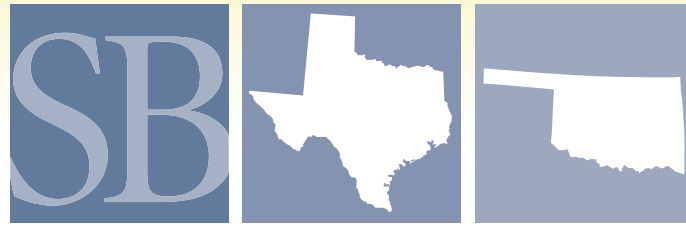




Steven R. Booker



STEVEN BOOKER LAW

Licensed in
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Oklahoma

Drought! What To Do?

Unfortunately, the Texhoma area I call home has made the national headlines for our current four year drought. As we all try to do our part in conserving water, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of a service that a local businessman is offering to survive our current restrictions on water.

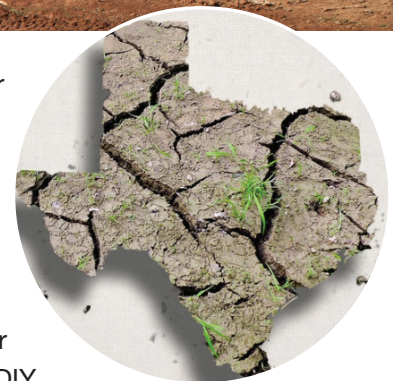
Greywater Authority, owned by longtime resident Chris Cornman, is excited to introduce it's greywater recycling systems to our local community. Greywater Authority offers custom greywater recycling system design and installation, consulting, workshops, and a do-it-yourself kit for the handy homeowner. Greywater Authority will even rent the tools needed to complete the DIY installation.

While building orphanages in third world countries, Chris began to notice that the shortage of water is a worldwide crisis. With this crisis in mind, and many cities declaring emergency drought conditions, it only made sense to offer water sustainability and recycling options to the local community in hopes that it would urge more people to look at how they use this precious resource, water.

On average a typical family of four can expect to save about 40,000 gallons of water a year, just by recycling laundry wastewater. It is the mission of Greywater Authority to increase public awareness on water conservation strategies and help many more people live sustainable lifestyles, while preserving and recycling our most precious resource. It is true that local water supplies are in crisis, but as we join together as an informed community we can do something about it. If only ten people recycle wastewater from their washing machines, collectively they can save an acre-foot of water annually. That's 325,851 gallons of water, roughly the amount of water that would flood a football field to a depth of a foot.

75% of the Earth's surface is water, only 6% is fresh water, and only 1% is drinkable. It's time to look at how we use our water and ways to conserve as much as possible.

PRAY FOR RAIN! ●



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August 2014 News





Aunt Kristi's Famous Greek Salad

No my kids' Aunt Kristi is not an Olympian or from Greece, but Aunt Kristi really likes Greek salad. So to try something out of my kids' comfort zone, make this Greek salad and serve with your favorite steak, or as a side dish to your favorite pizza.

Make the dressing first:

1/3 cup of lemon juice 1 heaping tablespoon of dry Greek seasoning*
2/3 olive oil Salt and pepper (optional)

NOW slice one half of a sweet onion. Large dice one red bell pepper. Soak in the dressing for at least 30 minutes.

ADD TO:

Romaine lettuce Cherry tomatoes
Feta Cheese Cucumber
Pitted Kalamata olives



*Aunt Kristi's favorite Greek seasoning can be order from: www.penzey.com/cgi-bin/penzeys/p-penzeysgreekseas.html •

Are Your Kids Taking the Bus This Year?

When you're in our line of work, you spend a lot of time thinking about worst-case scenarios. It's not pleasant to think about your child getting in an accident involving a school bus, but the more we think ahead as parents and a society, the less likely these things are to happen. So if you want to save yourself a world of stress down the road, what can you do to prepare right now? Take a serious look at Uninsured Motorist Coverage. To put it bluntly, your kids are not adequately insured when riding a school bus.



You may be shocked to hear that payouts to families affected by school bus disasters may be capped, sometimes as low as \$50,000. For anyone who has had to pay serious doctor bills, you know this can fall way short of your needs. School bus accidents fall under governmental immunity, which is why payouts are capped. The burden then falls on families like us to get the right coverage.

Unfortunately, no matter how safe the familiar yellow bus may seem (heck, we don't even make our kids wear seatbelts in them), accidents do happen, and they happen in our state. Nationwide, there is an average of 142 school transportation related fatalities a year, with two-thirds directly caused by school buses.

Look, school bus drivers have tough jobs - especially in adverse weather - and with so many young riders, the stakes are high. Some states protect these systems by putting caps on the settlements, but that may leave families out in the cold, struggling to pay their medical bills.

Thankfully, you can take action. You need to make sure you have Uninsured Motorist Coverage which will cover your dependents. This will help you out on the off chance that your child is injured, or worse, in a school bus-related accident. Remember, a lot of accidents involving buses occur when the child has already *exited* the vehicle. As a rule of thumb, don't buy a policy with just the bare minimums. A significant policy with comprehensive coverage will bail you out should the unthinkable happen.

For the most part, bus drivers do a fantastic job, but some accidents are unavoidable and I wanted to pass this message along to the community as the school year ramps up. Stay safe and be prepared. •

FYI – Recall of Personal Emergency Transmitters



The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has announced that Linear has expanded the recall of its Personal Emergency Reporting System (PERS) transmitters due to the possibility that the batteries used in the transmitters can fail to emit a low battery warning, leading the user to believe the transmitter is functioning normally even if the battery is no longer working.

Consumers are urged to contact Linear toll-free at (855) 554-2384 from 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or online at www.linear-pers.com and click on “Recalls” for more information.

The recall covers about 175,000 PERS transmitters sold between June of 2008 and July of 2011. •



What Justin Bieber Can Teach Us



By now (for better or worse), you’ve probably heard of Justin Bieber. Recently, he managed to land himself in a lawsuit with a former employee, and on March 6, as part of that suit, Bieber was deposed (you can watch the deposition at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=emsLrZg160s>).

All jokes aside, Bieber’s deposition is a perfect example of what **NOT** to do during a deposition. Here’s where he went wrong:

1. **Don’t be a jerk.** Ever! Look, if you’re being deposed, it’s not going to be fun. You’re going to have to sit in front of an attorney and answer personal questions that are being recorded. Perhaps that attorney is a jerk. The last thing you should do is lower yourself to that standard. No matter what question is asked (or how it is asked), always be polite, respectful, and calm. You gain credibility with the attorney deposing you, and the last thing he/she wants is a credible witness – it’s bad for his/her case!
2. **If you don’t understand the question, simply ask that the question be repeated.** Attorneys are people, too. Oftentimes, they ask unclear, poorly worded questions. Heck, I know I do. If you find yourself not understanding the question, simply say, “I don’t understand the question; could you repeat it?” Attempting to be argumentative, non-responsive, or sarcastic will not get you far in depositions. And all it does is make you lose credibility – that’s bad for your case!
3. **You don’t get to decide what questions you have to answer.** Depositions are not like court. In court, there are Rules of Evidence that your attorney can employ to prevent irrelevant/improper questions. In depositions, permissible questioning is much more far reaching. In fact, the questions don’t even have to be relevant! If an irrelevant/impermissible question is asked, it’s your attorney’s job to make an assessment as to whether to object to it. And even if he objects (except in very limited circumstances, such as privileged information), you must still answer the question. The quickest way to get sanctioned by a court is for a judge to find out that you didn’t answer a question that you should have.
4. **Claiming “I don’t remember” when you do remember is lying. Don’t do it.** Before the deposition, you are required to swear under oath to the truth of the answers you give. Lying to avoid answering a question that may be harmful is simply unacceptable. Our law firm represents honest clients who have legitimate cases. The quickest way for you to be fired by us (and yes, we have the ability to fire you, too!) is to lie under oath (or at any time, for that matter).

If you have any other questions about depositions, or perhaps you will be deposed soon, our office has a lot of resources to educate you about the deposition process. Give us a call! •



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What To Do?
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Reminder About Our Firm's Communication Policy

Our promise to you is that while we are working on your case, we don't take inbound phone calls, faxes or emails. Steven Booker takes no inbound unscheduled phone calls whatsoever. It makes him much more productive and helps get your case resolved faster. You can always call the office at 940-569-4000, and schedule an in-person or phone appointment, usually within 24-48 hours. This is a lot better than the endless game of "phone tag" played by most businesses today. Remember, too, that email is "quick," but is checked no more than twice a day. Replies are then scheduled into the calendar. So if it's really important, don't email—please call the office. Thank you.

This publication is intended to educate the general public about personal injury, medical malpractice, and other issues. It is for information purposes only and is not intended to be legal advice. Prior to acting on any information contained here, you should seek and retain competent counsel. The information in this newsletter may be freely copied and distributed as long as the newsletter is copied in its entirety.

NASA Hoping to Launch a "Flying Saucer"?

With increased scientific exploration of Mars, NASA is trying to figure out a more efficient way of safely landing there. Past experiences have been adventures, to put it mildly.

When a planet's atmosphere is thick, a parachute will gently glide its payload to the surface upon a craft entering the atmosphere. If there's no atmosphere at all (like the moon), friction and aerodynamics are not problematic; simple rocket power will suffice for landing. Unfortunately, Mars is the worst of both worlds. It has an atmosphere 1% as dense as Earth's—too thin for a full parachute landing, but still thick enough to cause drag and heating problems.

NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory has developed the Low Density Supersonic Decelerator (LDSD), a 20-foot-diameter hybrid dish-shaped vehicle of hard shell and inflatable bladder—or "flying saucer"—that they hope to launch into Earth's stratosphere this summer from the Hawaiian island of Kauai. At 34 miles up, Earth's atmosphere resembles Mars'. A massive balloon and then a rocket motor will elevate the LDSD to its high point, where it will then begin its plunge back to Earth at a speed of roughly 3,000 mph. Once that speed is reached, the inflatable bladder will fill with gas and expand to nearly 20 feet in diameter, which will cut the LDSD's descent speed by half, enabling a massive parachute (110 feet across) to unfurl and gently guide it to the surface—theoretically.

So...no, NASA isn't launching a flying saucer; just testing a way to make Mars expeditions a bit more practical. •

