

SNELLINGS LAW PLLC

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SnellingsInjuryLaw.com

July 2020

Meet Emily

Coming Together Again After Tragedy

This month, I want to share a client's unique story. Meet Emily.

I first met Emily's mom, Lisa, when we served together on the Volunteer McKinney Board of Directors. At the same time I was undergoing my kidney transplant, Emily was having severe health issues of her own. Doctors couldn't figure out what was wrong with her. I heard about Emily through a mutual friend and reached out to Lisa to check in on Emily. After the transplant surgery, my wife and I would go visit Emily and Lisa to see how they were doing. Both ladies inspired us with their positive attitudes and unrelenting hope.

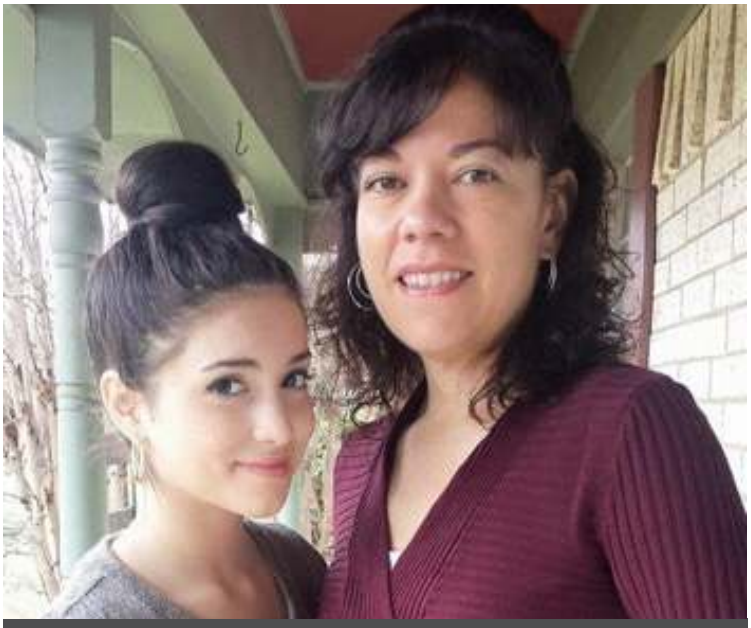
Finally, doctors diagnosed Emily's condition. She had Lyme disease, a debilitating disease that comes with many different symptoms, including fever, fatigue, aches, pains, and much more. The disease sapped Emily's energy, and there were times she didn't have the strength to walk.

After her diagnosis, Emily got the symptoms under control, but the disease is something that will remain with her for the rest of her life. Emily was able to graduate high school and was looking forward to beginning dental hygienist school. Then June 6, 2019, happened.

Emily was riding as a passenger in a vehicle that was T-boned on the passenger's side — right where Emily was sitting. The force from the impact caused Emily to suffer severe injuries for which she was hospitalized. Emily and Lisa reached out to us after this happened, worried about the mounting medical bills and what Emily's future would look like.

Thankfully, Emily is a warrior. She fought hard to push through her physical therapy and other related treatment. Nothing was going to hold her back from moving forward and pursuing her chosen career.

> **"Emily and Lisa reached out to us ... worried about the mounting bills and what Emily's future would look like."**



Emily with her mom, Lisa

After all of her treatment was complete, we worked with Emily to put together a very thorough demand package by walking through all of the different areas of her life that had been affected. She then helped us gather the different evidence and documentation we needed to put the most comprehensive demand package together possible — and it paid off. We were able to secure a great result for Emily that allowed her to not only move forward and start school but also provide funds for additional future treatment for her Lyme disease.

"I'm so glad everything turned out the way it did. I'm glad I met Scott when I was in the hospital all those years ago. I'm glad my mom had met Scott on the board of directors for Volunteer McKinney, and I'm glad I hired him after my car accident last year. I'm in a much better place now thanks to Scott, his team, and their hard work." –Emily

We are too, Emily! Clients like you inspire us to give it our all each and every day knowing that you are depending on us to get you the best result possible.

– Scott Snellings



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

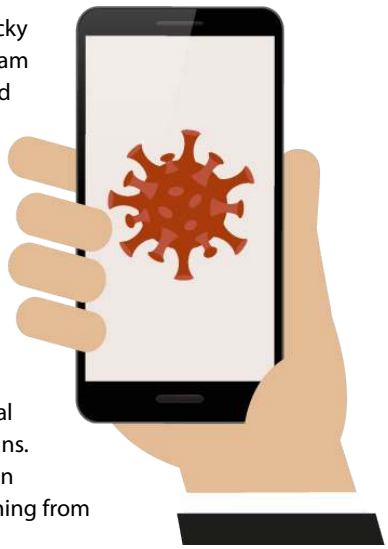
When the federal government started distributing relief checks, several scammers sent out unsolicited emails, disguised as legitimate instructions, asking for personal information from people in order to receive their $1,200. Since many people have now received their checks, this particular scam may 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

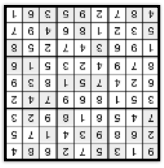
This is usually a dead giveaway. While genuine, official updates about the coronavirus will be meticulously checked for spelling and grammar, scammers aren't as careful. Missing periods, misspelled words, and wacky syntax errors are all hallmarks of scam emails. Make sure you carefully read any email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

Inspired by 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.



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!

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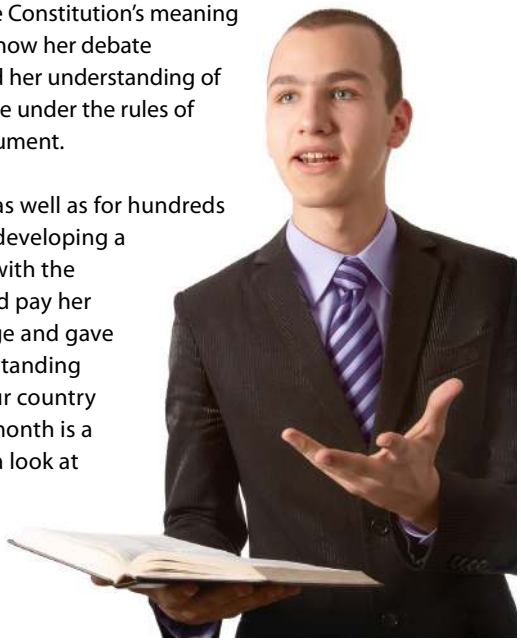
WHAT DOES THE CONSTITUTION MEAN TO YOU?

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.

Published by The Newsletter Pro • www.newsletterpro.com