

# THE Key Piece

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF  
LOYD J. BOURGEOIS LLC

## The serious emotional toll of a life-changing crash

As an attorney and a firm, we always seek to help others understand the seriousness of our clients' situations. And we're not alone. Many attorneys and firms claim to understand what their clients are going through in the aftermath of a serious injury. And until Monday, Nov. 22, 2021, I thought we knew what our clients and their families were facing in those life-changing situations. But now, I am certain.

At approximately 2:45 p.m. on that fateful Monday, as I stepped out of a meeting, I received a message from and returned a call to University Medical Center in New Orleans.

*"Mr. Bourgeois, this is University Hospital. We have your grandparents here — they've been in a crash."*

The 40-minute drive from my office was the longest 40 minutes I can ever remember. The questions were already percolating in my mind. "How bad... where... who caused this?" By 3:30 p.m., I received news I am still reeling from as I write this letter. The following hours and days are a blur.

*"Sir, I'm Dr. (name forgotten). Your grandmother is just getting out of emergency surgery. She had some internal injuries we needed to fix. And (or maybe it was but) I'm sorry to tell you your grandfather didn't make it."*

A ton of bricks dropped from the sky, landing

squarely on my lungs and taking my breath away. The tears started, but stopped. I had to be strong for her; for them; for me. A whirlwind of phone calls happened, each one reliving the rawness of the news with another family member. My voice was now associated with news no one ever expects to get. My words have never carried as much heartache.

*"Mr. Loyd, your grandmother is in recovery, but she is badly injured. We're not quite sure of the full extent yet. (Minutes — maybe hours pass — I lost track of time.) She has a cracked sternum, broken ribs 1-9, a fractured wrist, broken toes, a compound femur break, and her blood pressure won't stabilize... we'll get you back as soon as we can."*

I heard the words, but my mind is wandering, fearful of what's next. "Will she survive?" I wanted to ask, but I don't. I was afraid of the answer.

*"Can I see my grandfather?"* I asked. I was taken to another floor where I was allowed to say some prayers with him and for him. He's one of the most faithful servants I know. I found comfort in praying over his body. "Does anyone know what happened?" I asked.

In a trooper's frank and been-there-seen-that-tone, I was offered condolences and received a recounting of the day's events from the responding officer.



Loyd 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.*

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 2...

# LJB's Cookin' Corner

## DESI VEGA'S MEATBALLS & RED SAUCE

*This month's recipe comes from our paralegal, Heather. "I got this recipe from a video that Desi Vega and his mom shared on Facebook right when the COVID shutdowns began. It's his meatballs and sauce that he puts out at his restaurants when you are seated. They are amazing if you have not had one. It has quickly become a regular meal in our home. I serve [them] over spaghetti noodles."*

### INGREDIENTS - MEATBALLS

- 1lb ground beef
- 1/3 cup minced garlic
- 1/3 cup chopped onion
- 1/3 cup breadcrumbs  
(I use Vigo Italian breadcrumbs)
- 1/4 cup pecorino romano cheese
- 1/4 cup parmesan cheese
- 2 eggs

### DIRECTIONS - MEATBALLS

1. Combine ingredients in a large bowl. This should make about 11 meatballs.

2. Coat pan with olive oil. Heat to medium.
3. Add the meatballs to the pan and cook for about 3-4 minutes on each side.
4. Once cooked, set aside on a plate.

### INGREDIENTS - RED SAUCE

- Olive Oil
- 1 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/3 cup minced garlic
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp pepper
- 1 1/2 tbsp sugar
- 1 can tomato paste  
(I use Hunt's Garlic and Basil)
- 1 can tomato sauce
- 1 tsp basil leaves
- 1 tsp Italian seasoning
- 2 bay leaves

### DIRECTIONS - RED SAUCE

1. Get a big pot, coat with olive oil,

and put on medium heat.

2. Once the oil gets hot, add the chopped onion and garlic and sauté until the onions are translucent.
3. Add the salt and pepper into the mix.
4. Stir for a minute, then add the sugar.
5. Mix that up with the mixture in the pot for about a minute.
6. Add the tomato paste to the pot and mix everything for about 2-3 minutes.
7. Once it is similar in consistency to a thick roux, add the can of tomato sauce, basil leaves, Italian seasoning, and a little salt and pepper to taste.
8. Once that comes to a bubble, turn the heat down to low and add the meatballs into the pot as well as the bay leaves.
9. Cook for at least 2 hours on simmer.
10. Get a bag of spaghetti noodles and follow the directions on the bag to cook. Serve meatballs and sauce over noodles.

# Enjoy!

## LIFE-CHANGING CONTINUED

*"Your grandparents were traveling westbound on 90 in Avondale. A pickup traveling eastbound, for currently unknown reasons, jumped the median and entered the westbound lanes. Apparently there was another vehicle in front of your grandparents who swerved out of the way, but your grandparents were not as fortunate."*

He also wanted me to know they were both conscious when he arrived on the scene, and both were primarily concerned with how the other was doing. I couldn't help but think this was the definitive picture of love. In the worst of circumstances they were more concerned with the other's wellbeing than their own. I wasn't surprised though – that's how they were and are.

The days following remained a blur. Hours were spent praying, worrying, wondering, and just waiting for more news.

The conflict of emotions is impossible to explain and difficult to live. I was thankful for her survival and completely saddened at his death; angry at the other driver and pondering the what ifs, the whys, and what's next. I stayed up most nights just waiting for an update. As I write this, I'm still tearful and pensive.

I'm grieving but filled with hope. My grandmother is still hospitalized but slowly improving. She's responsive but feeling pain I can't even begin to describe.

Longtime readers may remember my write-up of "Patience and a Dream Fulfilled" back in April 2018 when I wrote about their marriage after many years of dating. They truly were a perfect, faithful, older couple who showed all they encountered what a life well lived should look like. The effects of this crash are far-reaching for our family and others.

I can't help but think I would trade this in a heartbeat for never again saying I understand what our clients are facing if I could. But...

With tearful thoughts,



### 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, Lloyd 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. 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.

# Attorney Megan Richardson joins the LJB Legal team

Megan is no stranger to the small-town, Southern way of life. She grew up in Monroe but spent most of her weekends and summers with cousins on their grandparents' rice and soybean farm near Oak Grove in the Mississippi River Delta region. Memories were made fishing, swimming, hunting, and riding tractors and four-wheelers. It was a 20-minute ride into town to go to a store or church, but even being spread out at least a few miles from each other, the neighbors still took the time to visit and help each other. Her dad's career eventually brought her immediate family to the New Orleans area, but Megan says her upbringing instilled in her an unbelievable system of values, including the importance of family, helping others, and always doing the right thing.

This value system makes her a great fit as part of our team. Megan exemplifies our core values. She gets it done, does the right thing, owns it, operates with transparency, and compassionately makes a difference every day.

Megan spent her first few years out of law school practicing in St. Charles Parish, helping clients navigate through bankruptcy, family law, personal injury, and other general civil litigation issues. She met many people who became longtime friends. Though she resides in New Orleans, she fell in love with this area, the people, and the laid-back way of life. Megan

has spent the last several years working in various areas of insurance defense, which has allowed her to gain invaluable experience regarding the information insurance companies need and the factors and flags they look for in evaluating and paying claims. This knowledge enables her to assist clients in



**RICHARDSON**

going after insurance companies with the best possible outcome.

Megan will primarily work with all aspects of personal injury, from filing claims

with the insurance companies to negotiating with the insurance adjusters and dealing with medical providers and Court. She will also assist with the firm's family law cases, handling each with experience and compassion.

Outside of work, Megan and her husband Corey have three amazing children: Rhett, Camille, and Jude, and a goofy boxer named Bella. They love their community in the Lakeview area of New Orleans and are committed to helping turn things around in the city. She enjoys good music, festivals, food, family, and football.

We are thrilled to have her be part of our team and hope you join us in giving her a warm welcome.

**"I am very happy to be getting back to my roots by joining Loyd and his team."**

*— Megan*

## REVIEW ROUNDUP



"Loyd is an excellent attorney. He cares passionately about his clients and community."

*— Mary Ellen O'Connor*



## New Orleans Magazine names top lawyers

Loyd and Lucy were both named to New Orleans Magazine's 2021 list of Top Lawyers in New Orleans. What an honor! We thank our fellow attorneys for their votes of confidence.

## Thank you for your recent referrals

*We are always thankful to those who trust us enough to recommend us to their family, friends, and/or clients.*

- Sherry Michel
- Emily Kipp
- Tommy Bourgeois
- Christi Harding
- Ronald Croftwell
- Rebecca Berthelot
- Tatiana Mouton, attorney
- Brittney Wilson
- Vivian Steverson
- Amanda Thomas
- Sheena Berthelot
- Nicole Short

## BACK TO STIRRING THE POT

The forecast had us a little nervous, but the weather was gorgeous for the long-awaited return of our cook-off team at the Dat Dads' Club of Luling's Gradoux on the Bayou on Dec. 11. The pastalaya was delicious as always, and the company was even better!





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*Merry Christmas from Team LJB!*

IN THIS ISSUE: Life-Changing Crash // Meatballs & Red Sauce // Attorney Richardson Joins Team LJB

### ST. CHARLES STRONG SHIRTS RAISE \$5,000 FOR UNITED WAY OF ST. CHARLES PARISH

For a couple of years now, we've been donating shirts to the Hahnville High School Robotics t-shirt cannon. We normally donate HHS-themed shirts, but when Lindy found out the first football game being played post-Ida would be the big Hahnville vs. Destrehan rivalry game, she got the idea to do something more community-themed.

In a mental escape from house-gutting and contents list creation, she designed a shirt featuring the iconic Hale Boggs bridge that connects the two sides of St. Charles Parish.

Inside of the bridge are the names of the towns and neighborhoods that make up our great community.

Suddenly, we were receiving a steady stream of texts, Facebook messages, and emails asking where the shirt could be

purchased. While we didn't intend to sell the shirts, we quickly realized that this was a great opportunity to raise funds at a time when help was desperately needed.

We're excited to announce that thanks to the amazing support of our community, we were able to raise \$5,000, which is all going to a dedicated fund to help our schools and teachers replace classroom items lost due to Hurricane Ida.

A special thank you to our small business partners who pledged donations per shirt sold - ABC Title of Boutte, Custom Tile Pool & Patio, Chauvin Custom Homes, Kelli's Kreative Dance, and Today's Car Care.

