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“I was searching the web for work injury lawyers and found Vujasinovic & Beckcom. This site was great. They informed me on all the information I needed about their firm.

Their service is excellent. They treat you with respect and care about your case. V&B will do everything in their power to get you the best settlement. Hands down, the best law firm in Houston, Texas.”

Mohammad Z.



## A Look Behind the Curtain

***This month, I wanted to take you all "Behind the Scenes" at V&B to let you know a little bit more about the people who work on our clients' cases, what we do to make your experience with our firm the best possible experience in difficult circumstances, and what we have planned for you in the future.***

### **Our People**

*We've asked every employee to write a short article about who they are and what they do, and describe their favorite client or case.* Inside, you'll hear from every person who works at V&B. Don't ever hesitate to drop us a message by email with comments, suggestions, or thoughts on how we can each do our job better.

### **Our Philosophy**

*In terms of our client's cases, our philosophy is pretty simple: We want to get the best possible results in the shortest amount of time.* Our goal in every case is to resolve it to your satisfaction within a year, which sometimes isn't possible due to factors beyond our control, but it's a goal in every case.

We also really like getting to know you personally. ***We think developing a good working relationship and knowing you and your family personally helps us get better results in your case.*** It allows us, as your advocates, to

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## A Look Behind the Curtain

tell your story to the insurance representatives in a more effective way. We think this helps us help you get a better settlement for your case.

We've been fortunate to represent some wonderful people and families, and we are even more fortunate to have many people recommend friends and family for their legal needs. Nothing makes us more proud than having one of you recommend a friend or family member to our firm for help with their legal needs.

***Since everyone at our firm is strongly committed to their families, we like to have a "family atmosphere" and represent people whose family is important to them too, and who trust us to take care of their loved ones in times of need.***

### What We Have Planned In The Future

Vuk and I are constantly looking at every aspect of our firm in an effort to make your experience better. We are constantly refining the way we handle cases to make our systems and processes better for our clients.

***One of things we really focus on is providing as much information as possible to our clients and their friends, free of charge, and easily accessible.*** We spend a lot of time trying to make our Free Books, reports, and websites as user friendly and information-packed as possible. We get a lot of compliments on our books, reports, and websites, and we always appreciate positive feedback. But if you've got any suggestions for improvements, or questions you want answered, or ways we can make your experience better, don't ever hesitate to email me or Vuk (Brian@vbattorneys.com or Vuk@vbattorneys.com) with your thoughts.

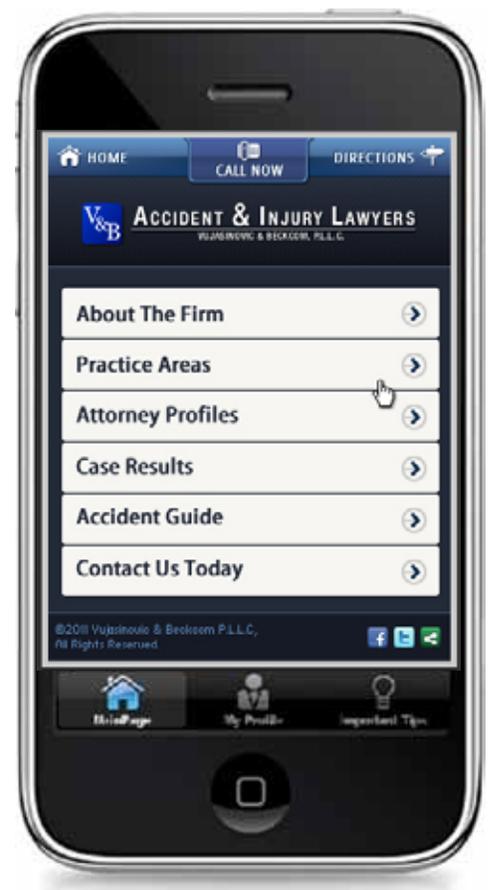
We believe our technology is second-to-none. Our office is entirely digital, meaning we have instant or almost-instant access to all pertinent facts in any case, anywhere we are, at any time. We recently upgraded our computer systems to the most advanced servers available, and are considering an even better upgrade soon.

***We've recently developed mobile websites because we've found that a lot of people are using their iPads, Android devices, or iPhones to search our sites and get information.***

Here's a screen shot of one of our mobile websites (right).

Finally, we've got an iPhone App in development for our maritime clients that's going to be absolutely amazing. We've spent a lot of time and money developing the app, and once it's ready to go we're going to be offering it FOR FREE to all our clients and their friends and family. Stay tuned for the details of the app. It will work on iPads, iPhones, and Android devices.

We've also got a few other apps in development that will make



your experience with our firm even better than it already is. Stay tuned for details.

**Finally, we produce and write this newsletter every month so we can stay in touch with you and you can stay in touch with us.** In case you can't tell, we spend a lot of time on this newsletter and try to make it non-boring and interesting to read, with helpful tips and suggestions that we hope you can use and find valuable. But we recognize that there is always room for improvement, so if you have any suggestions on how this newsletter could be more valuable to you, then send us an email.

Well, that's about it for now. **In these pages you'll find a lot more information about our firm, our people, and our philosophy.** We are really excited about what we've got planned for you in the future, and we hope you'll drop us a quick note anytime you want to give us some feedback, whether it's a positive compliment to one of our team members for a job well done or constructive suggestions on we can better serve you. ■



Brian Beckcom



Vuk Vujasinovic

*Dedicated to your success,*

*Brian & Vuk*

## V&B ATTORNEYS STAFF PROFILES



Kenneth Fenelon  
Attorney

I'm Kenneth Fenelon, an attorney at Vujasinovic & Beckcom.

***My favorite client was seaman who had devoted many years loyally working for his employer.***

***When he was injured, the employer forced him to work despite his pain.***

His employer spent a lot of money on attorneys who tried to play games with the court's procedures. It knew that if it could win the legal games it may not have to pay the employee anything. I enjoyed handling the legal game-play in the trial and appellate courts.

I showed the courts that the employer's legal arguments were against the weight of the law. After all of the court agreed, the company had no choice but to generously pay our client. ■



Brenda Gallegos  
Office Manager

## I am Vuk Vujasinovic's Case Manager and the firm's Office Manager, Brenda Gallegos.

*My favorite thing about our firm is our staff.* We have, without a doubt, the greatest mix of men and women in Houston to work with. We complement each other's different personalities and backgrounds and work well together to have a fun and productive work environment and to achieve the best outcome for all of our clients that we can.

***In over 30 years of working in the legal profession, the case that has had the most impact on me involved a gentleman that was murdered on a rig in Yemen.***

This man was 64 at the time of his death. He was a hardworking man. He owned and worked a farm in Kansas when he was not working on a rig. He was a man that believed in God and raised his family to believe in God. This man loved his family. This man loved and adored his wife with all of his heart. In humanizing a deceased person to a jury personal effects are used such as cards, photos, and letters. This man wrote his wife love letters almost every day that he was away from her telling her how much he missed her and was counting the days until he would be home again. He sent her cards telling her of his love for her. This man was loved not only by his family, but by his co-workers, and members of his community. This case always made me cry when I worked on it.

***Everyone should give and be given the gift of love this man had for his wife, family, co-workers, and community; and which was reciprocated in kind.***

*One of my more colorful cases involved a gentleman that was injured on a vessel.* As with almost all injured clients, money was a bit tight for Mr. B and his maintenance and cure checks did not seem to stretch far enough from check to check. In an effort to obtain some additional financial assistance, Mr. B's grandmother, mother, father, brothers, sisters, aunts, and uncles had to pass away several times necessitating new clothes and trips out of town to the many funerals.

I think by the end of the case, Mr. B was the only family member still breathing. There were times during Mr. B's lawsuit that he, nor our firm, saw eye to eye, but we persevered and Mr. B become a happy former client who called on us after his initial case settled. ■



Maria Orozco  
Receptionist

## My name is Maria Orozco and I've been working at V&B as the receptionist for almost a year now.

I take great pride in my work and strive to provide excellent customer service to every client that walks through our doors. One of my favorite clients that I had the privilege to work with was very humble women who had a slip and fall accident while working at a restaurant.

***I felt a great sense of gratitude when I saw happy and excited she was when she picked up her settlement.***

It's these day to day encounters that motivate me to provide the best service to our clients. ■



Sean Cichowski  
Attorney

## I'm Sean Cichowski, one of the lawyers at Vujasinovic and Beckcom.

My favorite part about working at V&B is going down to the courthouse and fighting for real people who have been hurt.

***One of the cases I'm most proud of was representing a man who was hurt when a chunk of sheetrock flew out of a dump truck and struck his windshield while driving on Beltway 8.***

In settling his case, we not only obtained enough money to take care of his medical care, but more importantly helped improve the safety of our highways around Houston. ■



Patti Artavia  
Senior Case Manager

## My name is Patti Artavia. I have been Brian's Senior Case Manager for almost three years.

I am responsible for managing Brian's docket and making sure Brian is where he needs to be on any given day. I can assure you this is not always an easy task.

I also have the responsibility of making sure the cases are progressing and deadlines are being met. I love my job here at VB. The attorneys here are so knowledgeable in their area of practice and even after doing this for 20 years, I have learned so much in the time I have been here.

***We have had so many wonderful clients come through our firm. I remember one in particular.***

He was a very nice family man who injured his back offshore. The company fired him and he was worried about how he would be able to support his family, which includes his wife and two young children. His family was facing foreclosure and he was honestly worried about where they would live.

Fortunately, we were able to provide a settlement for him that would take care of his financial needs, get his home out of foreclosure and provide the surgery he needed so he could get back to work.

***Watching his face and that of his wife when they learned of the settlement makes me very proud to do what I do.***

I hope to continue helping the deserving clients of Vujasinovic & Beckcom find justice for many years to come. ■



Linda Ramirez  
Assistant Case  
Manager

**My name is Linda Ramirez and I have worked for V&B for six years, first as receptionist, then as a legal assistant and more recently as Assistant Case Manager.**

My present position involves helping all of my clients with their medical appointments and questions. I also do the settlement of their case when it ends. Another one of my duties is to contact potential clients, do their intake, consult with the attorney and start their file.

Of all the cases I have been involved with the ones that mean the most to me are the ones where we are able to recover money for the death of a loved one. One of the first cases I got familiar with was of a client who worked for a landscaping company and was thrown from the landscaping truck and killed. His family lived in Mexico and I was in charge of getting them a visa to come to the US.

***He had a large family and they were all very nice people. His youngest child drew me a wonderful picture which I kept at my desk.***

We were able to get them a nice settlement (\$700,000.00) and they were very grateful but of course nothing could take the place of their loved one.■



Christin Prado  
Senior Case Manager

**My name is Christin Prado. I have been Curtis Bickers' Senior Case Manager for almost 2 years.**

My favorite client, fortunately, is a current one. He is a middle aged man that was injured while working offshore. He is married with three children. Some of the factors that have connected me most to this client are the sincerity and determination he has that doesn't allow his injury and the circumstances around it to get the best of him. He is no longer working and his wife is recovering from breast cancer.

***Throughout the process of his case he has expressed personal concerns and shared his struggles with Curtis and me.***

We have been able to ease his worries and offer either legal or personal advice during this journey in his life. During these times is when I feel the most proud of what we do. Our client has shed some tears in our office but in the end he walks out of here waving, smiling and thanking us from the bottom of his heart.

I look forward to being a part of the conclusion in his case so that our client can get the justice he and his family deserve.■



Aracely Duarte  
Legal Assistant

## My name is Aracely Duarte and I have been Curtis' Legal Assistant for over a year.

My most memorable client was a 40 year old male who hurt his back after falling off a ladder at work. He was a very humble man who did not have any family in this country. He lived and worked to support his mother who was very ill in Honduras. I was extremely satisfied to see his face filled with delight after I gave him his settlement check.

***I take pride in what we do, especially knowing that we made such a significant difference in his life.***



Curtis Bickers  
Attorney

*(Warning: May cause tears)*

## My name is Curtis Bickers. I am a Board Certified attorney at V&B.

I joined the firm in 2008 and have had the pleasure of working on behalf of hundreds of clients in seeking the justice they deserve and are owed. I began my career in law representing companies but realized immediately that my passion is helping people.

Often times, an individual comes to our office as a last resort after being rejected, ridiculed and treated with little or no respect by the company that is responsible for their injuries. At V&B, it is my job as an attorney to be the voice in the courtroom for those severely injured. A voice with compassion, integrity and understanding.

***Often, the greatest feeling of satisfaction I have received after trying a case to a jury or securing a settlement for my client is when the client considers me a friend.***

Whether a phone call a few years later just to say hello or a simple note letting me know how i was able to help change their life for the better, I know I am following my passion because I am helping people— I am helping friends.■

### Reminder About Our Firm's Communication Policy

Our goal when we are working on our clients' cases is to obtain the best possible result as quickly as possible. When we are working on your case, our lawyers do not accept unscheduled phone calls or respond to emails. We believe this allows our lawyers to be much more productive and provide fast and effective legal services to our clients. Remember, if you are a client of the firm, you can always call our firm and schedule an appointment to talk with a lawyer at any time about your legal matter.

We will call you back within 24-48 hours unless it is not possible to do so. We will also respond to your emails in the same time frame. We have found that focusing on our clients' cases helps us to provide the best service possible.

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 877.724.7800. To add a friend to the newsletter, call us toll free at 877.724.7800. To be removed, call the same number.



# ACCIDENT & INJURY LAWYERS

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## *Special Edition*

### IN THIS ISSUE...

- Brian & Vuk present a look behind the scenes at V&B.
- A sneak peek at what we have planned for the future.
- Get to know our staff through their favorite stories.



### THANKS FOR YOUR REFERRALS!

*Readers of this newsletter have referred 106 clients to our firm since 2009. Thank you so much!*

## FREE CONSUMER REPORT



### PROTECTING YOUR FUTURE

*Read this book BEFORE you talk to the adjuster, give a recorded statement, or sign any forms!*

CALL 877.724.7800 TO ORDER

## WE GET QUESTIONS

**Q:** *I was hurt in a railroad accident while working and my employer set up an appointment for me to see the company doctor about my injuries. Do I have to see my employer's doctor?*

**A:** No! You do NOT have to see your employer's doctor. A very important FELA protection is that you are allowed to see any doctor you choose. In fact, it is in your best interest to see an independent doctor who has no affiliation whatsoever with your employer.

Why is this so important? Any doctor tied to your employer has an obvious bias—they are on your employer's side, not yours. Company doctors are more likely to downplay the extent of your injuries and are also more likely to approve you to go back to work before you are fully healed.

Both of these things can mean that you won't get the treatment you need for your injuries, and you could even end up making your injuries worse. Make sure you get proper medical care and enough time to heal by finding your own doctor.

If you need help finding an independent doctor, you can ask your FELA railroad injury attorney for help.

## MARITIME INFORMATION:

### Q: What is the difference between the Jones Act and LHWCA?



**A:** While both provide medical benefits to marine-related workers, the Jones Act only covers seamen while the Longshore and Harbor

Worker's Compensation Act, or LHWCA, provides for other employees in areas that support the maritime industry such as dock workers, longshoremen and shipyards in rivers, canals and waterways.

Under the LHWCA, an employer does not have to be at fault for the injury; that is the same as under worker's compensation plans.

The Jones Act has a three-year statute of limitations to file a lawsuit for injuries. The LHWCA has a one-year time frame to file a benefits claim. ■