

THE Key Piece

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
LOYD J. BOURGEOIS LLC



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YOU MAKE THE CHOICES *...leading to your results!*

I recently attended a great conference hosted by a mentor of mine out in Virginia. One lesson which really resonated with me was this – take ownership of your choices. They lead to your results! We all know this but we often forget. Hearing it at the conference was a great reminder for me!

The lesson really struck home as we started putting out postings to help grow our team. Our postings include very simple but specific instructions and a warning – if you don't follow these instructions, you will not be considered. Out of the 100 or so responses we received, less than 15 people followed the basic instructions. This means a lot of people don't like where they currently are and chose to look for something different, but are left wondering why they are not getting the results they seek.

They likely want a better job or to move up in their careers, but their choices lead to a different conclusion. They chose this result!

The beauty of the message is not necessarily in figuring out that choices you make lead to your current results, but in figuring out what results you want and making the choices to get you there.

What results are you seeking? What choices can you make to get you closer to that result? What choices are you currently making preventing you from getting to your result? If you want some help figuring it out, let us know.

Sincerely,

This guy just doesn't get it – and he's not alone!

The most recent issue of the Louisiana Bar Journal included an article titled, "How'd I Do?" in which the author – a partner at one of those ivory tower, white shoe, country club New Orleans old-line law firms – complained about the rise in surveys and reviews to get customer feedback. His closing argument was this: "Just work hard, do your job and don't go looking for any pat on the back." As he puts it, "The pat on the back is when they pay your bill."

bill but walked away thinking, "I'm never going back there!" Yeah, me too. Whether it was the bathrooms, the service, the cleanliness or something else, there is more than just paying the bill!

What about a store you purchased things from in the past, but you refuse to go to back because the service is just horrible? You will literally drive 30 minutes out of your way to get what you need. Yeah, I have one of those as well.

Have you ever been to a restaurant and paid the

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OUR MISSION

We Help You Fight
Life's Legal Battles with
Compassion and Care!

Our Firm's COMMUNICATION POLICY

Our promise to you is that while we are working on YOUR case – we are WORKING on YOUR case. And this goes for each and every one of our clients. This means that our focus and attention are squarely on your case and not anything else. Because of this, Loyd Bourgeois DOES NOT take unscheduled phone calls or emails. This makes him more productive, efficient and knowledgeable about YOUR case. It may help get your issue resolved faster. You can always call the office at (985) 240-9773 and schedule a phone appointment or in-person visit.

DISCLAIMER: *This publication is intended to educate our clients, referral sources and others in our network about disability denials and disabling personal injury claims. This is not intended to be legal advice. Each case is different. You can pass this information along to your family and friends as long as the newsletter is copied in its entirety.*

LJB's Cookin' Corner

BARBECUE SHRIMP

One of the best things in life is having great neighbors! And we have the best. This was proven again recently when Jarrett came by and asked for an ice chest because he was getting some shrimp and needed extra holding space. Turns out, the shrimp were a gift from a family friend, and Jarrett wanted to share as well.

We ended up with about 30 pounds of shrimp in the freezer and a re-affirmation of how great our neighbors are! We are truly blessed to have them in our lives. Thirty pounds of shrimp has us feeling like Bubba Gump lately, but here's one of our go-to recipes:

INGREDIENTS

- 3 pounds large Gulf shrimp in their shells
- Cracked black pepper
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/4 cup chopped onions
- 2 tablespoons minced garlic
- 3 bay leaves
- 3 lemons, peeled and sectioned
- 2 cups water
- 1/2 cup Worcestershire sauce
- 1/4 cup dry white wine
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 tablespoon chopped chives
- 2 tablespoons creole seasoning

INSTRUCTIONS

Dehead shrimp and remove about half of the shell leaving the tail. Sprinkle the shrimp with 1 tablespoon Creole seasoning and fresh cracked black pepper. Use your hands to coat the shrimp with the seasonings. Refrigerate the shrimp while you make the sauce base.



Heat 1 tablespoon of the oil in a large pot over high heat. When the oil is hot, add the onions and garlic and sauté for 1 minute. Add the remaining Creole seasoning, the bay leaves, lemons, water, Worcestershire, wine, salt and black pepper. Stir well and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat and simmer for 30 minutes. Remove from the heat and allow to cool for about 15 minutes.

There should be about 1 1/2 cups. Place over high heat, bring to a boil, and cook until thick, syrupy and dark brown, for about 15 minutes. Makes about 4 to 5 tablespoons of barbecue sauce base. Heat the remaining 1 tablespoon of oil in a large skillet over high heat. When the oil is hot, add the seasoned shrimp and sauté them, occasionally shaking the skillet, for 2 minutes. Add the cream and all of the barbecue base.

Stir and simmer for 3 minutes. Remove the shrimp to a warm platter with tongs, and whisk the butter into the sauce. Remove from the heat. Mound the shrimp in the center of a platter. Spoon the sauce over the shrimp and around the plate.

We like to eat these with either grits or biscuits. Enjoy!

Thanks for your recent referrals!

C. Jones
P. Triche
L. Licciardi
Morrison (Atty)
Pond Lehocky Law Firm

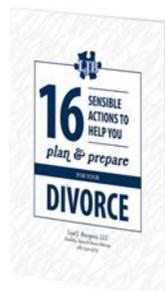
S. Gautier
L. Weekley
Sean Pilie (Atty) Chip
Tim Benedetto (Atty)
Creative Family Services

We welcome AND appreciate your referrals! Please make sure if you refer someone to make sure they tell us about YOU! We accept referrals in disability, injury and divorce cases.

GET OUR BOOKS!

We are here to help you understand your legal situation so you can make the best decisions about your case and your life as possible. Grab your copy of our FREE Guides today at www.LJBGuides.com:

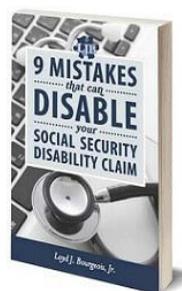
16 Sensible Actions to Help You Plan & Prepare for Your Divorce



Quick Guide to Louisiana Accident and Injury Claims



9 Mistakes That Can Disable Your Social Security Disability Claim



The ugly side of tort reform

Recently, Tort Reform advocates have been trying to change many of Louisiana's laws to make it more difficult, costly and burdensome to hold others accountable for their own negligence in an effort to "reduce costs" and "save money." While their efforts have failed so far, we can bet they are not done in trying to take away your rights to be made whole. While tort reform "advocates" have many statistics, here are a couple of things to keep in mind:

- A Forbes (you know – the business magazine famous for identifying the 400 richest people in the world) contributor once said the devil's "second greatest trick may be the insurance industry's success in getting more than half the states to implement tort reform."
- A 2017 National Institutes of Health study on tort reform in Texas (passed 15 years earlier), found "reforming the malpractice environment has largely insignificant economic implications..."
- Recent testimony before the Louisiana legislature by those advocating for "tort reform" indicated that even with all their statistics, the insurance industry tort reform advocates could not say whether or not the changes would result in lower premium rates for Louisiana drivers.

Look, as a person, a taxpayer and business owner, I hate the high cost of insurance and the litigation-first mentality of so many. But I see the devastating effects "tort reform" has and continues to cause! Consider this:

- If you are injured due to someone else's negligence resulting in you losing a limb or losing life, what would that be worth?
 - In an auto-accident with an 18-wheeler, it's worth what the evidence and your community members (jury) say it's worth.
 - In a medical malpractice action, it's worth what the evidence and your community members say it's worth, unless it's worth more than \$500,000. That is the arbitrary cap on general damages in these cases (which has not

changed in almost 30 years). Once you add up medical bills, treatment and lost work, that number isn't as big as it seems. It certainly doesn't go as far as it did 30 years ago.

- What about if a company fails to have a policy to check its floor for hazards, and you slip and fall in a hazardous substance, requiring multiple back surgeries?
 - If the slip-and-fall happens at a hospital or casino or even a government building or school, you play by one set of rules and laws.
 - If the slip-and-fall happens at your grocery store, department store, restaurant or other "merchant," you play by a completely different set of rules and laws designed to make it virtually impossible to receive compensation for your injuries.
- And this is most infuriating to me – the advocates of these reforms cannot say with any certainty that by removing your rights, you will actually see a benefit in the form of cheaper costs!

Current tort-reform advocates want to put a cap on all commercial vehicle accidents at the same level it was set for medical malpractice cases 30 years ago. They further argue courts are so over-stressed with "frivolous" lawsuits, they cannot operate properly. But studies indicate civil filings have decreased by almost 50 percent since 2010 in some states, and tort cases (those primarily filed by individuals against a business or insurance company) only account for about 4 percent of civil cases!

I encourage all of you to look deeper into any tort reform efforts. Look specifically at who is funding these efforts (hint: it's not consumer advocates looking out for your best interests). And make your voice heard by calling or writing your state representative and letting them know your stance on these measures designed to take away your rights, often at a time when you need them the most!

DOESN'T GET IT CONTINUED...

Or, what about a lawyer or doctor who you hired – where you were like, "They saw me, so I'll pay, but I'm not so sure if I'm ever calling them again. The staff was rude. I never received a call back.

The point is this – paying the bill doesn't tell us anything other than YOU the customer upheld your end of the deal.

Paying the bill doesn't tell us if you are happy; if you felt your questions were addressed; if you hated your experience; if you are going to come back again; if your experience was so great, you are going to tell your friends. Maybe those high-rise New Orleans lawyers only care about getting their bill paid. But down here in Luling, we care about a little more!

REVIEW ROUNDUP

PROFESSIONAL, YET PERSONABLE & CARING!

"I was in the unfortunate situation of having to sue my long-term disability company when they stopped my disability payments. I never sued a company before and was confused and intimidated. I was unable to work at my job of 15+ years – or any other job – due to complications from breast cancer treatment, and knew I needed help fast. A former co-worker referred me to Loyd Bourgeois, and I never looked back! He was extremely knowledgeable, upfront and honest about everything involving my situation. He was also professional and compassionate. I knew he cared about myself and my family, and I wasn't just a "case" to him. He was quick to respond anytime I sent an email or called his office. His paralegal Christy was equally as professional and caring. Loyd Bourgeois and his team are top-notch, and I will recommend him to any family or friends I know! He saw my case all the way to the end, and I am very happy with my outcome and thankful Loyd Bourgeois and his fantastic team were fighting for me through it all!"

– Brenda

EXCELLENT SERVICE

"I was permanently disabled with a mental disability, and Loyd spent extra time and care to make sure I understood the process. It took a long time, but his understanding and patient staff kept me up to date and always returned my calls with the right answers. I would definitely recommend Loyd Bourgeois."

– Anonymous

Loyd's response – Brenda and Anonymous! We truly enjoyed fighting for you during this tough time, and are so grateful for your kind words. If you want to leave us a review, search for us on Google, AVVO or Facebook – Loyd J. Bourgeois, LLC! Let us know how we are doing!

LJB Legal giving thanks for Thanksgiving!

With Thanksgiving fast approaching, our team wants to give thanks to our tribe of newsletter readers with cold, hard plastic – well, a \$100 grocery gift card! Here's how we are going to select the winner.

1. Send your favorite Thanksgiving recipe to info@ljblegal.com.
2. All recipes submitted by Nov. 15, 2019 will entered into a random drawing.
3. The winner will be selected on Facebook Live!

We'll publish your recipe in our November newsletter! You will get a shiny \$100 gift card before Thanksgiving to prepare your favorites.

JOKES OF THE MONTH

I've heard, "Don't go grocery shopping while you are hungry."
But it's been a week, and I just keep getting hungrier. What now?

I have this neighbor who lives in the apartment above us. Man, he has some nerve. He knocked on my door last night at 2:30 a.m. I answered and he says, "Can you please stop playing your drums!"

What do you call a parade of rabbits hopping backwards?
A receding hare line.



Catch some shirts at HHS football games!

Our team recently donated more than 150 shirts to the HHS Robotics Club to shoot out of its robotic shirt launcher at HHS home games! If you go to the game and catch a shirt, let us know! We would love to get a picture.

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