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## Cases We Handle:

- Personal Injury
- Car Wreck
- Wrongful Death
- Truck Wreck

# What Happened on the 21st Night of September?

## 4 DECADES OF EARTH, WIND & FIRE'S 'SEPTEMBER'

*"Do you remember the 21st night of September?"*

In 1978, Maurice White of the band Earth, Wind & Fire first asked this question in the song "September," a funky disco song that quickly topped the charts. While disco may be dead today, "September" certainly isn't. The song is still featured in movies, TV shows, and wedding playlists. On Sept. 21, 2019, the funk hit was streamed over 2.5 million times. It's no wonder that the Los Angeles City Council declared Sept. 21 Earth, Wind & Fire Day.

The story behind "September" is almost as enduring as the song itself. It was co-written by White and Allee Willis, who eventually became a Grammy-winning songwriter and Tony nominee. But before any of that, Willis was a struggling songwriter in Los Angeles living off food stamps. When White reached out and asked Willis to help write the next Earth, Wind & Fire hit, it was truly her big break.

White and Willis proved to be excellent songwriting partners, but they clashed over one key element of the song: the nonsensical phrase "ba-dee-ya," which White included in the chorus.

Throughout the songwriting process, Willis begged to change the phrase to real words. At the final vocal session, Willis finally demanded to know what ba-dee-ya meant. White replied, "Who cares?"

"I learned my greatest lesson ever in songwriting from him," Willis recalled in a 2014 interview with NPR, "which was never let the lyric get in the way of the groove."

The groove is why "September" has stood the test of time, right from that very first lyric. For decades, people have asked Willis and members of the band about the significance of Sept. 21. As it turns out, there isn't much beyond the sound.

"We went through all the dates: 'Do you remember the first, the second, the third, the fourth ...' and the one that just felt the best was the 21st," Willis explained.

The truth is that nothing happened on the 21st night of September — except a whole lot of dancing.





# THE TEXAS

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

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# A Voice for Those Who Need One

## MEET ANABEL AVILA



*The Aulsbrook Law Firm continues to grow! Over the past several months, we have welcomed a number of new faces to the Law Dog Team. Last month, we introduced you to Megan Romero. This month, we want to tell you all about Anabel Avila!*

I've worked in personal injury for about two decades. I've seen a lot, so I've been able to help people a lot. I joined the Aulsbrook team in February 2020, just before this year turned into a roller-coaster ride.

Since joining the team, I couldn't be happier to be a part of this group. I came from a bigger firm, and now that I'm working with a smaller firm, I'm learning the value of working in a more focused environment. Everyone is so genuine and I look forward to our conversations along with the work we do. Since I am a Spanish speaker, I often work with our Spanish-speaking clients. I feel privileged that I can give Spanish speakers a voice in the personal injury process. Everyone needs and deserves a voice.

I first got into the personal injury side of law because of the engagement I get to have with people. I can be there for people who have been injured by someone else's negligence. No one ever wants to be in that position, but sometimes things happen that are outside of our control. When someone is injured, it not only impacts them but also their family, and things can spiral out of

control quickly. I get to be a part of the process that helps to give people who have been injured their control back.

Of course, getting back control is only a small part of what we do. A big part of it is achieving a favorable resolution for clients. In many cases, this means helping them get the compensation they deserve to make sure their medical bills are taken care of and that they don't have to worry about lost wages.

Outside of the office, I have many interests, including traveling. Like many in our firm, I love traveling down south — particularly south of the border. My family is from Mexico, and I love Hispanic culture. One aspect of the culture and my heritage that I particularly love is the food. But, who doesn't love Mexican food? I'm a sucker for fajitas and enchiladas!

I also love to plan parties! It's something of a hobby of mine. I have planned, decorated, and hosted parties for my kids. I have also set up dessert and main tables for various parties. I have a sweet tooth, so I often take it upon myself to come up with sweet creations for our parties. That way, I get to taste them first!

*Anabel Avila*

# Student Tech Success

## Educational Tools to Improve Digital Learning

Kids these days face so many more distractions from academics than their parents did. It's not as easy to focus on homework when TikTok, YouTube, and all sorts of video games beckon. Instead of trying to prevent screen time, why not allow students to engage with technology that will help promote their learning rather than distract from it? Here are three tools to help students at different age levels get the most from online learning.

### BEANSTALK

While Beanstalk is an online learning tool, the beauty of it is that the classes and videos aim to pull kids "out of the screen to do real-world physical activities." These include science experiments, building projects, and more. Experienced teachers provide engaging lessons and learning tools, and many of them are free.

### EDUHAM

What better way to learn about the history of our nation than through one of the nation's most popular musicals? "Hamilton" creator Lin-Manuel Miranda launched this learning platform in 2016 along with the show's director and in partnership with The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. EduHam is a free digital program for students and their families that provides history lessons on the Founding Era of the United States. It also brings art into the mix — Miranda shows students how to create their own performance pieces based on primary source documents, which they can then share in the app. The program is geared toward students in sixth through 12th grade, though everyone is welcome to participate.

### FIVEABLE

For high school students, the most looming challenges include the SAT and Advanced Placement (AP) exams that are so important for college. Enter Fiveable, the amazing free resource that houses thousands of livestreams, study guides, trivia games, and other resources for 15 AP subjects. Started by a former teacher, Fiveable is passionate about giving students the resources they'll need to be successful now and into the future.

With so many resources out there, students can use technology in plenty of ways to help them be successful. Here's to a fall season full of learning!



# THE SURPRISING DANGER BEHIND RED CAR TURN SIGNALS

By law, every vehicle on the road is required to have a turn indicator. Turn indicators are there to improve road safety conditions by communicating our intentions to other drivers.

A recent issue of Road & Track magazine included results from a study about which colors were most effective for turn signals. Generally speaking, many cars have yellow, orange, or amber turn signals, and these signals are the safest, but some have red signals. However, a 2008 study by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) concluded that red turn signals are a bad idea. But why are red turn signals unsafe?

According to the 2008 NHTSA study, vehicles with red turn signals are 22% more likely (than vehicles with yellow turn signals) to be involved in an accident. Specifically, they are more likely to be rear-ended.

In a follow-up study, the NHTSA looked into the connection between signal color and crashes. Drivers are more liable to confuse a red turn signal with a red brake light. As a result, they might not respond in the same way as they would with a yellow turn signal.

Drivers typically keep their foot on the brake pedal longer when they notice a car in front of them is getting ready to turn so they can respond accordingly. A red turn signal can be interpreted as tapping on the brakes and the following driver may misinterpret what they are seeing.

The NHTSA also found that when a vehicle's signal was changed from red to yellow, the chance of a rear-end collision dropped by an average of 5.3%. When it comes to increasing the safety of a motor vehicle, that's a huge improvement.

With these findings, the NHTSA says they are considering making yellow, amber, or orange turn signals a requirement if a vehicle manufacturer wants to be eligible for a 5-Star Safety Rating from the agency. That would mean that if a manufacturer submitted a car with red turn signals for a safety rating, the highest rating it could earn is four stars. Drivers should also consider this when buying a car. If you want a safer car, buy one with a yellow turn indicator.

# TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE 6 STEPS TO TAKE AFTER AN ACCIDENT

When you're involved in a car wreck, you may not know what to do next. If you have followed this newsletter, you may be familiar with some important "next steps" to take after a car accident. This month, we want to remind you of those next steps, just in case something unfortunate occurs. This is also a great list to share with family and friends who may not know how to proceed after an accident.



- **CALL THE AUTHORITIES.** You may be disoriented or injured, but it's critical to call local authorities after an accident. In the meantime, if you can, tend to yourself and passengers who may be injured. If you are unable to do so, remain still until first responders arrive.
- **TAKE PICTURES.** Use your phone or any available camera to take pictures of all injuries and any damaged vehicles or property. The more you can photograph and document, the better.
- **GET INSURANCE INFORMATION.** Exchange or get information from the other driver, namely their insurance information. If possible, get information from witnesses who may have seen the accident. Take notes!
- **SEEK MEDICAL HELP.** See a physician as soon as possible. Don't wait on this. Even if you feel well, a doctor may discover something is out of the ordinary. It's also very common for issues, such as neck pain, to form days after the accident.
- **CALL THE INSURERS.** You need to start a claim with your insurance. Be sure to call the other driver's insurer as well (if they have one).
- **CALL A PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEY.** You can do this right after the accident, which is what we recommend, but most people tend to call later as they start to navigate the insurance claims process. But the sooner you call, the better. An attorney is there to guide you through the entire process so you get the appropriate compensation you deserve as soon as possible.

# Texas-Sized LAUGHS



## HOME COOKIN'



BALSAMIC MARINATED FLANK STEAK  
*Inspired by FoodAndWine.com*

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 garlic cloves, sliced
- 1 cup extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for grilling
- 1 tbsp fresh rosemary leaves
- 1 3-lb flank steak
- 1 tbsp dried oregano
- Kosher salt, to taste
- 2 tbsp whole-grain mustard
- 1/2 cup balsamic vinegar
- Freshly ground pepper, to taste

### DIRECTIONS

1. Combine garlic, rosemary, oregano, mustard, and vinegar in a blender. Purée until garlic is minced.
2. Add oil and continue blending until creamy, then season with salt and pepper to taste. Reserve 1/4 cup.
3. Place steak in a ceramic or glass baking dish and cover steak with the remaining marinade. Turn to coat the other side, cover, and let marinate in the fridge for at least 4 hours.
4. Remove steak from marinade and let excess marinade drip off. Sprinkle the steak lightly with salt and pepper.
5. Light grill and oil grates with olive oil.
6. Grill steak over moderate heat for 10–12 minutes, turning halfway through, until steak is lightly charred and the internal temperature reaches 125 F.
7. Let the steak rest for 5 minutes. Thinly slice, drizzle reserved sauce, and serve.