



**CASE BARNETT**  
— LAW —

# REMEMBERING GRANDPA BARNETT

## THE BIGGEST LESSONS I LEARNED FROM THE HUMBLEST MAN

When I was in high school, I decided to interview my grandfather for an assignment. He had always been a very quiet, unassuming man who would take me golfing with his old military buddies. I was always in awe of the men we played with. I knew my grandfather had done great things, too, but it wasn't until this report — and my grandmother's insistence that he tell me everything — that I realized just how successful my grandfather was.

My grandfather was born John Edward Barnett. (My dad is also John Barnett, but his middle name is different.) He never liked to brag about his accomplishments, but he was a Marine fighter pilot, and he later served as a Judge Advocate General's (JAG) lawyer. In layman's terms, he was an attorney who handled affairs in the military courts.

To this day, I distinctly remember sitting down to interview Grandpa with my grandma's voice in the background saying, "Oh, John, tell him about ..." My grandmother was his biggest advocate, and without her, this quiet, reserved man would have never bragged about what he had done — even though he had every right to do so.

My grandfather was a big influence on me, and I think about him often. I was reminded of

him this September when I discovered that it was National Grandparents Day on Sept. 8, and I got to thinking about all that I learned from my grandpa. The biggest lesson was how to handle myself. Just by being around him and his military buddies, I learned how to not take life so seriously but also how to be courteous, thoughtful, and a good friend. Some of my greatest childhood memories are out on those golf courses with Grandpa.

I was about 17 years old when my grandfather passed away. Sometimes I wish I had spent more time asking all of my grandparents questions about their lives — although, I wonder if they would be as humble as Grandpa Barnett was. I didn't fully appreciate the lessons they had to teach or understand how valuable the time I had with my grandparents could be.

I also wonder what it would be like if my grandfather was around for Harlow and Finn, but then I remember that they are so lucky with their own grandparents! Now that I'm a dad, I really enjoy watching this type of relationship grow from a new perspective. I'm no longer just a son and a grandson; I'm also a dad watching my son and daughter develop a relationship with my parents.



Finn and Harlow are obsessed with all of their grandparents! COVID-19 has been especially difficult for both our kids and their grandparents, so when they could finally get together safely again, it was like watching an explosion of love. I didn't realize how much they needed each other until I saw that happen. It was really beautiful to witness.

This National Grandparents Day, I'll take time to remember my grandfather and my other grandparents for the influence they had on my life. If I could go back in time, I know I would appreciate their relationships more, but instead, I choose to focus on the gratitude I feel watching Finn and Harlow make memories with their grandparents.

Like most grandchildren, they will never forget these moments.

—Case Barnett



# PREPPING FOR AN EMPTY NEST?

## 3 Things to Do Before Your Graduate Leaves



***Congratulations to parents sending their children off to college or “the real world” this year! Parenthood is not for the faint of heart — from toddler meltdowns to angsty teenage years, you might be counting down the days to an empty nest.***

Yet, that doesn't make your child moving off to college any easier.

Fear not, for you can help your child live more independently at college in many ways and give yourself peace of mind knowing that your baby is going to be fine.

### **Prepare Legal Documents**

Once they turn 18, your child is no longer under your care — legally speaking. You can no longer make decisions for them, including medical decisions, should they become incapacitated and unable to make their own decisions. Connect with a trusted attorney to create medical and financial powers of attorney that give you these rights. (Just consult with your child first before doing so!)

### **Cover the Household Basics**

If there's one thing to look forward to, it's all the laundry you won't have to do anymore. And the fridge will be fully stocked without ravenous teens emptying it regularly! But before you drop your child off at college or

their new home, make sure they can manage laundry, cook basic meals, and keep a tidy space. Some basics to cover include the difference between hot and cold wash and how to make scrambled eggs.

### **Make a Budget**

Living as a broke young adult is almost like a rite of passage to “real” adulthood, but you can make this experience easier just by opening that often taboo door and talking about money. Explain the processes or budgeting systems that work for your family and guide your child through their potential living expenses. Try test runs so they understand how much they will have to spend on necessities, like groceries, hygiene items, and gas.

Pro Tip: Before your children take off, don't forget to schedule one more dental appointment! We can set up recurring appointments during breaks to ensure their oral health is never compromised.

## OUR CLIENTS SAY IT BEST

*"I have practiced criminal law and been a trial lawyer for almost 30 years. When I suffered a catastrophic injury, I spoke with three different lawyers who I had known for many years, including Case Barnett. The other two lawyers were hesitant to take the case because I had signed a waiver — one refused it altogether. Case did a little research and enthusiastically agreed to represent me. He assigned his outstanding and experienced associate Dena Weiss to work the case, and that was it. About 24 months after hiring him, I had a very healthy six-figure settlement. A far cry from the pessimism of the other lawyers. Since hiring Case, I have heard of many other clients he has gotten good results for and tellingly, I know of several lawyers from different fields who have referred him cases. As such, I would enthusiastically recommend Case Barnett for any personal injury matter."*

**-Marine West**



# BACK IN SESSION

## The Courts Are Open – It's Been Interesting

In a recent edition of our newsletter, we considered the ways in which the courts may change as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. While Zoom hearings offered a temporary solution, we all knew courthouses would once again host lawyers, judges, and juries for trials some day.

Well, that day has come, and it's been ... interesting!

Since we practice in California, there are strict rules in place, including mask requirements for everyone in the courtroom. However, we don't believe that's necessarily a bad thing. While they may be annoying, masks do protect us from the spread of germs, and Case believes masks could create more impartiality. Rather than seeing subtle body language or facial expressions, jurors and judges are forced to examine the facts. This can prevent collusion when coming to decisions.

Of course, this also means attorneys have a hard time reading the credibility and honesty of jurors. There are a few telltale signs of a person's character, but these become difficult to identify when half of the face is covered with a mask.

Moreover, returning to court means juries are in a precarious situation. Case underwent jury selection in mid-July, and in order to do that, 180 summons were sent out across the county. Jurors were assigned to groups of 45 and a specific time to show up for jury selection to limit the interaction and potential spread of COVID-19. Unfortunately, less than half of the people who were summoned showed up for service.

The virus also impacted who was available. Case estimates that a quarter of the potential jurors were starting up work again and couldn't leave their jobs. Others faced complications or family implications due to the virus. This limited the jury pool, coupled with these factors, made jury selection a more tedious process.

As the case progresses, the biggest fear on both sides is the potential for a positive COVID-19 test. This could delay proceedings or result in a mistrial and could delay justice.

Regardless of the new protocols to worry about, it feels great to be back in court fighting for our clients. Masks and potential jury complications shouldn't deter you from the justice you deserve. To learn more about how Case Barnett Law can help you, please contact us today. Pandemic or not, you deserve someone who will fight for you.



*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!



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The Night That Changed Football Forever



# THE NIGHT THAT CHANGED FOOTBALL FOREVER

## HOW FANTASY FOOTBALL GOT ITS START

Every year, 40 million Americans (and even entire offices) play fantasy football, "drafting" players from across the NFL for their virtual teams and competing for money and bragging rights. Maybe you have a virtual team in the locker room as you're reading this! But where did the concept of fantasy football start?

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, the gridiron trend began in a New York City hotel room in 1962 — a night that changed football forever. There, a group of friends led by Oakland Raiders part-owner Bill Winkenbach created the first fantasy football league. They dubbed it the Greater Oakland Professional Pigskin Prognosticators League — or GOPPPL for short. Apart from the point values assigned to different accomplishments on the field, their original model wasn't very far off from the fantasy football of today.

"The league members would 'draft' actual National Football League (NFL) and American Football League ... players to their fantasy franchises, and on the basis of the actual performance of those

players in games, the members would accrue points and compete against each other," the encyclopedia reports.



Early fantasy football leagues were complicated undertakings. In the days before the internet, members had to agree to reference the box scores in a particular newspaper's sports pages and "draft" their teams in the same room on long phone calls, or even via snail mail.

CBS Sports began offering online fantasy football leagues in 1997, and today it's even easier to play. The sport is built right into the NFL website (Fantasy.NFL.com), and you can join a free league or start a league of your own with a click! Whether you're a former player or a superfan who wants to play coach for a day, fantasy is a great way to stake a personal claim in the sport and connect with friends while you do it.

Check out the article "How to Play Fantasy Football: A Beginner's Guide" on NFL.com to learn the basics. It's updated annually, so make sure you hunt down the 2021 version! When you start, don't forget to salute Winkenbach, the official "Father of Fantasy Sports."