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RUSSELL & LAZARUS
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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.



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Super Lawyers

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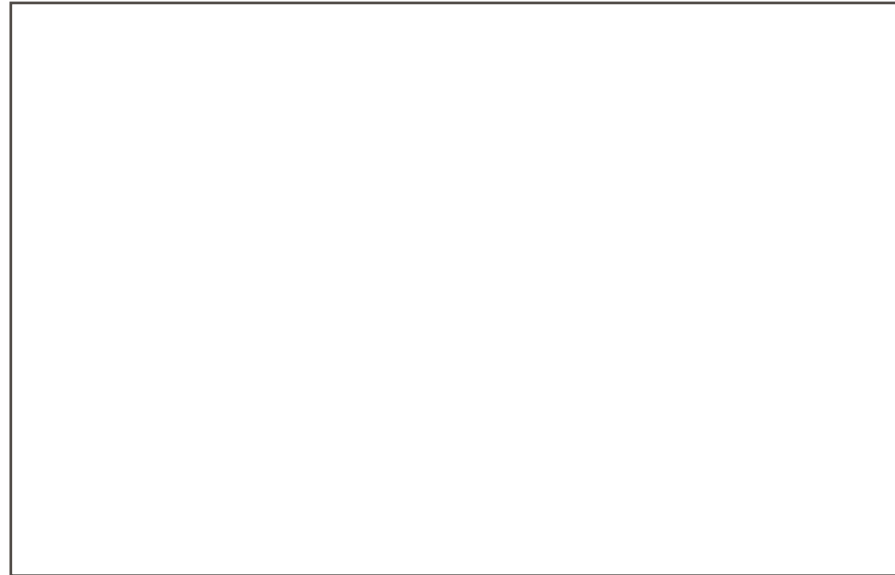
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The Right Help When You Need It Most!

February/March 2022

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- CONSTRUCTION SITE ACCIDENTS
- ELDER ABUSE CLAIMS
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Lessons From My Mother

HONORING THE WOMAN WHO HELPED ME BECOME THE MAN I AM

On March 8, International Women's Day honors the global political, social, and economic achievements of women. Many people also use the day to honor the women who have made a difference in their lives. For me, fewer people have had a more profound impact than my mother, Jacqueline Antoinette Lazarus.

From an early age, my mom instilled in me a great love of learning and a value for education. She always thought school was a top priority, and when she passed away while I was still in high school, I kept that in mind. It inspired me to finish high school, college, and law school. An appreciation for education was a valuable quality to ingrain in a young person, and it has always allowed me to better myself. It certainly wasn't the only lesson she taught me.

Mom was from Paris, and she emigrated to Canada and then to California. My father was also from Canada, so they mostly spoke French. Oddly enough, long before they ever met, my mother's mother, a seamstress, worked for my father's father, a furrier, back in Montreal. In any case, my mother didn't speak English very well, and to a certain point, I was her tutor. Even though I was just a kid, she still valued what I had to teach her about the language. As an adult, I've taught at UCI and paralegal school, and I think this early experience is part of why I enjoy it so much.

She also believed in the American dream, and she got to experience her own version of it. She became a U.S. citizen and opened up a wig business in Hollywood. Wigs were popular in the 1960s and '70s, and she sold them to celebrities and ordinary people alike. Her business thrived, and she worked on it constantly. Even in the evening, when we'd be spending time as a family, she'd sew her wigs at the same time. Her strong work ethic and drive to succeed are some of the many things she taught me.

But as much as she believed in work, she cared far more about people than she did about material things. When I was 16 years old, I got into a car accident. Naturally, the first person I called was my mother. When I told her I got into an accident, she asked, "Are you



okay?" I explained that I was, but I'd crashed the car. She then asked if anyone else had been hurt in the accident. "No," I repeated, "but I crashed the car." She waved this off. "Don't worry about that," she said, "it's just metal and plastic."

That statement put things into perspective and has stuck with me all my life. As a personal injury attorney, it's something I still keep in mind today. When there's an accident that results in property damage, it's okay. It's not ideal, of course, but it's fixable. When there's an injury to a human being, that's something far graver. That's what really requires accountability, and it's where I always place my focus.

It has been 37 years since my mother passed away, but I still think about her often and miss her greatly. I know I've been able to do well in life because my parents did such a good job raising me. Mom had a kindness, common sense, and pragmatic approach to life that you can't buy.

Though my time with my mom was far too short, I'm grateful for the years we did spend together. Of all the lessons she has taught me, being a good person is at the top of the list. I would not be the man I am today without this one incredible woman.

-Marc Lazarus

TESTIMONIALS



"Mr. Lazarus and his team work very hard on my case and fought for the maximum benefits! Thank you Law Office of Russell & Lazarus!"

-Monique T.

"They are one of the best law firms in personal injury. They know how to leverage the tools and resources to help win your case. I'm impressed how they keep you informed thought out the case and you are not lost in the shuffle. Excellent at what they do and would refer them over and over again. Grateful to have them on my side. Russell & Lazarus was very professional, knowledgeable, responsive, and trustworthy. We trust them to make sure our clients are well taken care of. You are in great hands with thier team"

-Allan B.

LEAVING ON A JET PLANE?

3 ESSENTIAL PACKING TIPS

Many people are considering traveling this spring for the first time since the pandemic started. A lot has changed since 2020, but packing for vacation remains a hassle, and baggage fees haven't gone anywhere. Here are some essential tips to keep your load as light as possible — physically and mentally.

MAKE A LIST. It's just as easy to forget things as it is to overpack. Solve both problems at once by creating a packing list in advance. Consider in detail what you'll need, and put it in writing. As each item gets added to the suitcase, check it off. Writing everything down creates a system to prevent leaving anything behind. And when it's all on paper, you're more likely to notice that you probably don't need that many pairs of sandals.

USE YOUR PERSONAL ITEM FOR EXTRA STORAGE. Airlines generally allow travelers one carry-on bag and one personal item. The dimensions allowed vary by airline, but the general rule of thumb is that the personal item needs to fit under the seat in front of you. Don't bring a small purse or a laptop bag when you can take a large tote or backpack. With the extra room, you can avoid checking another bag.



NEVER CHECK ESSENTIAL ITEMS. Lost luggage is the worst way to start a vacation, but it happens. If your luggage is misplaced, you probably won't get it back that same day. So, you need to pack all essential items, like prescription medications or glasses, in your carry-on bag. Some experts even recommend tossing an extra shirt or pair of underwear in your carry-on in case your bag gets lost. You'll be glad to have them if something goes awry.

Packing smart will make for a less stressful journey. You can kick back, relax, and enjoy the trip knowing that everything you need is right there in your suitcase, and everything you don't need is safe at home.

DOWN TO THE WIRE

SWIFT ACTION SECURED \$500,000 AWARD

In late 2021, Russell & Lazarus settled a case involving a woman who tripped and fell over an uneven curb on city property. She suffered a fracture that required surgery, but she faced two significant challenges in her quest for justice: her injury involved a curb and occurred on government property.

With sidewalk injuries, the ability to successfully make a claim is based on size differential — that is, how much higher or lower the uneven section of sidewalk was. If the size differential is too small, it's called a trivial defect, and the city can't be held responsible for it. Meanwhile, if the size differential is too large, it's called open and obvious, and the courts hold that the victim could have easily avoided the accident.

The location where the injury occurred was also a problem. After an accident on government property, you have 180 days to file a claim with the appropriate government entity. If you've been seriously injured and are seeking medical care, 180 days is virtually no time at all. Worse, most people don't realize the deadline exists. Usually,

the government rejects the initial claim, at which point the victim has another 180 days to file a lawsuit. If the victim misses these deadlines, they permanently lose their right to compensation for their injury.

We received this case within weeks of the deadline, so we had to act quickly. Thankfully, we had enough time to file a government claim to preserve our client's rights. Unsurprisingly, we later had to file a lawsuit. But we met the deadlines and proved the size differential fell into the appropriate parameters. Once the government saw the evidence we presented, they paid out a fair value amount of \$500,000.

That settlement almost didn't happen. If this client had come to us just a month later — or had hired an attorney who dragged their feet — it would have made a \$500,000 difference in her life, even though her injuries would have remained the same. We secured this recovery through fast and diligent work, and we're grateful to have helped a wonderful woman.

If you're injured, time may be of the essence. Seek legal counsel early and ensure your attorney understands the relevant deadlines. The sooner you act, the better your outcome will be. When an accident occurs on government property, justice delayed truly is justice denied.

Raising His Game

MEET PARALEGAL ERIC COULTON!

Though he only joined Russell & Lazarus in December 2021, Eric has been a paralegal for about three years now. He began working for the staff defense counsel at a car insurance company and then moved to a firm retained by the county of San Bernadino. There, he mostly saw medical malpractice and personal injuries cases. Now, he has come over to the plaintiff's side.

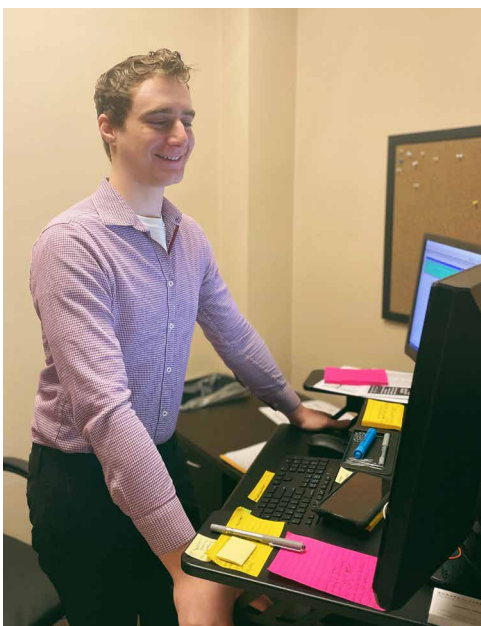
"It's very rewarding to know we're helping people, and the people we're helping really need our help," he says. "It takes a lot of expertise to navigate your way through the courts." And he enjoys helping injured people through the process.

So far, Eric loves his new job. "It's a great team to come in and talk to and spend the day with," he says. He's also learning a great deal from his colleagues, and he says, "Hearing their views is very valuable to me." In one recent example, he remembers several staff members discussing a new ruling that made the news. The following

week, one of the attorneys brought in an article on the same topic. "I've never been at a firm that would circulate resources like that," he says.

Outside of work, Eric is an avid video gamer, and he particularly enjoys real-time strategy games. "I love trying to figure out the best and most efficient way to play them," he says. He likes to challenge his friends and play as often as he can. Eric also loves to read, and after graduating with a political science degree, has become a bit of a history buff.

When Eric and his friends wrap up their Sunday night gaming sessions, he always notices that he doesn't feel the same way they do about the upcoming week. "Everyone is complaining that they have to go to work tomorrow," he says. "I never do that because I'm happy to come into work. I feel like I'm helping people and that what I'm doing matters."



Eric Coulton has always wanted to do good in the world, and he thought pursuing law was one of the best ways to help people. Still, law school is expensive. "My mother specifically told me that they weren't paying for law school until I had real legal experience," he says. So, he earned a paralegal degree and hopes to start law school soon.



We're tickled pink over the arrival of Lainey Jeanne, daughter of Paralegal Rory Mills and his wife, Mandy (a former R&L employee).

EASY MARCH MADNESS CHILI

Cheer on your favorite team and chow down in minutes with this easy chili recipe!

INGREDIENTS

- 2 lbs ground beef
- 2 tbsp chili powder
- 1 tbsp Creole seasoning
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 2 16-oz cans diced tomatoes
- 2 16-oz cans small red beans
- 2 8-oz cans tomato sauce

DIRECTIONS

1. In a deep pot, brown the beef, stirring often.
2. Once beef is cooked, add chili powder, Creole seasoning, and cumin, cooking for 1 minute.
3. Stir in diced tomatoes, beans, and tomato sauce and bring the mixture to a boil.
4. After the mixture boils, reduce the heat to low and let chili simmer for 15 minutes.
5. Serve with toppings of choice, like cheese, sour cream, or chives.



Inspired by 101Cookbooks.com