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# THE Key Piece

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF  
LOYD J. BOURGEOIS LLC

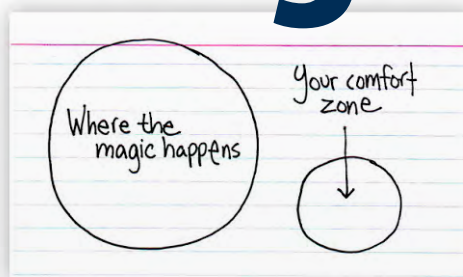


## EMBRACING Change

Our world is constantly changing and evolving – from COVID restrictions, to economic challenges, to the quickly evolving world of technology around us. We deal with change each and every day whether we want to or not, as COVID has shown us. But, as Maya Angelou acknowledged, we cannot always change those things we don't like. What we can do, however, is change what we have control over... and that is our attitude.

In a recent team meeting, Christy provided our team with some great tips and strategies for embracing change. They are worth sharing with all of you. Her strategies include: Realizing change will happen, accepting the emotions change brings, focusing on what we can control, understanding there will be challenges, and trying to stay positive.

Christy noted the primary reason we reject change is that it requires us to get out of our comfort zones. But she asked us to think about a time we learned, grew or had an unbelievable experience when we ventured out of our comfort zone. We could all relate. As Christy noted, the magic happens outside of your comfort zone. The magic happens when we embrace the change, learn



from it and apply it.

**"If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude."**

— *Maya Angelou*

Here at the firm, we are undergoing significant changes – from growing our team to implementing new software and changing up policies and procedures. We are embracing the opportunity change provides – fixing inefficiencies and finding new ways to

connect with our clients. We know there will be hiccups and problems, but as Christy reminded us, we can't let the fear of temporary problems derail our long-term success.

Change is necessary to get us to the success we desire. We are embracing it. What about you?



**Lloyd J. Bourgeois**  
*Attorney-at-Law*



### GET YOUR FREE COPY! *Injury Victim's Diary*

I created this workbook for you to document all the evidence you need to obtain a fair settlement from the insurance company after getting hurt in a wreck; things you may forget with time, like:

- The accident details.
- Witness information.
- The progression of your pain and symptoms.
- History of missed work and wages.
- Names of doctors and dates of visits.
- And more!

*If you'd like a copy of this resource or know someone else who may need one, give our office at call at (985) 240-9773 or visit [LJBGuides.com](http://LJBGuides.com). We'd be happy to send you a free copy.*

**Lloyd J. Bourgeois LLC**  
Offices in Luling & Metairie, La.  
(985) 240-9773  
[www.LJBLEgal.com](http://www.LJBLEgal.com)



# LJB's Cookin' Corner

## ANGIE'S CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE CHEESECAKE SQUARES

**LOYD'S NOTE:** *Our neighbors Angie and Tommy invited some neighbors over for dinner. All of the food was delicious, but the dessert was such a hit that the next night some of the neighborhood adults convinced Reid to knock on Angie's door to ask if there were any leftovers. Angie got a kick out of Reid's request, and the adults were thrilled when Reid returned with a plate of cookie cheesecake squares!*

### INGREDIENTS

- 3 (8oz) packages of cream cheese, softened
- 3 eggs
- ¾ cup of sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 (16.5oz) rolls refrigerator chocolate chip cookie dough

### DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350° F
2. In a large bowl, beat together cream cheese, eggs, sugar and vanilla extract until well mixed. Set aside.
3. Slice cookie dough rolls into ¼ inch slices.
4. Arrange slices from one roll on the bottom of a greased 9x13 inch glass baking dish. Press together so there are no holes in the dough.
5. Spoon cream cheese mixture evenly over dough. Top with remaining slices of cookie dough.
6. Bake 45-50 minutes or until golden and center is slightly firm.
7. Remove from oven, let cool, then refrigerate.
8. Cut into slices when well chilled.



If you have a recipe that you'd like to submit to the newsletter, please share it with us at [info@LJBLegal.com](mailto:info@LJBLegal.com). We're always looking for new recipes to try and share!

## Thanks for recent referrals

- Robert Kemp, attorney
- Janet Broussard
- Connie Beyl
- Ron Dantin
- Jason Dempster
- Karen Deville
- Corey Oubre, attorney
- Christopher Brown
- Leslie Brady
- Mario Zavala
- Jo Green
- Kevin Melerine
- Gertrude Campbell
- Kourtne Donnaud

Reminder About Our Firm's

## COMMUNICATION POLICY

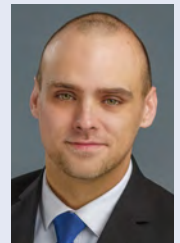
Our promise to you is that while we are working on YOUR case – we are WORKING on YOUR case. And this goes for each and every one of our clients. This means that our focus and attention are squarely on your case and not anything else. Because of this, Loyd Bourgeois DOES NOT take unscheduled phone calls, emails, or walk-ins. This makes all of us more productive, efficient, and

knowledgeable about YOUR case. It may help get your issue resolved faster. You can always call the office at (985) 240-9773 and schedule a phone appointment or in-person visit.

**DISCLAIMER:** *This publication is intended to educate our clients, referral sources, and others in our network about disability denials and disabling personal injury claims. This is not intended to be legal advice. Each case is different. You can pass this information along to your family and friends as long as the newsletter is copied in its entirety.*

## Schou is March Madness winner

Throughout the month of March, Lindy challenged the team in our March Madness Review Competition. The competition was a great success.



SCHOU

I really love hearing the great things our clients have to say. But for the team, they got some cold-hard cash. After all the reviews were counted, Christian came out in front with 10 reviews for the month. Not far behind were Christy and Indya.

## DIVORCE & TAXES

Taxes and divorce are both things people dread. So it's especially stressful when you have to deal with both.

### Who is responsible for paying the taxes during a divorce or separation?

Check with your accountant or tax advisor. The tax rules change frequently and having your Certified Public Accountant advise on what you need to do in your situation is best.

The last thing you want after a tough divorce is the IRS banging on your door!

Generally speaking, each person is responsible for their own taxes. This means you are responsible for your taxes, and your spouse is responsible for his or her taxes.

Now, how you file (married, single, head of household, etc., / joint or separate) will be dependent on your specific situation at the time of filing. Claiming a dependent child on your tax return can provide or increase certain breaks, including dependent or child tax credits, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and possibly a more favorable filing status.

### CLIENT STORY CONTINUED...

justice for our seven-year-old client included obtaining an investigator to canvas the area looking for the car at issue, interviewing the driver of the car, obtaining her insurance information, reporting the driver to the police, initiating a report and ultimately filing a claim with the insurance company and settling the case for that driver's policy limits due to the driver's negligence as well as her fleeing the scene of the crime.

While our team handled the investigative and legal issues, our client was able

### Who gets to claim the children?

Concerning children, again, generally speaking, the right to claim the children as a dependent is governed by IRS rules. The rules state only one parent can claim a child in any given year for tax purposes.

In most cases, your divorce decree will spell out how this should be handled. If there is no written agreement, the IRS states that whomever the child lives with the most (the custodial parent) gets to claim the child provided the child lived with the parent more than half the year.

But there are ways for the noncustodial parent to claim a qualifying child.

If the child spends equal time between both parents, the parent with the highest adjusted gross income may claim the dependent. If both parents attempt to claim the child, **ONLY** the return **filed first** will be accepted by the IRS.

Because of this, it is always best to talk to your divorce attorney and have tax issues clearly spelled out in your divorce decree.

to focus on caring for her daughter – getting her smile fixed and transporting her to and from physical therapy while also working through the mental toll such injuries can have on a young life.

Today, our little rambunctious now eight-year-old client has her beautiful smile back, full use of her arm without any lingering issues, and has returned to playing basketball in her neighborhood, although I'm told she moves well into the front yard now when any car approaches.

CELEBRATE EQUALITY & JUSTICE ON LAW DAY – MAY 1

## REVIEW ROUNDUP



To someone like me who was very nervous and uneasy with this hearing, I did get a sense of compassion from Christy and the team within the organization. During the whole process of the phone call that meant almost everything in my world,

Christy Crotwell was a godsend. She was a POWERHOUSE with her questions and exact timing to chime in with regard to staying on course with the facts of my case. She made me feel very much like I mattered. My life mattered. My case mattered. She made me feel very safe and protected.

– Claire Livingston



Christy Crotwell and Indya were absolutely wonderful! Attorney Charlie Chauvin referred me to their office. I had to apply for Social Security Disability, and I contacted them from my hospital bed. They walked me through the process and were very kind and patient during my hospitalization and recovery.

They kept me informed and answered any questions I had promptly. Fortunately, once I was able to return all the necessary paperwork my disability was approved in just a few weeks. (I was advised it could take longer.) I would highly recommend working with Christy and her team.

– Julie Runkle



Loyd J. Bourgeois LLC  
13755 River Road Ste. A  
Luling, LA 70070

Ph: (888) 552-4773  
Website: [www.LJBlegal.com](http://www.LJBlegal.com)

LOYD J. BOURGEOIS  
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

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## How We Help:

Disability \* Injury \* Divorce

**"We Help You Fight Life's Legal Battles  
with Compassion and Care!"**

- Social Security Disability
- Long-Term Disability
- Car Accidents & Personal Injury
- Divorce and Child Custody

IN THIS ISSUE: Chocolate Chip Cookie Cheesecake Bars • Embracing Change • Divorce & Taxes

## CLIENT STORY

# LJB Team facilitates justice for injured 7-year-old

Imagine watching your seven-year-old daughter playing basketball on your quiet neighborhood street with a friend. She is having fun, learning some life lessons without knowing it, and you are enjoying a brief moment relishing in your child's enjoyment of life. A car coming down the road catches your attention, and your eyes dart over to your daughter to make sure she sees the approaching vehicle. She does and moves out of the street to safety. You breathe a small sigh of relief. She was taught well, you think.

Then, without warning and for some unknown reason, you hear your daughter crying uncontrollably and see the car speeding off. You rush over to your daughter while yelling at the car

to take stock of what just happened. Your daughter's friend tells you the car got too close to the side of the road and smacked your daughter with the mirror. Your daughter is bleeding from the mouth, can't lift her left arm, and the crying – oh, the crying – you know the pain is real.

This is a true story of our seven-year-old client and her mother. As a father of three, I completely understood and related to the sheer terror I felt in mom's voice as she described what happened. And, I felt the anger – like really, deep down, anger. The driver just drove away with no concern for the injured child.

Mom drove daughter straight to the

emergency room, where she was treated for a broken collarbone due to the impact. The next day, she had to go to the dentist to have her broken tooth repaired. It was her first adult tooth. She then had followup visits with an orthopedist for the broken collarbone.

Mom was at a loss – she had a description of the vehicle and had even attempted to get information from the house she located the vehicle outside of. But she was getting nowhere. She had medical bills, an injured daughter and plenty of frustration. She called us looking for help.

The work our firm did to ensure

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 3...**