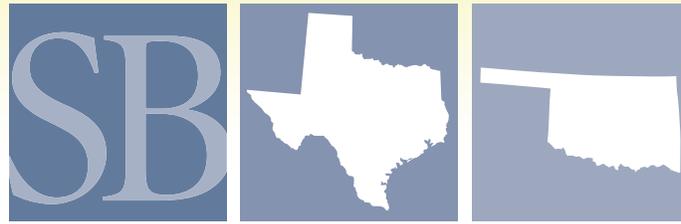




Steven R. Booker



STEVEN BOOKER LAW

Licensed in
Texas and
Oklahoma



I have had the honor and privilege to represent so many individuals and families throughout my twenty plus year legal career. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you a true love story. My former clients and friends Clyde and Mavis Spain are celebrating their 70th Wedding Anniversary.

Congratulations Clyde and Mavis!!!!



Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrong doing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

1 Corinthians 13: 4-7



March 2015 News



FAQ Is the Rear Driver Always at Fault in a Rear-End Accident?

A: No. While it is true that most of the time when a driver hits someone else from behind he or she will be considered liable for the wreck, that's not always the case.

For instance, the lead driver may be found at-fault for a rear-end accident if he or she turned or merged in front of you too suddenly or if the brake lights on their vehicle were not working and you couldn't tell they were slowing down or stopping. In other instances, such as if your brakes failed or if you suffered a tire blowout due to a manufacturer's defect, the liability for a rear-end accident may lie with the manufacturer that designed the faulty product rather than you. Bottom line—call us if you've been involved in a rear-end collision so that your rights are protected. •



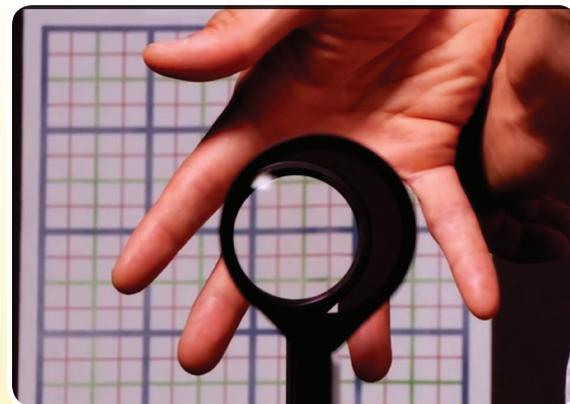
Cloaked in Secrecy

University of Rochester researchers have succeeded in concealing large objects from sight in broad daylight, a method known as cloaking, through the use of inexpensive and readily available lenses. The technique utilizes four lenses—the same type you might find in a pair of glasses—to hide an object in the foreground without disturbing or distorting the background.

The two outer-layer lenses focus light from a wide area onto the two interior lenses. In essence, this setup creates a region where incident light (direct light) can't reach the object behind the lenses, and reflected light can't reach the observer—voilà, invisibility. The bigger the lenses, the larger the object that can be hidden.

This discovery is exciting on various fronts. For instance, surgeons might be able to apply cloaking so that they can see through their own hand while performing surgery. Car and truck drivers may be able to utilize cloaking in order to see through something they're hauling behind them. The technique could also come in handy for interior design and may have military applications (surprise, surprise), among other uses.

This type of invisibility may be a bit clunky compared to the efficiency experienced by Frodo Baggins, Harry Potter, or a Klingon Bird-of-Prey commander, but it's a step in the right direction. The technique/device is simple, relatively inexpensive (less than \$1,000 for the Rochester model), and works at multiple angles. There's even a YouTube video with instructions for constructing the home version of the "Rochester cloak" for less than \$100. •





Brett's Famous Chicken N' Dumplings

Forget Cracker Barrel and try some real home town country cookin by trying Brett Wall's famous Chicken N' Dumplings.

Ingredients

- 1 whole quartered chicken
- 1 large white onion (julienned)
- 1 package celery stalks (chopped)
- 8 chicken bullion cubes
- 3 tbs salt
- 3 tbs pepper
- 2-3 cups all purpose flour
- 1 ½ cups broth from cooked chicken and ingredients

Boil ~ all ingredients (except flour) until chicken is done and easily separates from bone. Turn heat off, remove chicken and separate all meat from bone, discarding bones and skin. Chop the meat to desired size and place back into pot of broth and cooked veggies. Bring to a boil.

Dumplings ~ remove approximately 1 ½ cups broth from pot and put into mixing bowl. Add a cup of flour and mix. Keep adding flour and mixing until dough is not sticky. Flour counter top and rolling pin. Roll dough out to approximately 1/8-1/4 inches and cut into pieces (I like to use a pizza cutter). Put dough into pot of boiling water and cook for about 5 minutes. •



March 5
Purim

March 8
Daylight Saving Time Begins

March 17
St. Patrick's Day

March 20
Spring Begins

March 29
Palm Sunday

***Send your favorite recipe for your chance at winning a gift card!!**



Could a Drought Have Doomed the Mayans?

Mayan civilization was at its peak from 250 A.D. to 900 A.D., an era known as the Classic Period. Situated in a region extending from central Mexico to Belize, Guatemala, and northern Costa Rica, the Mayans were renowned for their intellectual pursuits, such as astronomy, mathematics, and architecture, among others. However, the vibrancy of Mayan society was rocked sometime between 800 and 900 A.D., the cause of which remains a mystery. Various theories have been proposed, but recent studies of a giant sinkhole off the coast of Belize—the Great Blue Hole—seem to point to drought as the chief culprit.

The Great Blue Hole is nearly 1,000 feet across and over 400 feet deep, and formed tens of thousands of years ago. In essence, it acts as a massive sediment trap. Sediment is trapped in layers at the bottom of the hole, each layer of which reveals key meteorological/ecological history.

After analysis of sediment cores, it appears that a dry spell ranging from 100–200 years took its toll on Mayan society. Running parallel to this was the fact that monuments built by the Mayans—on which they recorded dates—had risen from a rate of 10 per year in 500 A.D. to 40 in 750 A.D. However, zero monuments were built by the time year 900 A.D. rolled around.

Researchers surmise that famine and infighting over available resources caused by the drought led to the disastrous decline in Mayan population and influence. Deforestation (for agriculture, firewood, and building materials) likely exacerbated the effects of the drought as well, a combination of forces from which the Mayans never fully recovered. •



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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.

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The 200 mph Predator

Peregrine falcons are among the most prevalent and formidable birds of prey in the world. They live on all continents except Antarctica. They thrive near coastlines but can manage quite well in habitats ranging from tundra to the tropics to deserts. Some are even city dwellers, making their homes on bridges and skyscrapers with suitable ledges.



Though some peregrines have permanent homes, many migrate. Their name is derived from the Latin *peregrinus*, meaning "to wander." Those that nest in Arctic tundra and winter in South America migrate to the tune of over 15,000 miles a year.

Peregrines have earned a reputation for their spectacular hunting method. They spot their prey from a high perch, then go into flight and dive at speeds of up to 200 mph (a stoop) to snare a tasty meal in midair. Peregrine favorites include bats and small to medium-sized birds—shore birds, ducks, pigeons, among many others. Though birds and bats dominate a peregrine's diet, squirrels and rodents shouldn't rest easy. If you are ever situated near a mudflat at the shore and witness a sudden flurry of activity among shore birds, scan the sky above. You might catch a glimpse of a peregrine.

Peregrine falcons are a faithful, loyal lot. They mate for life and most breed in the same territory each year. Some nesting sites have been used by generations of the same family for centuries.

From a human perspective, peregrines are spectacular, graceful, and efficient. Creatures on their menu may beg to differ. •