



THE  
INJURY &  
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LAW CENTER

Personal Injury, Social Security Disability, and Workers' Compensation

# The Sentinel

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July 2020

## Happy Fourth of July!

### A Note About Freedom in the Era of COVID-19

As I write this newsletter, the Fourth of July is just around the corner, and I'm really looking forward to it. However, I know that this Fourth is going to look pretty different from years past when our community would get together in big groups for kids' activities, concerts, and fireworks displays. The City of Roswell has postponed or canceled all city events through June 30, and at the time I'm writing this, it's up in the air whether the typical Fourth of July fun will go forward.

These cancellations have been happening for months, joining the dozens of other pandemic-related suggestions and rules that have comprised our new normal. It's been a strange experience to be told where I'm allowed to go, what I can do, and what I should wear, and I'm sure many of you feel the same way. Of course, I'm happy to comply with all of those things to keep my friends and family healthy, but the restrictions have given me a new appreciation for the American freedoms I once took for granted.

July Fourth is the day we celebrate those freedoms and the people who won them for us centuries ago. I'm particularly grateful for our Founding Fathers and our democratic republic this year because these last few months have given me an eye-opening peek into the window of a different world. I'm glad we're slowly getting back to the America I'm used to, where I can go to church with my family, dine out in a restaurant, and enjoy live music without worry. In other parts of the world, that's a "normal" people have never experienced.

**"I'm particularly grateful for our Founding Fathers and our democratic republic this year because these last few months have given me an eye-opening peek into the window of a different world."**



As the fog of this pandemic lifts and we return to our daily routines, I hope this lesson isn't forgotten. I know I won't forget it because I work with many of the veterans who have fought for those freedoms and played a critical role in preserving our independence. I feel blessed that even when I was working from home, I could help them get their disability benefits. Claims are proceeding as normal despite the virus.

This go-around, I think the Fourth of July might be a little bit more patriotic than in years past as we all think of those veterans and appreciate the freedoms we enjoy as Americans. My family will be celebrating the holiday as much as we safely can! I plan to spend the day with my wife, our kids, and our pets having a cookout in the backyard, making homemade ice cream, and just enjoying our time together. If we're able to catch some fireworks from a safe social distance or light off a few of our own, then we'll do that, too!

I hope you have a great time celebrating the Fourth however you choose. Stay safe, have fun, and remember that no matter what happens, we're all Americans and we're all in this together.

*-Josh Worley*



# THE CASE THAT WAS FROZEN ON ARRIVAL

## THE WOMAN WHO SUED DISNEY FOR COPYING HER LIFE IN 'FROZEN'

This is the story of a woman who just couldn't let it go. It was the fall of 2014 — Dennis Rodman became friends with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Ellen DeGeneres' selfie with Oscar winners at the Academy Awards became the most retweeted image of all time. And an author sued Disney for \$250 million after she claimed that the company stole major elements of her published memoir to craft the movie "Frozen."

"Frozen" was released in November 2013 and saw massive box office success and critical acclaim. It seemed like Walt Disney Animation Studios was finally hitting their stride and catching up to Pixar movies' quality animation and storytelling. Unfortunately, high-profile movie projects and financiers with deep pockets tend to attract all sorts of hullabaloo in the form of frivolous lawsuits.

Author Isabella Tanikumi, whose only notable work to date is her 2011 memoir "Yearnings of the Heart," sued Disney for an egregious \$250 million after claiming that the winter wonderland adventures of Anna, Elsa, and Olaf were stolen straight from her memoir and her life and

violated copyright law. She cited 18 "similarities" to bolster her massive claim. For instance, Tanikumi claimed that both her book and the movie had stories of intense sisterly love, scenes under the moon, and talk about cold hearts.

The tenuousness of the similarities alone would cause most people to dismiss Tanikumi's claim like they would the ramblings of a red yarn-loving conspiracy theorist. And that's just what the judge who oversaw the case did, granting Disney's motion to dismiss. The judge stated that copyright law protects expressions but not ideas. The themes that Tanikumi believed Disney had stolen from her story were under public domain, usable by anyone without permission.

Only Tanikumi herself knows for sure why she went through all that trouble. Everyone else will just have to speculate what gave her the gall to take on a media juggernaut like Disney in court with next to no viable case. That said, several reviews of her memoir on Amazon mention ties to "Frozen," so make of that what you will.

## BEWARE OF THESE CORONAVIRUS EMAIL SCAMS

### They're Still Around!

While it seems like the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic might be behind us, that doesn't mean we should let our guard down completely — especially when it comes to internet scams designed to prey on the fear and uncertainty brought on by the pandemic. It's no surprise that scammers have found ways to use the coronavirus scare as an opportunity to steal personal information from the vulnerable. Fortunately, you can spot coronavirus scammers using the same techniques that help identify otherwise run-of-the-mill phishing scams.

#### REQUESTS FOR PERSONAL INFORMATION

When the federal government started distributing relief checks, several scammers sent out unsolicited emails, disguised as legitimate instructions, asking for personal information from people in order to receive their \$1,200. Since many people have now received their checks, this particular scam may become less common, but always be suspicious of emails that ask for personal information, no matter the circumstances.

#### SUSPICIOUS LINKS AND EMAIL ADDRESSES

During the past few months, people's email inboxes have been littered with advertisements for fake coronavirus tests and cures, fake alerts from government agencies like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and fake coronavirus updates. If you get an email containing an unusual link in your inbox, do not click on it — even if the

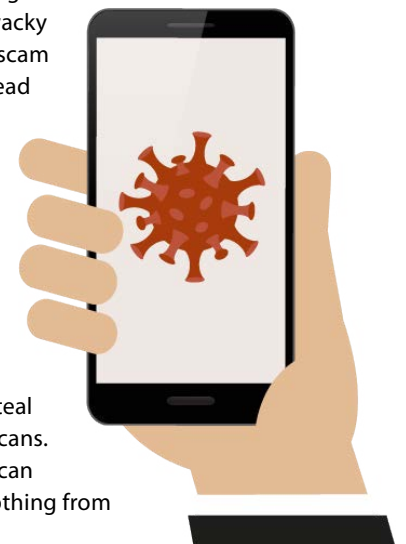
email address looks legitimate. Scammers use links to spread malware on computers, which helps them get your personal information.

#### SPELLING AND GRAMMAR MISTAKES

This is usually a dead giveaway. While genuine, official updates about the coronavirus will be meticulously checked for spelling and grammar, scammers aren't as careful. Missing periods, misspelled words, and wacky syntax errors are all hallmarks of scam emails. Make sure you carefully read any email you're not sure about.

If you can spot spelling and grammar mistakes, delete the email.

Much like the coronavirus will remain in the American psyche long after cases and deaths have peaked, scammers will continue using it as a means to steal from honest, hardworking Americans. But, if we keep our guard up, we can make sure they get absolutely nothing from their efforts.



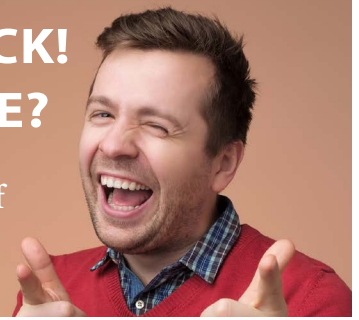
# TAKE A BREAK

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## KNOCK KNOCK! WHO'S THERE?

The Wacky Evolution of  
the Knock-Knock Joke



**Knock knock!**  
**Who's there?**  
**Theresa.**  
**Theresa who?**  
**Theresa crowd!**

Unless you're living under a rock, odds are you've laughed, grumbled, or groaned in response to a knock-knock joke. You may have even told a few yourself before you realized knock-knock jokes had gone out of style in favor of sarcasm and memes. That's because at their core, knock-knock jokes are a quintessential American experience — and the perfect homegrown fodder for International Joke Day, which falls on July 1. But where did they come from, and why do so many people knock the knock-knock joke today?

Well, according to NPR, knock-knock jokes have had a roller coaster of a history. Near as we can tell, they actually evolved from another kind of joke: the "Do You Know" joke. This style of joke was popular in the early 1900s, and according to an Oakland Tribune article NPR dug up, this was a typical one:

**Do you know Arthur?**

**Arthur who?**

**Arthurmometer!**

Not very funny, is it? Well, over the years this style of back-and-forth jesting evolved into knock-knock jokes. The popularity of the "knock knock" bit of the joke could harken back to Shakespeare, who BestLife credits with "the first-known occurrence of a knock knock, who's-there dialogue" in Act 2 of "Macbeth" (though it likely wasn't intended to be funny), or it could be a reference to 1936 vice presidential hopeful Frank Knox, whose name made "knock knock" irresistible wordplay for the radio.

Whatever the reason, knock knocks were all the rage in the 1930s, to the extent that people formed knock-knock clubs, businesses held knock-knock contests, and orchestras set them to music. However, the heyday was short-lived. In the following years, people started getting sick of knock knocks, and even psychologists turned against them. According to NPR, "people who loved knock-knock jokes were said to have social problems."

Today, knock-knock jokes are still around, but they're mostly considered a game for kids or demoted to the realm of "bad dad jokes." Maybe you think that's warranted, maybe you think it's tragic — either way, odds are the format will continue to evolve and probably outlive us all!



## THE BEST GRILLED SUMMER VEGETABLES

Inspired by [DinnerAtTheZoo.com](http://DinnerAtTheZoo.com)

*Contrary to popular belief, vegetables are delicious. Most of our parents just didn't know how to prepare them well. This summer, revolutionize your cookout with a serving of delicious, colorful veggies.*

### Ingredients

- 1 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp pepper
- 1 1/2 tsp dried Italian seasoning
- 1 1/2 tsp garlic, minced
- 2 lbs assorted vegetables, trimmed and halved (asparagus, mushrooms, red onion, red bell peppers, baby carrots, and yellow squash are great on the grill)
- 5 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tbsp lemon juice
- 1/4 cup parsley leaves, chopped

### Directions

1. In a small bowl, combine salt, pepper, Italian seasoning, and garlic.
2. Brush vegetables with olive oil and place in a large bowl. Top with lemon juice and seasoning mixture. Toss to coat evenly. Cover and refrigerate for at least 20 minutes but no longer than 2 hours.
3. Prepare the grill at medium-high heat.
4. Grill vegetables in batches, cooking 3–5 minutes on each side until browned and tender. (Carrots will cook longer, 6–9 minutes per side.)
5. Remove from the grill, sprinkle with parsley, and serve hot.



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## WHAT DOES THE CONSTITUTION MEAN TO YOU? Debating the Document That's Shaped Our Country

Most teenagers are more interested in hanging out with their friends and listening to the next cool band than diving into the United States Constitution. But that's exactly how some students have been spending their mornings, afternoons, and evenings: studying and preparing to debate their peers all over the nation about the contents of the 200-year-old document. Their motivation? Prestige, honor, and thousands of dollars of scholarship money.

Sponsored by the American Legion, these constitutional debates were started in 1938 with the intent to "develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students," according to the Legion's website. In the process of writing the speeches they'll debate, students under 20 learn the history of U.S. laws and develop a better understanding of the rights and privileges of American citizenship. The legion offers up over \$188,000 annually in scholarship money to debate winners.

For one of those winners, in addition to helping pay her way through college, the debate experience also provided fodder for a Broadway play. In "What the Constitution Means to Me," playwright and actor Heidi Schreck recounts her experience of debating the Constitution in American Legion halls all over the U.S. In the largely autobiographical play, theatergoers get to see the experience through the eyes of 15-year-

old Heidi (played by Schreck in the original production) as she gives her speech and talks about the Constitution. At other times, viewers see the grown-up Schreck reflect on the evolution of the Constitution's meaning over the years and how her debate experiences shaped her understanding of what it means to live under the rules of this governing document.

For Heidi Schreck, as well as for hundreds of other debaters, developing a close relationship with the Constitution helped pay her way through college and gave her a better understanding of the principles our country was built on. This month is a great time to take a look at the document that shaped our country's past and continues to shape its future.

