

SUCCEED.

Brought to you by VB Attorneys

www.VBAttorneys.com

August 2014 Volume 6 Issue 8

IN THIS ISSUE...

- The Number One Predictor of Success 1
- 3 ways to Save Lives This Summer 2
- What's New at the Office 2
- Movie of the Month 3
- Community Spotlight 3
- VB Cases of Interest 4

This Mariner's ordeal makes Captain Phillips look like a walk in the park.



Discover Captain Thomas' story:
www.CaptainWrenThomas.com

The Number One Predictor of Success

by Brian Beckcom

"Grit"—Perseverance and passion for long term goals.

At VB Attorneys, we represent a lot of people who've suffered severe, life-altering injuries. I've been inspired time and again by clients of mine who have faced incredible odds just getting back on their feet again. When I see one of my badly injured clients fighting to get better, to get back to work, to make a life for themselves, it inspires me to fight with them, to battle with them, and to never, ever give up.

Study after study has confirmed that the number one predictor of success isn't intelligence. It isn't who you know, or where you were born. It isn't how much money you have, or how you look. The number one factor for success is grit. Perseverance. Determination. Never giving up.

To list just a few examples, a study at West Point showed that the cadets who had the most perseverance performed better than those who may have seemed smarter, or had better innate leadership skills. Students at Ivy League schools who show determination and grit had higher GPAs than those who entered college with higher test scores. Top finishers in the National Spelling Bee weren't any smarter than their peers—but on average, they worked harder and



spent more time honing their skills.

When I left for college two decades ago, my dad bought me a book of sports pictures. The title of the book was "Never Quit." The book was loaded with photographs of athletes persevering to victory. Athletes fighting through adversity, injury, obstacles, and never giving up.

My dad wrote me a long message in the front of the book. His basic message was "never, ever quit. Never give up. Perseverance wins."

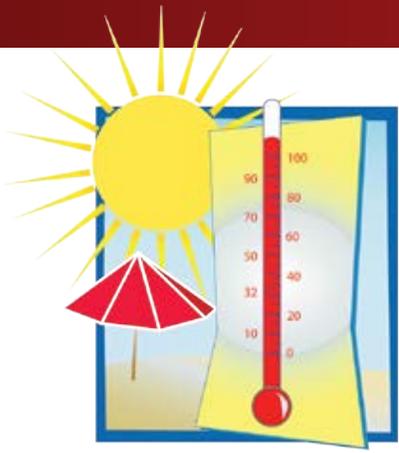
It's a message I've never forgotten.

You can't beat someone who never quits. If you just keep getting up, working hard, fighting, believing in yourself and your long-term goals, then eventually, you will succeed.

Don't quit. Continue fighting, working hard, overcoming obstacles. Persistence wins. ■



Dedicated to your success and happiness,



3 WAYS to Save Lives This Summer

When children, pets, or adults are left in hot, locked cars in the summer, heatstroke can kill them within an hour.

Cars can reach temperatures of over 120° within 30 minutes. If you see a person or pet locked in a car and that person or animal is in distress here are the top three ways to save them:

- 1 Call 911.** Emergency responders are trained to help people and animals who suffer heatstroke from being locked in hot cars.
- 2 If the situation is dire, break the window and free the person or animal who is in distress.** Many states have "Good Samaritan" laws that protect people who get involved to help people in an emergency.
- 3 Parents should teach their children how to avoid being locked in a hot car and what to do if they see a kid, person, or animal locked in a hot car.** Easy teaching tools can be found here: www.safekids.org/heatstroke ■



Get tools for teaching your kids about summer safety at www.safekids.org/heatstroke

What's New at the Office

 VB ATTORNEYS



Brian and a client at mediation, whose husband died in a logging accident.

Patti and one of our Jones Act clients working on discovery for his case.



Maria translating for clients at mediation – our client's internal organs were crushed by a gantry crane.



Movie of the Month

The Artist

This is the movie that took the world by storm, silently.

A winner of 5 Oscars and another 140 awards, *The Artist* is an engaging movie about a silent film actor who fears the changes coming to his industry—movies with sound.

Starring Jean Dujardin as George Valentin, *The Artist* charmingly brings into focus the way one choice can change your life forever—for good or for bad.



Pop some popcorn, grab the family and your friends, and be ready to be charmed by this movie and its breakaway star—the dog.



An engaging movie about a silent film actor who fears the changes coming to his industry.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: Mark Susman, Owner of HOUSTON360PHOTO.COM



Mark is the go-to guy in Houston for Google's awesome panoramic photo tours.

Mark is a Google photographer who shoots 360° Virtual Tours for businesses that show up on Google Maps. He is the go-to guy in Houston for these awesome panoramic photo tours. Google approached him to be part of their Trusted Photographer program, and for this photographer, it was an ideal match. He has been passionate about panoramic photography for a long time, and while his career is primarily in the media, producing documentaries for PBS and the private sector, he was delighted to be able to photograph virtual walk-through tours for businesses and places on Google Maps.

Getting to meet people and being introduced to businesses is a perk of Mark's job, as well as being able to photograph really interesting locations. Mark has been in business for a long time, back when clients would ask if their video would be in color and have sound. When video cameras cost \$50,000.00 and the portable video recorders cost an additional \$15,000.00. Mark doesn't miss those days.

As someone who feels successful when he has a happy customer, Mark has some great advice for people looking to work in media: If you put customer service first, your business will be successful. He says, "Photography is an art many of us are passionate about. Making a career in commercial requires a passion for art as well as business management skills and willingness to make sales calls. It's no different than any other business. It's all about doing sales and marketing and more sales."

If you are interested in hiring Mark to shoot your panoramic virtual office tour, you can contact him at Houston360photo.com or 713.622.5620. ■

Want Help from the VB Attorneys Team?

We are here to help you with your legal needs. We always have someone available to talk to you immediately, and all calls about legal issues are confidential, private, and free.

All calls are returned within 24 hours, no exceptions, and we never charge for initial consultations. You can also email 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to help@vbatorneys.com.

This newsletter is provided to clients, friends, and colleagues who have requested it. We provide information on a variety of topics we think our subscribers will be interested in. We do not provide legal advice in this newsletter and receipt of this newsletter does not create an attorney-client relationship with our firm. We are happy to discuss your legal case with you, and if you want to talk to one of our lawyers, don't ever hesitate to call us toll free at 888.473.1287. To add a friend to the newsletter, call us toll free at 888.473.1287. To be removed, call the same number.

Newsletter produced & published by Vujasinovic & Beckcom, PLLC. Design by Zine Graphics & Print. Copyright 2014 by Vujasinovic & Beckcom, PLLC.



VB ATTORNEYS

BOARD CERTIFIED ACCIDENT & INJURY LAWYERS

VB Attorneys

6363 Woodway Drive, Suite 400
Houston, TX 77057

Toll Free: 888.473.1287

Fax: 713.224.7801

help@vbattorneys.com

info@vbattorneys.com

We Want to Hear What YOU Have to Say:



Friend us on Facebook:

HoustonPersonalInjuryLawyer



Join our Circle on Google+:

<http://goo.gl/8rnHd>



Follow us on Twitter:

www.twitter.com/vbattorneys

Do You Love our Newsletter?

Do you want your friends, family, co-workers, and neighbors to be able to read our newsletter, too?

Call 888.473.1287 or email Emily at emily@vbattorneys.com to add people to our newsletter or e-newsletter lists!

IN THIS ISSUE...

- Can you guess the number one predictor of success?
- Saving lives this summer.
- The man behind many panoramic virtual tours on Google Maps.

000230

THANKS FOR YOUR REFERRALS!

Readers of this newsletter have referred 230 clients to our firm since 2009. Thank you so much! (P.S. If you're not friends with Brian on Facebook, send him a friend request and he'll confirm it.)

VB CASES OF INTEREST: AUGUST 2014

A husband and wife in Big Spring, Texas, were injured when a charter bus ran into them and threw their car off the road, totaling their car.

They both suffered injuries in the accident. After realizing they needed help, they contacted VB Attorneys and hired Curtis to represent them.

A Houston auto technician was seriously injured when his Honda SUV's rear tires lost traction, the VSA light came on, the car skidded, hit a curb, spun, and flew 70 feet off the I-10 service road into a ditch. He was life-flighted to the hospital.

He suffered a spinal fracture and cannot work for a few months until it heals. He has hired Brian,

who is conducting an investigation into why his car malfunctioned.

A longshoreman was exposed to toxic chemicals while working on an Apache platform. He has

been in and out of the hospital since November of 2013, when he was exposed to the chemicals. With permanent damage to his lungs, he is going to experience life-long health issues that prevent him from doing his job. He has hired Brian to represent him. ■

