLAIMS
- BRAIN TRAUMA CLAIMS
- WRONGFUL DEATH CLAIMS

Health, Happiness, and Harmony

OUR GOALS FOR 2022

When I was in college and pledging the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, one of my pledge trainers asked me a simple question: "What have you done today to get yourself closer to your goals?" Since then, clear and actionable goals have always been a part of my life. When I wake up in the morning, I ask myself what small things I can do today to get where I want to be in the future.

I've always been a doer — I prefer taking action to sitting around worrying about something. I don't believe in focusing on the past because dealing with the future is more important. I think that's why people make New Year's resolutions — or at least, it's why I do. Setting resolutions helps us reassess our lives and determine how to get to where we want to be.

This year, I'm striving for health, happiness, and harmony. I want to improve my physical health, make sure our staff and clients are happy, and have a good work-life balance that allows me to spend time at home with family. I've found that when our team and client happiness indexes are high, success tends to follow. From the great reviews we receive and the camaraderie in the office, we can tell we're on the right track.

At Russell & Lazarus, we have a tradition of helping people. We have carried on that tradition by inspiring our team to make small daily changes that turn into big wins for our clients. Our prelitigation and litigation teams regularly look at all of their cases to analyze the clients' needs, determine our goals, and figure out our next steps to achieve them. Because we plan, we can move forward with more beneficial outcomes.

With success has come growth. But even though we're helping more people than ever, we intend to provide the same level of service we always have. We've brought on more staff, because overworking our team won't result in solid wins for our clients or provide them with the level of service they deserve. We know success requires reinvestment in the business, or we only end up going backward.

Last year, we set out to improve recoveries for our clients, and we accomplished that by winning a higher average settlement for our clients than we did the year before. We've improved a number of our processes to make that happen.

First, we worked even more closely with doctors than we have in the past and put extra effort into finding the right medical fit for our clients. We also improved our communication with insurance carriers and defense attorneys to help them better understand and appreciate the damages our clients have suffered.

Since the pandemic started, we've done everything we can to pivot, understand the obstacles our clients are facing, and get them what they really need. We've upgraded our processes to include discovery via text. Typically, attorneys conduct the discovery process via mail, which is a slow and cumbersome process that drags out the time it takes for our clients to get relief. We've also instituted telemedicine and contracted a mobile chiropractor who can go to people's homes and perform their treatment — services our clients love. Our goal is to help while interfering with their daily lives as little as possible.

In 2022, we intend to keep building on last year's successes. We look forward to putting our nose to the grindstone to find health, happiness, and harmony for ourselves and our clients. With determination, focus, and small steps, the sky's the limit.



TESTIMONIALS



"I am fortunate that I found Russell and Lazarus' law firm when I was really in need of legal representation. I am grateful for everything Attorney Marc Lazarus, Attorney Joseph Gallo and their entire team did for me. They are very professional, compassionate, and caring. Special thanks to Joseph as he always kept me informed and updated with my case. In order for me to receive the desired compensation, he worked hard in representing me and negotiating with the insurance companies. I wholeheartedly recommend Russell and Lazarus' law firm to anyone in need of legal assistance with their personal injuries."

-Haak Duong

"We all have our accounts of when things go wrong, right? I was a passenger in a car accident, and while the details are not important, the help I received from Marc Lazarus and his assistant, Rosie, is. I was so well taken care of and blessed by them. Here are some of the powerfully helpful reasons: The initial meeting and explanation of what to expect helped me understand this unfamiliar territory I was heading into. Their consistent and regular communications with me helped me stay on track with my responsibilities. When it became evident that traditional health care recommendations could not work for my historically delicate physical conditions (health issues previous to the accident), they helped me get coverage for the treatments that could and did work for me! This is absolutely most important to me!*** And, surprise! I may end up with some financial blessing from all of this. What a help that will be as I continue to heal! Thank you so much, Marc and Rosie! You are my heroes! God bless you!"

-Audrey W.

SKILLS THAT ENRICH US

THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A HOBBY

January is National Hobby Month, and since it falls at the beginning of the year, it's the perfect time to try something new! Hobbies add variety to your life and ensure you aren't just living to work, so to speak. The best way to find a hobby you enjoy is to be open to new things. Whether it's gardening, reading, drawing, running, fishing, crafting, or even beekeeping, finding an activity you enjoy is important. Here's why!

HOBBIES ARE STRESS RELIEVERS.

Hobbies offer a healthy escape from your busy lifestyle by keeping you engaged in something you find pleasure in. Instead of just relaxing on the couch and turning off your mind for a bit (which is totally acceptable sometimes), hobbies allow you to remain mentally productive while winding down at the same time.

HOBBIES ALSO PROVIDE EUSTRESS.

Believe it or not, one type of stress is deemed beneficial: eustress. If you aren't overly stressed and are feeling a little under-stimulated, a hobby can provide activity for both your mind and body to keep you feeling excited about life and ready to take on new challenges and adventures.

HOBBIES OFFER A SOCIAL OUTLET.

Some hobbies involve group activities, such as bowling, sports teams, book clubs, and even wine tasting. Connecting with others offers the social support humans depend on to lead a healthy and fruitful life. Who knows? Maybe you'll find some great friends who share the same passions as you!



HOBBIES DEVELOP PATIENCE.

When you take on a new hobby, you are tasked with learning something new. Whether you're practicing a new instrument, learning a different language, or figuring out how to make jewelry, a learning curve is involved. Building new skills takes patience, a very important attribute for success.

Finding a hobby that suits you may take some exploration and trial and error, but it is all in good fun! Make it your goal to try something new or learn a new skill each month until you find something that sticks. Once you do, you're sure to find that hobbies are both enjoyable and enriching!

KATY PERRY'S LEGAL BATTLE WITH NUNS

FIGHTING FOR CONVENT REAL ESTATE

Katy Perry is known around the globe for having multiple No. 1 hits, including "I Kissed A Girl," "Teenage Dream," and "Firework," but two nuns in Los Angeles know Perry for a completely different reason. They were in a multiyear legal battle with Perry and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles over the purchase of a convent.

In 1972, the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary pooled their money and purchased an 8-acre, French-style chateau in Los Angeles. Sisters Rita Callanan and Catherine Rose Holzman lived in the chateau-turned-convent until 2011, when the Archdiocese of Los Angeles reportedly forced them to relocate.

Two years later, Archbishop José Gomez sold the property to Perry without any input from the sisters, but the nuns felt that the archdiocese did not have the right to do this. Gomez accepted a \$14.5 million cash offer from Perry, but the nuns refused to sell to her. Believing they had sole ownership of the convent, they instead sold it to restaurateur and developer Dana Hollister.

The archdiocese and Perry both sued Hollister for her involvement, claiming she took advantage of the nuns, and a judge invalidated her purchase months after it was made. A Los Angeles Superior Court judge ruled in favor of the archdiocese, creating an opportunity for Perry to buy the estate due to the fact that the nuns did not have the approval of the pope, the Holy See, or the archbishop.

In 2017, a jury found that Hollister intentionally interfered with Perry's legal purchase. She was ordered to pay both Perry and the archdiocese millions of dollars. The sisters continued to support Hollister, and they both accompanied her to bankruptcy court, where Sister Holzman collapsed and died during the court proceeding. Sister Callanan blamed Perry for the death of Holzman.



The convent is back on the market, and it does not appear that Perry will move forward with the purchase.

Meet Case Manager Mayra Bernal!

for seven years. "I was always working on holidays," she says. "I had no life." Realizing she needed a better work-life balance, she began a receptionist job at a law firm. While working under the partners, her role morphed into legal assistant, and she started learning more about case management.

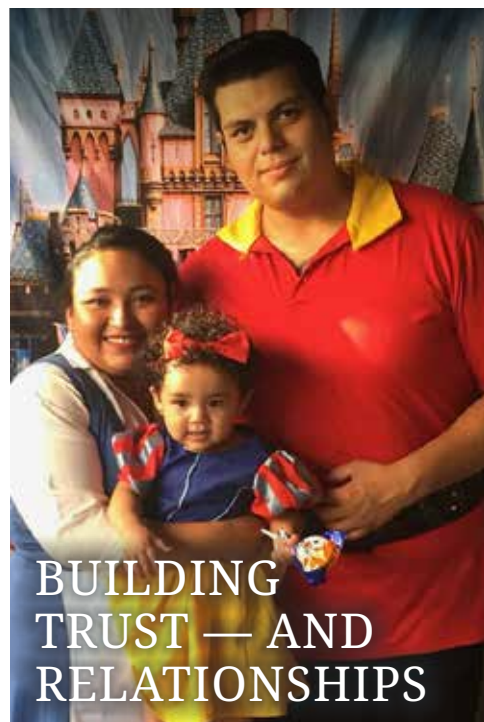
Mayra has now been a case manager for two years, and she joined Russell & Lazarus in July 2021. "I really, really like talking to people," she says. "When our clients come to us, it's one of the worst times to meet them because they're going through a lot. They've likely been hit by a vehicle, they might not have their own car anymore, and they're scared." Her job is to allay their fears and get them the help they need.

To do so, she needs to build trust. "I like to learn little details about them and bond with them," Mayra says. She acknowledges that this is easier with some clients than others, but she understands why some are initially distrustful. "I like winning them over and showing them that

I'm here to get them the help they need," she says. "Sometimes I talk to the same person seven or eight times a day because they just have so many questions and need to know that they're heard."

Outside of the office, Mayra enjoys spending time with her husband, Sergio, and their 4-year-old daughter, Penelope, whom she affectionately calls "very random, very weird." She and Sergio are both collectors, and she estimates they own about 500 Funko Pop figures. "It snowballed," she laughs. "My daughter even has her own little collection."

Russell & Lazarus realizes that all their employees have lives outside of work, so Mayra can focus on her clients when she's in the office and her family when she's at home. "We tell clients that we work as a team, and we really do," she says. "Marc is very approachable and knowledgeable, and I've learned a lot since I've been here already. It's a very caring environment," she adds. "I've never felt this comfortable anywhere."



BUILDING TRUST — AND RELATIONSHIPS

Mayra Bernal couldn't be happier. Though it took her years to get here, at Russell & Lazarus, she's found just where she's meant to be.

She began her professional life in the restaurant industry, where she worked



Congrats to Hannah Penniston, our part-time receptionist and daughter of Operations Manager Teri Penniston. Hannah graduated from Cal Poly SLO in December with a bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies. Hannah will pursue her master's degree in Liberal Studies and teaching credential.

BUTTERSCOTCH CHOCOLATE PECAN BARS

From Our Newest Paralegal, Corinne Flaten-Firari

INGREDIENTS

- 1 stick of butter
- 1 box graham cracker crust mix
- 1 bag chocolate chips
- 1 bag butterscotch chips
- 8 oz chopped pecans
- 1 bag shredded coconut
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 F.
2. In a 9 x 13 inch pan (the same one you'll use to bake the bars in) over low heat, melt the butter right over the stove.
3. Once butter is melted, take the pan off the heat. Cover the pan evenly with 1/3-1/2 the bag of graham cracker crust crumbs.
4. Mix the crumbs and butter together, then spread and flatten out evenly.
5. Spread the chocolate and butterscotch chips evenly.
6. Spread the chopped pecans evenly, and then spread the coconut evenly.
7. Using the entire can of sweetened condensed milk, drizzle evenly over the top.
8. Bake for 25-30 minutes or until top is golden brown.

