



PAINTING A FULLER PICTURE

With Bedroll and Beans

I was initially deep in thought working through the details of some legal issue when my mind wandered off topic and into trying to figure out if I was courageous, foolishly optimistic, or flat out naïve for leaving a good-paying job to go out and start a new law firm. As my mind continued wandering, I heard the front door open. I stood and looked down the hallway where I saw my dad carrying a painting with his big smile.

"Hey bud, I brought you a little something for the new office." As he turned it around, I saw a G. Harvey painting in a textured greyish frame. It immediately reminded me of my childhood. Growing up, my dad loved G. Harvey paintings and had a few around the house. As a young boy, I remember staring at them, admiring the horses and cowboys and thinking how tough those guys must have been.

The one my dad brought me was different, though. It still had cowboys and horses, but it was darker. There were no flags or gatherings of people. It felt quieter and more difficult. The scene was of several cowboys packing up on a cold rainy morning and heading out to do their jobs. I didn't spend too much time with the details initially. I thanked my dad, then I hung it in my new office.

Over the last 13-plus years though, I have looked at the details. I often find myself staring into the depths of that painting as I think through problems, work on planning, or try and figure out life in general. Even now, I continue to notice new things about the painting despite looking at it thousands of times. My mind

has created stories for the characters in the painting, a specific location, and even names for the cowboys and horses. I even feel a sense of camaraderie with them on those days when I know things are going to be rough.

It is odd how the mind does that. I didn't intentionally set out to create a setting, characters, and stories. My mind automatically went there when I engaged with the painting. Our minds crave stories. We grow up with them, we learn with them, and they keep us engaged and entertained. Look at the Bible. Regardless of

whether you have ever read a page of it, you most likely know many of the seminal characters because you have heard their stories.



That is one of the reasons we spend so much time not just with our clients, but with those who know them. We dig out their stories. Anyone can stand up there and show a jury medical records, a crash report, and photos. Those are all important, but those pieces of evidence only provide a small part of the victim's story. We have to show the full scope of how our client's life was affected in order for the jury to do

their job. We must paint our own picture for the jury so that they can connect with our client and fully understand the trauma someone else brought into our client's lives. If we have done our jobs, then the jury will have their own mental painting to look at and examine as they discuss and decide on a verdict.

- Scott Snellings

Spring Fever

Enjoy Warm Weather While Stuck Indoors

The weather is warming up, the sun is out — and you're trapped inside. Most of us have jobs that leave us stuck indoors during spring's prime midday hours, and it's easy to feel like you're missing out on the season's best parts.

Unfortunately, your boss probably won't give you the day off just because of the gorgeous weather. So, we've compiled the next best thing — some tips to enjoy the season as much as you can while also getting your job done.

Bring the outdoors in. When the weather is nice, open as many curtains and blinds as possible. The natural light will warm up the room and brighten your mood. While you're at it, try opening the windows and positioning yourself near one. If you can't be outside, the spring breeze on your face is the next best thing. Plants decrease stress, and having them on your desk might also trick your brain into feeling less cooped up.

Take a break. You've still got to work, but that doesn't mean you can't sneak in a few minutes outdoors. Use your break for an outdoor stroll; if possible, you can also walk or bike to work. At the very least, park farther away to give yourself time to enjoy the weather. Volunteer to do a coffee run, pick up lunch, or take out the mail — you'll be an office hero while catching some rays at the same time.

Try working outside. If your boss will allow it, there's probably some opportunity to do a bit of work outdoors. Meetings and conference calls might offer your best option. For in-person meetings, your coworkers will also likely relish a chance to take it outdoors. In the event of a conference call, you won't need to convince anyone else — grab your laptop and go! It's not the same as enjoying the weather while you're off the clock, but it's a lot better than being cooped up inside.

With any luck, these tips will help you make it to Friday with your sanity intact. And luckily, the weekend is always just around the corner.



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hearings, or a trial without representation — and if you cannot afford to hire an attorney, the court will provide you with a public defender.

Ironically, to invoke your right to remain silent, you have to talk — simply not speaking isn't considered sufficient. A person needs to say as clearly as possible that they are invoking their rights and want an attorney.

Many people waive their rights because they know they're not guilty — or they think that speaking with the police will make them *look* innocent. Criminal defense attorneys strongly advise against this. Body language, off-handed statements, or inconsistent recounting of events can be used as evidence of guilt. And sadly, many innocent people have been sentenced to time in prison.



Though film and TV scripts tend to use uniform wording, there's no required Miranda rights phrasing. Police only need to state the rights and ensure the suspect understands them. It's also notable that police only have to read Miranda rights when they arrest a suspect — and they can question someone without detaining them. Courts consider anything the suspect says when not under arrest to be of their own free will.

If you're ever arrested or questioned in connection with a crime, the best way to protect your rights is to invoke them right away. Hire an experienced criminal defense attorney or ask the court to appoint one for you. The lawyer will review your case, help you understand the charges, and provide expert guidance on your next steps. Don't feel bad about doing so — these rights are enshrined in the Constitution. They're just that important.

TAKE A *BREAK*



EASY MARCH MADNESS CHILI

Cheer on your favorite team and chow down in minutes with this easy chili recipe!

Ingredients

- 2 lbs ground beef
- 2 16-oz cans diced tomatoes
- 2 tbsp chili powder
- 2 16-oz cans small red beans
- 1 tbsp Creole seasoning
- 2 8-oz cans tomato sauce
- 1 tsp ground cumin

Directions

1. In a deep pot, brown beef, stirring often.
2. Once beef is cooked, add chili powder, Creole seasoning, and cumin, cooking for 1 minute.
3. Stir in diced tomatoes, beans, and tomato sauce and bring the mixture to a boil.
4. After the mixture boils, reduce the heat to low and let chili simmer for 15 minutes.
5. Serve with toppings of choice, like cheese, sour cream, or chives.

Inspired by MyRecipes.com

I DON'T WANT TO BE LIKE MIKE

Why One Man Sued Michael Jordan for \$832 Million



Many people have been told they have a passing resemblance to a celebrity, and they usually have a funny story or two. To Allen Ray Heckard, his celebrity look-alike was no laughing matter. In 2006, he sued Michael Jordan for looking too much like him and ruining his life.

The amount of the lawsuit was \$832 million, and Heckard not only sued Jordan but also Nike, reasoning that the company helped Jordan achieve his incredible fame. The complaint argued that the resemblance to Jordan "has troubled Heckard's nerves" and being stopped by fans caused him emotional distress for over 15 years. He requested damages for defamation, permanent injury, and pain and suffering.

For someone tired of being "recognized," Heckard didn't shy away from media coverage. When asked how he arrived at the astronomical \$832 million lawsuit figure, he gave this much-shared (yet difficult to parse) answer: "Well, you figure with my age, and you multiply that by seven and, ah, then I turn around and, ah, I figure that's what it all boils down to." When asked why he felt the resemblance to Jordan had affected his life so negatively, he could only answer, "I want to be recognized as me, just like Michael's recognized as Michael."

Funnily enough, most people didn't think Heckard and Jordan looked alike at all. While each had a bald head, mustache, and a gold earring, the similarities seemed to end there. Many news stories noted that, compared to Jordan, Heckard is eight years older and 6 inches shorter.

One question reporters did not appear to ask was why Heckard felt that Jordan should be held personally liable for hundreds of millions of dollars simply for his natural appearance. Sadly, we will probably never know the answer because the case ended rather unceremoniously. After a few weeks, Heckard dropped the lawsuit. He never publicly shared why, but a Nike spokesperson was glad to speculate that Heckard "finally realized he would end up paying our court costs if the lawsuit went to trial."

In the end, many '90s kids would argue that Heckard was most guilty of looking a gift horse in the mouth. After all, there is no higher achievement than to "be like Mike."

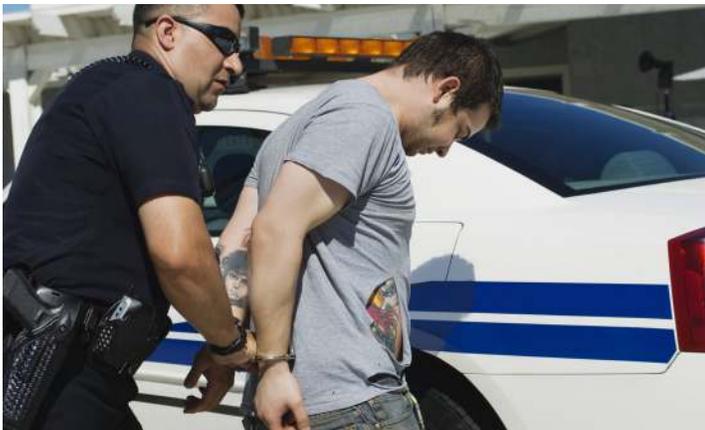
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You Have the Right to ... What Now? Understanding and Using Your Miranda Rights

If you watch a lot of procedural dramas on television, you can probably recite your Miranda rights by heart:

You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law. You have the right to an attorney. If you cannot afford an attorney, one will be provided for you.



But why are these words so ubiquitous? What do they mean in the real world? And do you really need to worry about your rights if you haven't committed a crime?

Miranda rights originated in 1966 through the Supreme Court case *Miranda v. Arizona*. Police arrested Ernesto Miranda on kidnapping charges, and after two hours of questioning, he eventually confessed to the crime. His attorneys argued that Miranda did not understand his rights at the time of the confession, so the courts should disregard it as evidence of his guilt. The Supreme Court agreed, saying that one cannot sign away their rights without first understanding them.

The right to remain silent originates from the Fifth Amendment right to not self-incriminate. In this context, "staying silent" means not answering questions from the police. Though experts recommend silence from the beginning, a person can invoke their rights partway through an interrogation. The right to an attorney means you do not have to go through questioning,

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