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## Brian is giving away a Free iPad 2

Last month we offered a Free Starbucks card to anyone who can answer the trivia question "What has Brian had for his birthday dinner every year since he was a little kid?" We had a lot of guesses but no one got the answer right.

So this month I'm going to "sweeten the deal." **The first person who can actually answer the question correctly will get a free iPad 2.**

Here's a hint: You can find the answer somewhere on Brian's Facebook page. If you're not one of Brian's Facebook friends, log in to your Facebook account and send Brian a friend request. He'll accept your request you can go from there.

**First person to send Brian an email at [Brian@vbattorneys.com](mailto:Brian@vbattorneys.com) wins.**

## THE ART OF FOCUS

*In our technologically advanced age, people are constantly trying to "multi-task," that is, do more than one thing at once. We think "multi-tasking" makes us more productive. Well, it doesn't. It actually makes us less productive, and all sorts of studies prove it.*

This month, I'm going to work on less "multi-tasking" and more "uni-tasking." Doing one thing at a time, and doing it well, before moving on to the next task.

**How do you become more productive through "uni-tasking?"** You simplify and you focus. Simplifying is about saying no, to yourself and others. This is not easy to do. You may hurt some feelings or you may feel like you are turning down opportunities. But if you simplify you can focus, and if you focus on the right things you'll be better and more effective at the things that matter.

At the end of the day, no one really cares about how many things you do; they care about how well you do the things that are important to you. So while you may be able to send a text message, answer an email, read Facebook, drink a coffee, and do your "real" work all at the same time, my bet is that you aren't doing any of those

things as effectively as you would if you set aside time for each task and really focused on the task at hand.

**At V&B, we try to practice simplifying and focusing our client's cases on the parts that really matter.** When we work on your case, we focus on your case and not other cases. That way we can give everything we have to your case, and focus and simplify it so that what really matters comes to the forefront.

**Try this experiment for one week:** Do one thing at a time. Simplify and focus your attention and energy on that one thing. See how it works. I'll bet you'll be more effective, less stressed, and what you spend time on will end up better than if you try to do too many things at once. ■

*Dedicated to your success,*

*Brian*



# What Do You Really Know About the First Thanksgiving?

*When we think about the Thanksgiving holiday, we picture family, friends and great food.*

We spend time planning the perfect menu and searching for just the right turkey. Pumpkin pies are baked in the oven and tables are set with beautiful decorations. Thanksgiving is based on the early feast by a group of English settlers whom we refer to as the Pilgrims.

Most of us have heard the story more than a few times throughout our lives. The English settlers boarded the notorious ship, the Mayflower, and set off on their voyage. They ultimately landed in the area we now call Cape Cod. While you might know some key facts about the Pilgrims and the first Thanksgiving, there are many myths that are passed on. How do you know if what you have heard about the initial feast is fact or fiction? Below are some common myths about the holiday.

## 1 Myth: The Pilgrims celebrated Thanksgiving every year.

According to History.com, this just isn't

true. The Pilgrims did have their first feast, but the day wasn't referred to as "Thanksgiving" and it didn't become a regular tradition for their group.

## 2 Myth: The first Thanksgiving was the fourth Thursday of November.

The Pilgrims had their feast in 1621, but the exact date is unknown. The speculation is that it happened some time between September 21 and November 11.

## 3 Myth: Pilgrims restricted their choices of clothing colors to black and white.

Back in the days when the early settlers arrived to America, black and white was typically only worn on Sundays and at formal events. Generally, women chose such colors as brown, blue, red and gray. Men wore beige, brown, green, black and other colors.

Next time you hear a tidbit about Thanksgiving and its history, ask yourself—*is it fact or fiction?* ■

## WE GET QUESTIONS

### Q: What is a Statute of Limitations?

A: A "statute of limitations" is the rule governing how long after your injury you may file a lawsuit. Texas uses a variety of different dates, depending on what kind of injury you have suffered. *Here is a list of the statutory time for a few of the types of cases that Vujasinovic & Beckcom handle:*

- Negligence or Personal Injury (including auto accidents)—2 years
- Dangerous Products—2 years
- Maritime Injury Jones Act Claims—3 years

Texas uses the "discovery rule" as the start time for the statute of limitations. This means that the clock begins to tick from the moment that you discovered or should reasonably have discovered your injury. It is important to note that the starting time for the statute of limitations is very different when children are involved. If your child is injured, his or her statute of limitations does not begin running until he reaches the age of 18. For instance, if he is injured in a car accident at the age of five, but does not file a suit until he is 19, his claim will not have expired. While the statute of limitations provides the "end date" for the filing of a lawsuit, there may be many good reasons to get yours started earlier. Additionally, because every case is different, there may be some exception to the general statute of limitations rules that applies to your case.

## "Be Thankful You're Not Working With a Lawyer"—Should You Trust the Adjuster's Comments?

*If you have been hurt in any type of accident and have filed a claim with the insurance company, you probably were caught off guard. Most people don't realize how challenging it can be to resolve an injury claim. It is hard to know who to trust and how to get a fair settlement of your claim.*

When you are injured in an accident, the other driver's insurance company is not going to be watching out for you. Even if the adjuster seems very friendly and helpful, you always have to remind yourself of who this person works for. You also have to understand that his or her job is to resolve your claim for as little as possible. That might lead the adjuster to make some comments that aren't exactly forthcoming.

*Time and time again, there are stories of adjusters telling claimants that they don't need lawyers.* They make it sound like the settlement offer they will make is the highest possible, so there would be no need for legal representation. Sometimes they go as far as making it seem that all a lawyer will do is take a large part of the money recovered.

The truth is, the offer that the adjuster might make probably won't be the highest and best offer. An adjuster knows that without legal representation, you may not know the true value of your case.

*So, if the insurance adjuster tells you not to contact a lawyer, think about that for a moment. Who is the adjuster really trying to protect?* ■

# A Table to Be Thankful For

*Cooking a giant Thanksgiving meal is an event that many people look forward to.*



The turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, green bean casserole, rolls and cranberry sauce are enough to make anyone eager to dive right into the meal. Setting a great table can be just as fun and exciting. Instead of looking at it as yet another chore that needs to be crossed off your checklist, get creative and create a table masterpiece.

*Below are some fun table setting ideas that are sure to make your guests feel extra special as they enjoy their meals:*

**1 Create a centerpiece.** You don't need to spend \$50 to \$75 on a centerpiece from the florist, create one yourself. A centerpiece can turn an ordinary table setting into something beautiful. This is your chance to show off your artistic side. Fill a cornucopia with fall-related foliage. Use a table runner and line it with small pumpkins, gourds and more. There are many different options!

**2 Make place cards.** This activity is great for the kids. Have them cut out various shapes related to Thanksgiving using construction paper – leaves, pumpkins and cornucopias – and write each of your guests' names on the place cards.

**3 Pick a color scheme.** Decide in advance what colors you will be using in your table setting and choose your accessories accordingly. For example, accent a burgundy tablecloth with napkins tied with gold satin ribbon. There are many options when decorating the table, so don't be afraid to experiment.

*For additional inspiration, grab decorating magazines and search the Internet. There are plenty of table decorating tips out there! ■*

# The Insurer Says “Thank You” For Waiting to Get Medical Treatment

*If ever there was a time to not try to act tough it is after a serious accident.*

There is no reason to attempt to overcome the pain you're feeling from an injury and forgo a visit to the doctor. The pain might not go away. In fact, it might only get worse. Too many people think that they should simply wait to seek medical attention because their injuries probably aren't that bad.

*Sadly, waiting to seek medical treatment can have many repercussions—all of which are not good.* For example, minor back pain could be a herniated disc or a slight headache could be a sign of a serious brain injury. If you are hurt in an accident, get medical help right away.

There is another consequence of not getting medical care right away and it has to do with the insurance company. If you make the decision to pursue a personal injury claim and there was a delay in medical treatment, it could hurt you. The insurance company will argue that you must not have been hurt too badly in the accident, because you didn't feel the need to go to the doctor right away.

*Personal injury claims are hard enough without the extra “delay in treatment” issues that could arise.*

Do your health and your injury claim a favor – get medical attention immediately. The insurance company doesn't need any more ammunition to deny you a fair settlement for your injuries. ■

*Do your health and your injury claim a favor—get medical attention immediately.*

## 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.



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## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*“Here is a well-kept secret: generosity is more satisfying and fun than greed.”*



## THANKS FOR YOUR REFERRALS!

*Readers of this newsletter have referred 123 clients to our firm since 2009. Thank you so much!*

## WHAT OUR CLIENTS ARE SAYING

*“My big fear (being my ten closest friends have 6 JDs between them) was that attorneys get money for doing nothing. Believe me, I feel like you're not going to get enough for the time and effort you put in. Impressive.”*

*Tom, Car Accident Case, New Jersey*

## SUPERSTAR SPOTLIGHT

Mike Miller



This month's superstar is a firm client, Mike Miller.

Mike was severely injured offshore and ended up requiring multiple surgeries. He contacted our firm to help him get those surgeries after his employer, and offshore welding company, gave him a hard time and refused to help Mike pay his medical bills, even though federal law requires marine employers to pay for these types of medical treatments. After a hard fought battle, Mike was able to get the surgeries he needed and get back on his feet financially as well.

Mike can no longer work offshore due to his physical limitations but he's put his settlement money to good use, starting businesses and investing his money wisely. Mike overcame some very difficult circumstances and was able to fight through adversity and get back on his feet. We were glad to help him accomplish his goals.

Congratulations to Mike Miller, this month's superstar.

## MARITIME INFORMATION:

**Q: Who pays for my medical bills if I'm hurt in a maritime accident?**

**A: If you are considered a seaman under the law and are hurt on the job, your employer should cover your medical bills. This compensation is known as "cure."**

As an injured seaman, your employer should pay your medical expenses, including doctor visits, treatment and other health care costs. This compensation is available until you reach your maximum medical cure, meaning your condition cannot improve any further.

You should also be aware of compensation known as "maintenance," which is designed to cover your living expenses while you recover. Maintenance is generally equal to about \$20 to \$30 a day.

If your employer refuses to pay you maintenance and cure, you should contact a maritime attorney for advice. ■