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Cases We Handle:

- Personal Injury/
Wrongful Death
- Business Law
- Criminal Law/DWI
- Immigration

UGLY SWEATER PARTIES

A Fun Trend You Can Easily Follow!

It's speculated that the first ugly sweater party took place in Vancouver, Canada, back in 2001. Since then, the trend has become one of the most popular holiday party themes. Come Thanksgiving, you'll start to see racks in all types of clothing stores lined with hideous sweaters. If you're ready to jump on the ugly-sweater-party bandwagon this Christmas season, here a few things to keep in mind.

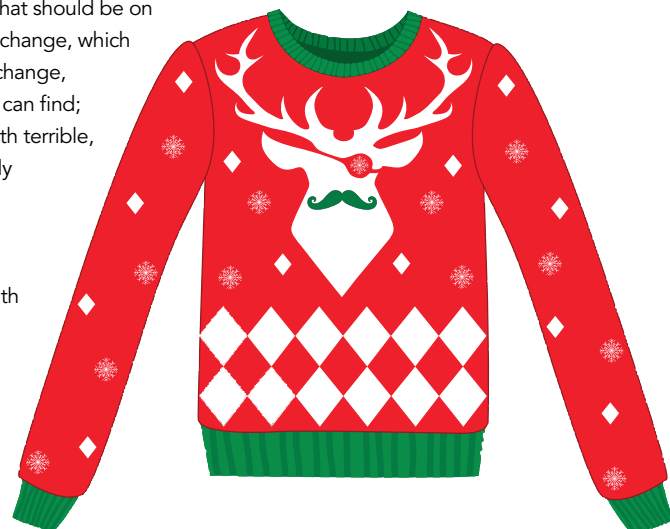
YOUR VERY OWN UGLY SWEATER

Ugly sweaters come in all shapes, sizes, and prices. You can head to H&M or a local thrift store to pick one up. However, if you have a sweater that's been coozied up for years in the back of your closet or a drawer, now's your chance to give it new life. Arm yourself with a hot glue gun, thread, and needle, and patch Santa, Rudolph, or Frosty on it. And let it be known that an ugly sweater isn't complete without sparkles, beads, and sequins galore.

WHAT EXACTLY IS AN UGLY SWEATER PARTY?

It's rather simple — slip on your favorite Christmas sweater, gather all your friends and family members, make sure there are plenty of refreshments and games, and you're guaranteed to have a top-tier party. A few ugly-sweater-themed games that should be on the agenda include an ugly gift exchange, which is similar to the white elephant exchange, except with the gaudiest gifts you can find; an ugly photo booth, complete with terrible, tacky props; and, of course, an ugly sweater contest.

This is the only time of year when slipping into a lurid red sweater with a stuffed Santa sewn on the front is considered trendy. So adorn yourself in the frumpiest, tackiest sweater you can find, and have some fun this December!



THE TEXAS LAW DOG

I COME TO FIGHT. I DON'T BARK. I BITE!

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Giving Back and Ending the Year on a

HIGH NOTE

My community means so much to me. If you've followed the newsletter over these past few months, you know about a few of the causes my wife and I are involved with. This includes Doodle Rock Rescue, TangoTab, and Mission Arlington. These three causes are particularly close to my heart. This month I want to take some time to delve into these organizations a little further.

Alison and I love dogs. Because we are so passionate about dogs, and doodles in particular, we reached out to Doodle Rock Rescue, and this became a small way for us to give back. We currently have a goldendoodle named Cleo and a Great Pyrenees named Sugar. Alison had a labradoodle named Silvey for 13 years, who unfortunately passed away last year. I've had doodles before getting Cleo, as well.

Doodle Rock Rescue (doodlerockrescue.org) is dedicated to rescuing, rehabilitating, and rehoming goldendoodles and other similar breeds that fall into the "doodle" category. Because of the growing popularity for doodles, there are a lot of unethical breeders out there who treat these dogs like a commodity.

A lot of it comes down to the fact that people are willing to pay thousands of dollars to obtain one

of these "designer dogs." But sometimes, life happens — sometimes people are forced to give up their beloved dogs, or by unfortunate circumstances, the dogs end up in a kill shelter.

No matter the situation, Doodle Rock Rescue does what they can to save dogs from these unfortunate circumstances, one doodle at a time. Families like ours work with the rescue to help the dogs transition to their forever homes. It brings Alison and me great joy to see the smiles on kids' faces when a doodle joins their family.

TangoTab, an app we've profiled in the newsletter, is a great way for everyone to get involved in giving back to the community. TangoTab's mission is to give you the easiest way to feed people in need in your city. When you check in at a restaurant on the app, the company donates the monetary cost of a meal to a local food organization.

Every week, over one billion meals are served to Americans who dine out. With TangoTab, each one of those meals has the potential to become a meal for someone in need. There's no extra cost to you, and there are over 100,000 participating restaurants on the app. It really is that simple!

If you want to get involved, be sure to check out TangoTab's website (tangotab.com) or their Facebook page to become a part of their Feed the City event. Alison and I host one of these events the first Saturday morning of every month at Troy's at Texas Live! in Arlington (texas-live.com/eat-and-drink/troys). We would love to have you join us in making meals for the hungry.

Another organization that means a lot to me is Mission Arlington. They do so much for Arlington and the surrounding metroplex. Very recently, they were able to provide Thanksgiving meals to many who would have otherwise gone without.

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Sugar and Cleo

3 Ways to Use Leftover Candy

During the Oh-So-Sweet Holiday Season

Sometimes we get a little too much of the sweet stuff. Between Halloween and New Year's Day, candy is everywhere. It's at home, at work, and on store shelves. Then, as the year comes to an end, many people start thinking about eating right and losing weight. When those are your New Year's resolutions, you have to do something about all the leftover candy so it's not around come Jan. 1.

Here are a few ways to get rid of your leftover candy ASAP.

Donate it. While you may have an abundance of sweets, not everyone does. Consider donating wrapped and packaged candy to your local food bank or other nonprofits, including local homeless or women's shelters. You can also look into donating candy to nearby schools. Many teachers will gladly take candy off your hands to reward students (or themselves) with treats throughout the rest of the school year.

Bake with it. Whether you have an excess of candy corn or candy bars, you can bake with your sweet leftovers. The next time you make chocolate chip cookies, swap out the chocolate chips for candy corn. Or the next time you make brownies, chop up leftover candy bars and add them to the batter. From peanut butter cups to mint patties, there are so many different types of candies that can take traditional baked goods to the next level.

Store it. Although not great for you, candy is fine to eat in moderation. A good way to moderate your holiday treat intake is to store your leftover sweets in the freezer. That way, you can pull a little from your supply each month to make sure you aren't overdoing it. That said, be sure to check the expiration dates on all candy you save.



INSIDE INSURANCE



3 Tactics Insurance Companies Use Against You

We all know insurance companies don't always play fair, especially after an accident. They are in business to make money and to pay out as little as possible when the time comes. Insurance adjusters, for instance, are trained to talk you out of fair compensation. For those of us who buy insurance and hope it will be there when we need it, this can be frustrating. Here are three ways insurance companies don't play fair.

Constant Delays Insurance adjusters know people hate getting on the phone with them. They know people have to go to work, take care of their families, and pay bills. They know a lot of people live paycheck to paycheck and would love to have extra cash on-hand. Then, when you need to talk to an adjuster about your claim, it seems that they're suddenly hard to get ahold of. As a result, people are more likely to settle as soon as possible just to get it over with — and end up losing out on the compensation they're entitled to.

Inconvenient or Unnecessary Requests It's not uncommon for adjusters to ask for information or documentation that seems unrelated to your case. You may have to do some digging to find those documents, and it may feel like you're being led on a wild goose chase. They may require information related to your health or your car. Sometimes, the adjuster may request documentation you've already submitted. It's another layer of inconvenience to get you to settle without putting up a fight.

Questioning Your Medical Treatment or History Adjusters typically ask questions about your medical care following an accident. They may question your need for treatment or want to know all the specifics of your treatment. Giving them too many details — or too few — can harm your case. They're looking for any reason to reduce the amount of your insurance settlement.

Thankfully, you can break past the frustration. When you have an experienced attorney fighting for you, you can rest easy. If you or a loved one has been in an accident, call 817.775.5364 (LDOG) to get the help you need.

America's Worst Drivers

ONE AGE GROUP IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MOST ACCIDENTS ON THE ROAD

Which age group do you think ranks as having the worst drivers in America? According to the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, the answer is millennials: motorists ages 19–39.

The AAA Foundation's recent report stated that, in reference to drivers ages 19–24, "88 percent of young millennials engaged in at least one risky behavior behind the wheel in the past 30 days." Risky behaviors are defined as speeding, running red lights, and texting while driving.

The report also noted that traffic-related deaths increased by 7 percent in 2015, which marks the largest increase in more than 50 years — a number that has been steadily increasing overall.

The problem, it seems, is rooted in attitude. Dr. David Yang, executive director with the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, says, "Some of the drivers ages 19–24 believe that their dangerous driving behavior is acceptable."

Another troubling statistic that came out of the report revealed that "nearly 12 percent of drivers ages 19–24 reported feeling that it is acceptable to drive 10 mph over the speed limit in a school zone."

But before you think millennials take all the blame, drivers ages 40–59 are also guilty of speeding, running red lights, and texting while driving. In fact, over 75 percent of people in this age group have done so in the last month. This group comes in third behind older millennials (ages 25–39), who engage in dangerous driving behaviors at a rate of about 79 percent.

Another AAA report, the 2017 Traffic Safety Culture Index, reported that just over half of all drivers routinely drive 15 mph over the posted speed limit on highways, and 10 over on residential streets. On top of this, about 25 percent of drivers believe it is okay to drive 15 mph over the limit.

The takeaway from AAA's report is that practically all drivers engage in poor driving habits. The best thing any of us can do is drive defensively and keep our eyes on the road and on other drivers.



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Christmas is fast approaching, and the holiday season is always busy for Mission Arlington. To get ready for Christmas, the Mission opens a Christmas store where parents can shop for free gifts for their kids. These are gifts that are donated to the community at large, and you can learn more about this store at missionarlington.org/christmas-2.

Alison and I were blessed to have wonderful Christmases when we were growing up — memories we cherish to this day. We believe every child should have great Christmas memories, and through their work, Mission Arlington helps thousands of families make those memories happen.

As the year ends and I look back, I feel that so many great things have happened. Alison and I got married in April, and we opened the law firm in May. God has really blessed us and we can't wait to see what's in store for 2019! With that, from our family to yours, have a merry Christmas, happy holidays, and a wonderful new year.

-Matt Aulsbrook



HOLIDAY ROAST PRIME RIB

Looking for an easy holiday roast that still feels elegant enough for the occasion? Look no further than this delicious prime rib flavored with garlic, thyme, and red wine.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 bone-in prime rib (6–7 pounds)
- 8 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
- 2 cups red wine
- 4 cups beef stock
- 1 tablespoon fresh thyme, chopped
- Salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste

DIRECTIONS

- 30 minutes before cooking, remove roast from fridge and let sit until it reaches room temperature.
- Heat oven to 350 F.
- Make small slits in prime rib and stuff with slices of garlic. Liberally season with salt and pepper.
- Place a rack inside a roasting pan and roast prime rib for 2 hours, until medium-rare.
- To make au jus, place roasting pan with drippings from roast over 2 burners on high. Add wine and scrape pan as liquid reduces. Add beef stock and cook until reduced by half. Finally, sprinkle in thyme.
- Slice roast and serve topped with au jus.

INSPIRED BY THE NEW YORK TIMES