

# Treasures

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## Client Crystal

As a personal injury attorney, I meet a lot of nice people only after bad things happen to them or their family. So many of them have wonderful life stories – stories I would never know without their trust in my representation. One such story is the life story of my client Juan.



I first met Juan when I represented his wife eleven years ago. Over the years, I have represented their son and Juan for two separate car accidents (none being his fault). Each time, our discussions were so engaging. His dedication to his family and the American dream makes him a true treasure.

Juan was born in Mexico and had seven brothers and sisters. Many of nights, he and his family went to bed with no dinner. Instead of sulking about his situation, Juan started working at the age of 10 planting corn. He gave his earnings to his parents to help the family. Unlike other teenagers, Juan worked hard in the fields and read about life in America. At the age of 19, Juan knew that he couldn't raise a family in Mexico so he fled to America. In 1973, Juan

was issued his green card. He tells me how he cried with pride that day as he remembers the exact time and date. In 1980, Juan became an American citizen and has been proud to be an American since then.

When he came to America, Juan knew it was important to learn English. He taught himself by reading books and asking his boss and co-workers the English words he didn't yet know. He worked hard on California farms as he knew no other way to work. Juan worked 18 hours a day every day for seven years to support his family. His work ethic was a wonderful example to his family.

Juan tells me that he wished others appreciated what he knows about America. He believes there are no limits in America and if you care about your Country, the Country will take care of you. He realized early the importance of learning and respecting the legal system. Juan believes people should respect police and the rule of law. He is proud that he taught his kids this lesson.

Juan has been a great example to his kids. Six of his children have gone to college with one earning three different Ph.D. degrees. When asked what he is most proud of, Juan quickly tells me that it is his family.

Juan tells me "I wouldn't be who I am if not for America." I believe that America would not be what it is if it wasn't for hard working, self-made family men (and women) like Juan. Juan is truly a treasure!



## Community Chest



I love being a lawyer and helping people like you, but one thing I also love to do is talk to kids. That is why I spear-headed the first Read & Play Project seven years ago and have done so each June since then.

Our Read & Play Project brings us to Ponce De Leon Elementary School at the end of each school year to talk with the third graders about safety. Our lawyers talk to them about safety in the car to prevent car accidents; safety on their bikes to avoid bicycle accidents; safety while walking; and safety around the pool. The kids enjoy our tips and are wonderful in participating in our discussion "loud and proud."

At the end of the safety talk, we discuss the importance of reading during the summer and getting outside to play (since many kids choose video games instead of basketball games nowadays). To promote this, we provide each third grader with a book to read during the summer and an outdoor ball to play with during the summer. The kids love it and so do we!

We feel it is important to give back to our community. We love to see the smiles on the kids' faces as they pick out their ball and book. These kids are future treasures in our communities. Their teachers are preset day treasures. We are happy and proud to be a part of their lives.

## Team Pearl

Change is the only constant in life and running a law firm. After nearly thirty years of working for our firm, our New Client Coordinator, Debbie Keyes, has retired. Debbie was the first person that most clients spoke with when they first met our offices. She did a wonderful job so when she retired, we needed someone like her to take her place. Fortunately, my pre-litigation legal assistant, Terri Bradley, jumped in and is now our New Client Coordinator. With Terri's transfer to the new position, I needed to replace Terri with someone who cares for clients as much as she does. Fortunately, Betty Jo Erwin joined my team.

Betty Jo is not new to our law firm or the field of personal injury law. Before moving over to my team, Betty Jo worked for our associates. Prior to that, Betty Jo worked for other Tampa Bay personal injury law firms and was an insurance adjuster for 7 years. Her 30 years of experience in the personal injury field has given her insight to do her job well with the understanding that the client always comes first.

Betty Jo married the love of her life in 1978 after

chasing him doggedly for several years around the Bible School campus. She and her husband Michael Paul have three lovely children Jonathan (37), Kellie Lyn (35), and Michael Matthew (28) and three amazingly beautiful and talented grandchildren, Ashlyn Elizabeth (13) Peyton (6) and Maddox (1 1/2). Betty Jo truly understands the importance of family.

Betty Jo is a fighter. She fights for our clients on a daily basis, but had a battle of her own. Last year, she was diagnosed with stage four breast cancer. She didn't give up! She fought through nine months of chemotherapy, surgery and radiation. During her battle, she rarely missed work and her humor was inspiring to me and the entire office. Because of her faith and spirit (with the help of doctors), Betty Jo won the battle and is now in total remission. She is truly an inspiration!

We welcome Betty Jo to the team!



Don't forget that if you want to protect your pets by holding one of these cards, simply call my office or email me at [matt@matthewnoyes.com](mailto:matt@matthewnoyes.com) for your free card.



## Legal Nugget

After a work comp injury, there are certain time requirements that must be known. Although an injured worker should report a work injury as soon as possible, they are required to report it no later than thirty (30) days or the claim may be denied. Also, employers should report the injury to their insurance company as soon as possible, but no later than seven (7) days after their knowledge. The insurance company then must send the injured worker an informational brochure within three (3) days after receiving notice from the employer.

If you or your loved ones have questions after a Florida work comp injury, contact us for answers. Call us at 727-796-8282 or email me at [matt@matthewnoyes.com](mailto:matt@matthewnoyes.com).

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## Focus on Community Riches

Thank you for taking a few minutes from the Florida summer heat to read this edition of *Treasures*. I appreciate you taking a few minutes to read about some good people in our community and see what changes are happening in my office to serve you.

We have just celebrated America's 241<sup>st</sup> birthday. It was a wonderful holiday full of fun, family and fireworks. If your family is anything like my family, there is a blend of political beliefs and strong feelings and interesting debates about today's political culture. That's what makes America! We can have differing opinions and not be put in prison. We can peacefully gather and express our beliefs. However, we cannot forget that despite the difference of political opinions, we are all one family of Americans. Let's stay positive about America even when we disagree with its political

parties or fellow Americans. We have lasted 241 years because of our pride of being Americans first. Remember that as the debate continues and as September 11<sup>th</sup> approaches.

In this edition, I spotlight a client who understands the American dream and who has worked so hard to teach it to his family and friends. He and many others have quietly worked hard to better himself and their families and better our Country.

My family and I have been in the Tampa Bay community for over 40 years. Over the years, we have met so many wonderful treasures. I am sure you have too! If you wish me to spotlight one of the treasures in your life, send me an email at [matt@matthewnoyes.com](mailto:matt@matthewnoyes.com) and tell me why they belong in an upcoming *Treasures*.

Remember, treasures can come in many shapes and sizes. It could be a student or a teacher going the extra mile. It could be a local business who understands the meaning of customer service. It could be a member of law enforcement or someone who served or is serving in the military. All of these deserve a spotlight because all of them make our community better.

Enjoy the articles inside and all the treasures in your life and throughout Tampa Bay.

Matt

## Recipe Riches

### Seven-Layer Pasta Salad A great cool salad for those hot summer nights

#### Ingredients:

- Salt
- 8 ounces bow-tie pasta (about 4 cups)
- 2 stalks broccoli, cut into florets
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup buttermilk
- 1/4 cup plus 1 tablespoon chopped fresh chives
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley
- Juice of 1 lime
- Freshly ground pepper
- 2 avocados, diced
- 1 12-ounce piece deli ham, diced (about 2 cups)
- 8 ounces yellow cheddar cheese, shredded
- 1 small head romaine lettuce, sliced
- 2 tomatoes, diced

#### Directions:

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add the pasta and cook until al dente (about 2 minutes less than the label directs), adding the broccoli during the last 4 minutes of cooking. Drain the pasta and broccoli and rinse under cool water; shake off the excess. Remove the broccoli and pat dry.

Whisk the mayonnaise, buttermilk, 1/4 cup chives, the parsley, half of the lime juice, 1/4 teaspoon salt, and pepper to taste. Toss the pasta and a few tablespoons of the dressing in a medium bowl.



#### Assemble the Salad:

Toss the avocados with the remaining lime juice in a large glass serving bowl and season with salt; arrange in an even layer. Top with layers of the ham, broccoli, pasta, cheese, lettuce and tomatoes. Drizzle some of the remaining dressing on top and sprinkle with the remaining 1 tablespoon chives.