



**CASE BARNETT**  
— LAW —



## A LESSON IN MARRIAGE

REMEMBERING MY FAVORITE CLASS

**T**his fall, Finn is starting his second year of preschool. His moving-up ceremony was in June, and it was a pretty emotional experience for my wife and me. Nicole and I can't get over how crazy it is that our son is growing up so fast. It's amazing to watch your child start a new school year. Sure, Finn is only in preschool now, but I am excited for all the awesome things he's going to learn this coming year.

I enjoyed school for the most part, which was a good thing, because being a lawyer meant I had to be in school for a long time. Fortunately, I had the pleasure of taking a number of really valuable, interesting classes over the years. You might be surprised to hear my favorite class had nothing to do with law. One of the best classes I ever took was Theology of Marriage at Santa Clara University.

This is a Jesuit school in Silicon Valley, and students need to take three levels of religious courses, covering whatever religion or topic they're interested in. I was 20 years old at the time, so marriage wasn't seriously on my radar, but Theology of Marriage was an advanced-level class that I needed and I figured it might be interesting. It ended up being one of the most amazing classes I ever took.

I look at marriage in a new light ever since I took that class, and I think that's a good thing. It made me evaluate the marriages I saw around me and taught me things I try to keep in mind with regard to my own marriage. The three most important things I learned in that course were about selflessness, communication, and commitment.

A lot of people say you have to be selfless in a marriage, and they're right. In order to have a truly happy, beautiful marriage, both parties need to be willing to put the other person's needs above their own. Additionally, no one is surprised to hear good marriages are built on good communication. A marriage is two very different people with different backgrounds coming together to try to create one family. This means spouses have to do more than talk; they have to try to understand what the other person is saying.



When it comes to commitment, I don't just mean a person needs to be committed to their spouse as a person, though they certainly do. Having a successful marriage means being committed to the idea of the relationship too. It's not enough to just dip your toe in the water; you need to be willing to dive in with all your heart. Commitment can be the hardest thing in a marriage. It's scary to give your whole self over to something, but when you have a partner who is willing to do the same thing, then you don't have to worry about a thing.

One of the most beautiful things about Nicole is how open she is to love and our relationship and our family. She didn't need a theology of marriage class to teach her the importance of throwing herself into her marriage; that's how she lives her whole life! Nicole is always teaching me something new about life and marriage, and I never cease to be amazed at how lucky I am to have such a wonderful person in my life.

Not every class I took stuck with me like Theology of Marriage — don't ask me anything about calculus — but there were courses that surprised me just as much. In a way, school can be a bit like marriage. When you go in with an open mind and you're willing to take some risks, it can be really awesome.

Here's to all the students and teachers starting a new school year. May you learn something that sticks with you your whole life.

—Case Barnett



# CASE BARNETT LAW HAS THEIR SIGHTS ON BULLYING, NEGLIGENCE, AND PRODUCT DEFECTS

At our office, we deal with a wide variety of cases, from elder abuse cases to commercial trucking accidents. Each case demands a different approach, but no matter how different the circumstances seem, at the center of each case is someone who is hurting. At Case Barnett Law, our mission is to help people in pain get the justice they deserve. Here are three of the biggest cases we have on our plate in the next few months.

One of our clients, a junior at a local high school, suffered from a traumatic brain injury after being bullied by a classmate. The injury occurred when the bully body-slammed our client head-first into the ground. As parents, this matter hits close to home. Child injury law is extremely important to us. We believe that our kids should be safe at school and that all parents should be able to trust schools to take the necessary precautions to protect students.

Another case we currently have set for trial is an elder abuse matter. Our client experienced a terrible fall while living at a nursing facility, which

resulted in a brain injury. Although the facility knew she was at risk for falls, they failed to provide adequate support and care. Often, facilities make poor administrative decisions in an attempt to save money. They do

this by hiring fewer staff members, even though that means there are fewer people available to handle important responsibilities, like watching and caring for patients who are at risk for falls. For our client, there was only one outcome for this kind of negligence.

We also have a case set for trial that revolves around a product defect in an ATV. Our client is a woman who was riding an ATV in the desert when, due to the defect, her foot was sucked into the wheel well. She lost control and was ejected head-first after running into a dirt embankment. Her neck broke in the accident, and today she lives as a paraplegic. At the time of the accident, our client was 24 years old.

Need more information about the challenges of these kinds of cases? We have a series of free special reports on our website. Get "Safe at School: The Duty to Protect Our Children in California Schools" at [CaseBarnettLaw.com/reports/safe-at-school.cfm](http://CaseBarnettLaw.com/reports/safe-at-school.cfm) and "The California Survival Guide to Finding a Nursing Home for Your Loved One" at [CaseBarnettLaw.com/reports/finding-a-nursing-home-for-your-loved-one.cfm](http://CaseBarnettLaw.com/reports/finding-a-nursing-home-for-your-loved-one.cfm). Just enter your name and email address to gain access to an instant download of each report.



## SUCCESS STORIES

*"Case Barnett Law represented me on a lawsuit against Kindred Hospital for wrongful death, medical malpractice, and elder abuse. At all times, Case and his staff were professional, responsive, and most of all, compassionate."*

*"Case explained the process to me every step of the way. He gave me advice but respected and valued my opinion. He was kind and sympathetic. I'm grateful to Case Barnett Law for their excellent legal representation during a very difficult time."*

*"If you are looking for a lawyer who will fight for you and for the right outcome, Case is the one."*

**—Sara A.**

*"My family is very pleased with the outcome reached by Case Barnett in our suit against a national hospital organization. Case was very sympathetic, and he and his team worked so hard through every appeal and stalling tactic the defendant threw at us. I would recommend Case to anyone who has grounds for bringing a civil suit."*

**—Linda H.**



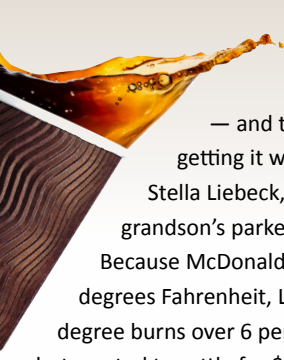
**Reminder About Our Firm's Communication Policy:** Our promise to you is that we don't take inbound calls or emails while we are working on your case. Case Barnett takes no inbound unscheduled phone calls whatsoever. It makes him much more productive and helps get your case resolved faster. You can always call the office at 949-861-2990, and schedule an in-person or phone appointment, usually within 24-48 hours. This is a lot better than the endless game of "phone tag" played by most businesses today. Remember, too, that email is "quick," but is checked no more than twice a day. Replies are then scheduled into the calendar. So, if it's really important, don't email — call the office instead.

# MORE TO THE STORY

## 'Frivolous' Lawsuits the Media Got Wrong

The media likes to claim Americans are "sue happy." People will call a lawyer if their coffee is too hot, they claim. The truth is, while there are some baseless lawsuits, those usually get dismissed early on. And when a so-called "frivolous case" gets national attention, there's a chance we aren't seeing the whole story.

**A LAWSUIT AND A SIDE OF FRIES** Stop us if you've heard this one: A woman orders a cup of coffee at a McDonald's drive-thru window. As she drives away, she spills the coffee on herself and decides to sue because the coffee was just too hot!



This infamous McDonald's hot coffee case is the best-known example of a frivolous lawsuit — and the best example of the media getting it wrong. The woman in question, Stella Liebeck, was in the passenger seat of her grandson's parked car when the coffee spilled. Because McDonald's served their coffee at 190 degrees Fahrenheit, Liebeck suffered severe third-degree burns over 6 percent of her body. She did sue, but wanted to settle for \$20,000 to help pay for the skin grafts she needed. When McDonald's refused, the case was

brought to court where Liebeck was awarded \$640,000 and the restaurant was instructed to turn down the temperature.

**WHY YOU NEED INSURANCE** In 2002, the small town of Reed Springs, Missouri, filed for bankruptcy after losing a personal injury lawsuit. Sally Stewart was walking down the sidewalk when she tripped in a pothole buried beneath a patch of grass. She injured her ankle and had to get surgery. Stewart initially sued nearby shop owners to help cover the medical bills, but the court determined care of the sidewalk was the responsibility of the city. A few years later, Reed Springs was writing Stewart a check for \$100,000.

Later reports framed Stewart as a greedy, careless woman who put a sweet town in jeopardy. The truth is, under normal circumstances, the city's insurance would have covered the lawsuit and Reed Springs would have been fine. Unfortunately, the city's then-mayor, Joe Dan Dwyer, had let the city's insurance lapse. This "oversight" might have been part of a greater scheme, as Dwyer was also under indictment for insurance fraud, statutory rape, and perjury.

These are just a few examples of cases that deserve a second look. We're not saying there aren't wasteful lawsuits out there, but you would be surprised how many cases that seem ridiculous have a lot more going on beneath the surface.



## Summer Grilled Halibut

*If you're tired of grilling hamburgers at this point in the summer, try using your grill for something a little different. This easy halibut recipe is a great change of pace.*

### Ingredients

- 4 boneless, skinless halibut fillets, about 5 ounces each
- 1/4 cup olive oil, plus extra for drizzling
- 1 lemon
- 2 pounds mixed tomatoes, sliced
- 1/2 cup hearts of palm, drained
- Basil leaves, for garnish
- Kosher salt and black pepper, to taste

### Directions

1. Lightly oil grill grates and heat grill to medium.
2. Grate 1 teaspoon lemon zest onto halibut fillets. Drizzle with olive oil and season with salt and pepper.
3. Grill halibut, turning just once, for about 5 minutes on each side.
4. In a mixing bowl, combine tomatoes, hearts of palm, juice from lemon, and oil. Season with salt and pepper.
5. Garnish salad with basil. Spoon salad over grilled halibut. Serve.

*Inspired by Bon Appetit magazine*

## Word SEARCH

C	L	G	M	D	Y	U	Z	Z	J	B	T	A	V	N
L	M	F	T	X	N	E	J	Y	K	C	E	R	V	S
W	D	R	I	V	I	N	G	R	A	N	G	E	T	Z
J	F	Z	H	D	D	A	Q	E	O	C	K	R	H	O
J	X	G	D	L	L	R	Y	N	P	G	O	D	Z	T
N	D	A	C	B	K	N	I	N	E	K	X	B	Z	F
J	C	O	T	Z	Y	E	W	V	E	V	J	I	L	Z
T	R	A	C	F	L	O	G	Z	E	M	L	R	O	V
A	Q	L	I	O	B	O	W	R	G	R	A	D	Z	D
G	V	L	H	H	G	W	E	U	W	R	E	I	M	M
P	F	I	J	R	H	T	A	B	A	X	E	E	Z	L
A	N	S	P	F	T	E	Q	X	C	D	Q	E	N	M
U	E	R	X	U	Y	Q	N	V	V	I	V	J	N	R
F	A	Z	P	C	X	K	F	M	M	A	L	H	D	Q
P	G	N	I	W	S	X	T	O	M	C	T	T	H	P

Par  
Birdie  
Driver  
Green  
Stroke  
HoleInOne

PGA  
Caddie  
Swing  
Putter  
GolfCart  
DrivingRange



*This publication is intended to educate the general public about personal injury and elder abuse. It is not intended to be legal advice. Every case is different.*

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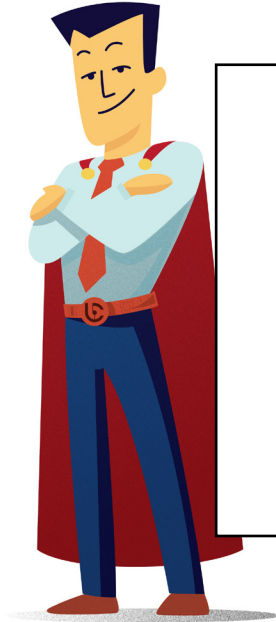
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Have You Played the Oldest Games  
 in the World?



# GAME NIGHT GOES (REALLY) RETRO

## THE OLDEST GAMES YOU CAN PLAY TODAY

People love to play games. When you play Angry Birds while waiting in line at the grocery store, you are actually participating in a long history of gaming that dates back to the earliest civilizations. Through the discovery of ancient game boards, archaeologists learned that the ancient Egyptians played a game called Senet in 3500 B.C. The rules were lost to time, but fortunately, there are plenty of other ancient games we still have the rules for!

**Snakes and Ladders** Sometime during the 2nd century A.D., people in India started playing a board game associated with aspects of traditional Hindu philosophy — namely, the contrast between karma (destiny) and kama (desire). A dice was rolled to navigate a game board where good virtues, represented by ladders, allowed players to move up on the board, and evil vices, represented by snakes, would drag pieces back down. The phrase “Back to square one” is believed to have originated from this game. Snakes and Ladders made its way to England before being brought over to the United States, where it was introduced as “Chutes and Ladders” by none other than Milton Bradley in 1943.

**Backgammon** A blend of luck and strategy, backgammon originated in the Middle East around 5,000 years ago. Possibly an evolution of the ancient Mesopotamian game, the Royal Game of Ur, backgammon has players take turns rolling the dice to move their pieces off the board while trying to outsmart their opponent. Backgammon grew in popularity, spreading from the Middle East to the rest of the ancient world, and is still played by many today.

**Go** Originating in China around the 5th century B.C., Go — or “weiqi,” as it’s called in China — focuses on the virtues of balance, discipline, and focus. Two players go head-to-head, placing their pieces on the board to claim as much territory as possible while simultaneously capturing their opponent’s pieces. Go is likely the oldest board game still being played today, with an estimated 40 million players worldwide. Though the rules are simple, the strategies take a lifetime to master.

These are just a few games that people have been playing around the world for centuries. If you’re ready to add something new to family game night, try something *old* instead!