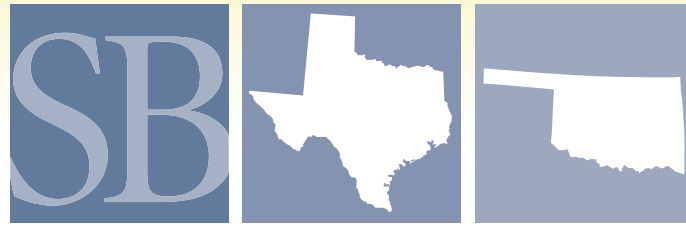




Steven R. Booker



STEVEN BOOKER LAW

Licensed in
Texas and
Oklahoma

“The Lawyer Promised Me I’d Get \$80,000 from My Accident Case.”



We met for an initial consultation recently with a very nice gentleman who had been injured in an accident. A young driver had run the red light. There were witnesses and the police supported the claim.

The potential client was interviewing lawyers and wanted to know how much his case was worth. He was rather insistent that we “put a number” on his case for him. “How much am I going to put into my pocket if I go with you,” he asked.

When we prodded a bit, it turns out that one of the local TV lawyers in town had met with him in his home and had told him that his case was worth “no less than \$80,000.”

We told him that we couldn’t answer that question. He walked out.

“Good riddance,” we said.

Here’s the problem:

The potential client had not yet finished his treatment, and whether he was going to have another operation on his wrist was up in the air at this point. We told that client that it is impossible to “put a number on his case” until:

1. His treatment has ended and we know whether or not he will have permanent disability.
2. We talk to or get reports from his treating doctors and rehabilitation specialists.
3. We know how much insurance is available to cover the claim (the other lawyer had not asked that question).
4. We know how many medical bills remain unpaid, and whether his health insurance company wanted to be repaid the money they had spent.
5. The accident facts are further evaluated – sometimes the police report does get it wrong.

We say “good riddance” because this is the type of client we likely won’t ever be able to make happy. He’s purely money driven. Good for him to find a lawyer who is solely money driven. Hope it works out for both of them. •

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Scary Pumpkin Bread

For a true Halloween treat, try my kids' Aunt Janice's Scary Pumpkin Bread.

Preheat Oven to 325.

Spray with cooking spray 3 large loaf pans or 6 small loaf pans

Spread sugar on the sides of the cooking pans.

Mix in a large bowl the following:

- 3 cups of sugar
- 1 ½ teaspoon of salt
- 3 1/3 cups of flour
- 3 teaspoons of cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons of nutmeg
- 2 teaspoons of baking soda

Mix all dry ingredients together about six times.

Add the following to the dry mixture and mix well.

- 1 cup of vegetable oil
- 4 eggs
- 2/3 cup water
- 1 can 15 oz of Pumpkin

Pour mixture evenly in pans and bake for approximately 1 hour.

Place tooth pick in center of loaf to make sure the bread is baked completely.

Let cool and enjoy!!!! •



Did You Hear?

A Ferrari recently sold at a California auction for a whopping \$38.1 million, establishing a new record for the highest auction price ever paid for a car (the previous record was \$30 million paid last year for a 1954 Mercedes-Benz). The record-breaking vehicle, a 1962 Ferrari 250 GTO Berlinetta, was one of only 39 ever made. Some analysts had predicted that the car might fetch as much as \$70 million at auction, which would have made it the most expensive car ever sold. That honor still belongs to – you guessed it – another Ferrari GTO, which was sold privately last year for about \$52 million. •





Just Hangin' Around

Sloths are nocturnal, arboreal mammals that enjoy the tall trees located in the rain and cloud forests of Central and South America. Though comparable in size to a medium-sized dog, their ancestors, giant sloths, roamed North America until roughly 10,000 years ago and could rival an elephant in sheer bulk.

Sloths spend practically their whole lives in trees—for good reason. They are the slowest mammal in the world, making them extremely vulnerable to ground predators. They also possess long claws (3–4 inches) that make walking difficult.

A sloth will generally sleep 15–20 hours a day, either nestled in a fork in the tree or dangling from limbs by utilizing their sharp claws. From branches overhanging a river, a sloth may occasionally take a plunge into the water, as they are excellent swimmers.

Sloths also descend from the trees when it's time for their weekly defecation, an intricate symbiotic process that provides an opportunity for moths living in the sloth's fur to lay eggs in the dung. Freshly hatched moths will fly back to the sloth to become new tenants. In the process, they transfer nutrients that facilitate the growth of algae on the sloth's fur. Sloths find algae tasty and energizing, and it's good camouflage.

Mating season spurs some activity in sloths. The female bursts forth with an inviting scream, and the males square off by hanging from a branch and pawing at each other in slow motion to determine the better man.

Honor our sluggish friends by celebrating International Sloth Day on October 20. (Yes, that's really a thing!) •



A Parent's Guide to Keeping their Children Safe this Halloween

Halloween is right around the corner and kids are already getting excited. As fun and memorable a time as it can be though, it's important to remember that there are many safety risks involved with this spooky holiday.

By following these helpful tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), however, you can help ensure that your children's Halloween experience will not only be fun, but safe:



Find bright costumes. As most Trick-or-Treaters go out after dark, it's important that children can be seen easily, not only to be safe from vehicles, but so their parents can spot them easier should they become lost. Try reflective tape or trick-or-treat bags.



Pick safe accessories. Instead of masks, which can impair visibility, opt for non-toxic makeup, flame-resistant wigs or well-fitting hats. Also, be wary of any accessories that come pointed, as they can easily cause injury if someone trips and falls.



Supervise. Parents should always chaperone their children while they're Trick-or-Treating. For older



children, plan a route and a return time for them.



Porch light – check. Make sure children only approach homes with porch lights on, and never let them enter homes or cars for treats.



Be safe when walking. Stay in well-lit areas, using sidewalks and crosswalks when available. Always travel in groups and make sure everyone has flashlights with new batteries.

Preach 9-1-1. Make sure all the Trick-or-Treaters know to call 9-1-1 in case of an emergency, and always carry a cell phone for quick communication.

Halloween should be all about treats, friends, and great memories. Avoiding the common dangers associated with Trick-or-Treating is simple with the right guidance. For more Halloween safety tips, please visit www.aap.org. •



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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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Controversial New Guidelines for Statin Use

Heart disease is the nation's number one killer and will claim roughly 600,000 lives this year. Statin drugs reduce the amount of plaque-building cholesterol produced by the liver and have been lifesavers for those who have already experienced cardiovascular events or symptoms, or who have diabetes.

However, in November 2013, the American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology stirred up a tempest with sweeping new guidelines for statin use. Under the previous guidelines, those whose risk of heart attack was deemed to be 20 percent or more over the next 10 years (based on a complicated formula) were advised to use statins. Under the new standard, the bar is set at just 7.5 percent, encompassing many people who show no signs of heart disease—and some who don't even have elevated cholesterol levels.

Under the reissued guidelines, race may be considered a risk factor; a new calculation has been introduced to predict 10-year and lifetime chances of sustaining a heart attack or stroke; and the use of popular non-statin drugs to control cholesterol levels is now discouraged. The ranks of "eligible" statin users have swelled from 43 million to 56 million.

Some researchers believe the scientific evidence is too scant to justify extending the statin net. Others prefer to err on the side of prevention, since 1 out of 3 Americans will die of a heart attack or stroke, and half the population will experience one in their lifetimes. As always, a healthy diet, daily exercise, and quitting smoking are key elements of a healthy lifestyle. ●

