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A SUMMER OF CHANGES A RETURN TO NORMALCY HAS ALSO MEANT A WAVE OF CHANGES

It was nice to have a “normal” summer again after a year of missing out. We’ve spent our summer around friends, going both to the beach and out to dinner. We were essentially making up for lost time, and it made me realize how much I missed seeing everyone. I’ll never take that for granted again.

All of these changes to the way in which we practice law have also meant that I have had to adapt my firm. I’ve had to consider technological upgrades for clients who want to meet digitally rather than in person and how to best work remotely with my staff.

This summer also saw the start of my first round of books hitting print! That’s right — you can now get your copy of “The 7 Biggest Mistakes People Make When Hiring a Personal Injury Lawyer” in print! This is a great way to share some insider and expert knowledge with your friends or family, and I know there are readers who prefer to read from a real book rather than online. Get your copy at ReadStevensBook.com. (And thanks for reading!)

As my work life has shifted, my personal life is changing, too. My wife and I are approaching our first year as empty-nesters! Our daughter has been in Colorado all summer for a job within the human resources department at Lockheed Martin, while her brother is spending his last year at summer camp. Afterward, he will be starting his first year at the College of New Jersey.

We’re very proud of both of our children, but our home is about to become a little quieter! This next chapter in our lives is exciting for all of us.

Change may certainly be inevitable, but it isn’t always a bad thing. With a little adapting and an open mind, you can make the most of any new situation. Enjoy your fall!

-Steven Goldstein, Esq.



As our state has opened back up, I’ve also been able to engage in new activities. I’ve taken up pickleball, which is a variation of tennis, and I’m finally back to playing basketball! Regular readers of our newsletter will know just how much I need basketball. It clears my mind, relieves my stress, and has been one of my go-to activities after a long day. I’ve really missed playing.

However, we’ve all heard the saying that the only constant in life is change, and that’s been true of my summer both personally and professionally.

For starters, practicing law has never been more different! Just as I was sitting down to write this article, I was coming off a day that saw me complete four hearings, two depositions, and a conference meeting for an upcoming trial — all in one day. In the past, when I would have to drive to each location and show up in person, that would have been impossible. Thanks to Zoom and the COVID-19 way of practicing law, my days are packed with more legal work and less commutes.

There’s a benefit and downside to this, of course. The benefit is that the legal system is swifter, but this busy schedule can make for a long day. It’s been an adjustment for all of us in the legal field, but my goal is to always ensure my clients are receiving the best representation I can provide for them — regardless of the platform.

WILLIE THE PARROT: THE ULTIMATE DANGER ALARM

Willie the Quaker parrot was a pretty remarkable bird. Like many parrots, he had a knack for mimicking certain sounds and words, including barking dog noises, human kissing noises, and a fair share of swear words.

However, what made Willie a hero one day was not just what he said, but also when he said it.

Meagan Howard, Willie’s owner, brought him over to her friend Samantha Kuusk’s house while she babysat Kuusk’s little daughter, Hannah. Hannah and Willie were both in the kitchen while Meagan prepared a Pop-Tart for Hannah’s breakfast. After placing the Pop-Tart on the table, Meagan stepped away to use the bathroom.

While she was away, however, Hannah got her hands on the Pop-Tart and began to scarf it down, lodging a piece in her windpipe. She started choking and was unable to signal to Meagan that something was wrong. Luckily, Willie came to the rescue.

Willie began squawking and shrieking, saying the words “Mama! Baby!” over and over again. In a matter of moments, Meagan knew something was wrong. She rushed to the kitchen

to find a very frantic Willie and a very blue Hannah. Meagan jumped into action. She grabbed Hannah and performed the Heimlich maneuver until the Pop-Tart piece dislodged itself and shot out of her mouth.

Meagan may have been the one to stop Hannah from choking, but she insists that Willie was the real hero of the story. If he hadn’t used his unique mimicking skills to get Meagan’s attention, she doesn’t know what would have happened. It’s worth noting that before that incident, Willie had never used the phrase “Mama! Baby!” before. He knew something was wrong, and he knew how to get help.

Shortly after the incident, Willie received the local Red Cross chapter’s Animal Lifesaver Award for his heroic actions.



FROM A SCATTERBRAINED SUMMER TO AN ORDERLY SCHOOL YEAR

Hacks to Get Your Kids Organized

Summer break (especially for young kiddos) is a lawless time with little meaning that's punctuated by a vacation or trips to the park and pool. Transitioning children back to the calm, orderly world of the school year can be challenging for both teachers and parents.

How can you make sure your kids trade in their summer hats for their school brains? Well, luckily, you can use a few hacks to make that transition brighter, seamless, and even fun.

Create a fun checklist for school to-do's.

Spelling out all the tasks your kids have to do before and after school will help them ease back into the routines of going to bed each night and getting up early for school. Plus, it will introduce them to the satisfaction of checking items off a list after completing them. When your kids know what to do and when to do it, it makes your day a little easier!

Make a color-coded clock.

Lots of kids are visual learners, which means an analog clock will be their best

friend when it comes to keeping track of time. Color code different sections of the clock for different parts of the day to help them remember what they're supposed to be doing, whether it's blue for breakfast time, orange for homework hour, or purple for their bedtime routine.

Make school supply cubbies.

If your child tends to throw their backpack and jackets all over the house, then school supply cubbies could be a game-changer. You could even just label different hooks in your mudroom or hallway if that's all you have to work with. Whatever the case, when your kids have an established place to put their school stuff, it's that much easier for them to find as they head out the door in the morning.

Organize your school lunch supplies.

Making your kids' lunches each morning can be exhausting, but if you put different lunch items (e.g., bags of chips, apples, juice pouches, etc.) in different, easy-to-reach containers, you can turn making school lunches into an assembly line process where your kids do most

of the work themselves, teaching them responsibility and taking a load off of your shoulders every school morning. You can even consider making the lunches the night before to lighten up the morning routine!

Plan your kids' outfits for the next day ... or the next week.

If they had their way, you know your kiddos would wear the same Spider Man or Elsa T-shirt every day of the week. So, if you want to make sure they look respectable and ready to learn every day, plan out their outfits for the entire school week. This is especially easy if they have a set of hanging cubbies in their closets. Allow them to help choose outfits on a Saturday or Sunday before the new week; it will also help them learn how to dress themselves later in life.

Back-to-school season shouldn't be hectic — and with a few of these hacks in mind, it won't be!

WHAT OUR CLIENTS ARE SAYING

"Steven Goldstein is a wonderful lawyer and an even better person. My case was not easy. Steven was always compassionate and available. He has a very kind way of speaking with his clients. He knows his stuff. I was most impressed by how the defense lawyers respected him. I would tell anyone to call him immediately if they have an accident and want a great personal injury lawyer. I have already referred family members to him."

—Joann Ruggiero



REMEMBERING THE HEROES AMID THE TRAGEDY THE EVERYDAY PEOPLE WHO SAVED COUNTLESS LIVES ON 9/11

As we approach its 20th anniversary, Sept. 11, 2001, remains one of the darkest days in American history. Almost 3,000 people lost their lives when terrorists flew passenger airplanes into the Twin Towers and the Pentagon. The infrastructural damage was severe, but the damage done to thousands of families across the country was even worse.

While 9/11 remains a day of remembrance of these tragic events, it should also be a day to remember the brave men and women who sacrificed their lives to save others. These are just a few of their stories.

Betty Ong and Amy Sweeney

After five al-Qaida terrorists hijacked American Airlines Flight 11, Ong and Sweeney, two flight attendants, used the crew phone to call their colleagues and give them information about their attackers, including what they looked like and what seats they had been sitting in. Both attendants perished, but the information they shared helped the FBI jump-start their investigation.

Rick Rescorla

A Vietnam veteran who had earned a silver star for his service, Rescorla was no stranger to stressful life

and death situations. As the head of corporate security for Morgan Stanley in the South Tower, he defied orders from Port Authority to stay put and instead escorted 2,700 people out of the building before it collapsed. After that, he headed back in to look for stragglers. That was the last time anyone saw him.

Passengers of Flight 93

While two planes hit the World Trade Center towers and one plane hit the Pentagon, another plane that headed for the White House never reached its destination. That's because passengers aboard this flight, upon learning their plane had been hijacked, decided to rush the cockpit and overtake the terrorists. They caused the plane to crash in an empty field in Pennsylvania, saving the White House but killing everyone on board.

Sad though their deaths may be, these heroic men and women continue to inspire people even 20 years later. We should never forget the tragedy of 9/11, but we should also remember these regular people who decided to take extraordinary lengths to save others.

One-Pan Apple Cider Chicken



Inspired by WellPlated.com

HAVE A LAUGH



Bring the taste of fall into your kitchen with this sizzling skillet meal.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/2 lbs boneless, skinless chicken thighs
- 1 tsp salt, divided
- 1/2 tsp black pepper, divided
- 1/2 cup apple cider
- 2 tsp Dijon mustard
- 4 tsp olive oil, divided
- 3 sweet apples, cut into 1/2-inch slices
- 2 tsp fresh rosemary, chopped, plus more for garnish

DIRECTIONS

1. Sprinkle chicken with 1/2 tsp salt and 1/4 tsp pepper. Set aside.
2. In a small bowl, combine apple cider and mustard. Set aside.
3. In a large skillet over medium heat, warm 2 tsp olive oil. When shimmering, add chicken thighs top-side down. Cook for 4 minutes, then flip and cook for 4 more minutes. Transfer to a plate and cover with foil. Wipe the skillet clean.
4. Heat the remaining oil in the skillet, then add sliced apples, remaining salt and pepper, and rosemary. Cook for 5 minutes.
5. Return the chicken to the skillet and add apple cider-mustard mixture. Cook for 5 minutes, then serve sprinkled with rosemary!