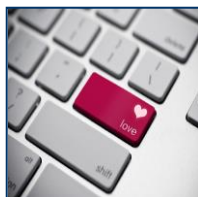


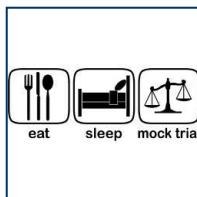
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In this Edition...



Love in the Age of the Internet



NCAJ Mock Trial Competition



A Tribute to Jessica



News & Events

MAKING LOVE EVEN MORE COMPLICATED

Jury Refuses To Award Ex-Husband Damages For Adultery Where Wife Had Sought The Affair Through Online Service

Contributed By: Haynes Brotherton

Despite moving away from using marital fault as a ground for alimony, North Carolina still recognizes claims by a married plaintiff against a third party who has an adulterous affair with the plaintiff's spouse. These "heart balm" claims are known as "alienation of affection" (seducing/stealing away a spouse) and "criminal conversation" (having sex with a spouse). Our own Pete McArdle recently defended such a third party against claims from a jilted husband. Through solid preparation, Pete was able to force a dismissal of the alienation claim and then convinced the jury to award no damages on the criminal conversation claim.

The internet provides almost every consumer service imaginable. While dating sites like Match.com and Farmersonly.com boast of helping their single users finding true love for



marriage, there is a darker section of this industry, tempting married persons. The flagship site is AshleyMadison.com, which entices its users with the motto “Life is short. Have an affair.” It exists to connect married users looking to have extramarital sexual relations.

Pete was able to successfully defend his client against the husband by proving that the wife had been actively seeking an affair on AshleyMadison.com. He also discovered evidence of some questionable sexual activities of the husband. The evidence of the unhappiness of the marriage was so strong that the husband dismissed his alienation of affection claim on the eve of trial.

Pete then sought to avoid any harm to his client on the criminal conversation claim by arguing to the jury that, even though it appeared his client may have had sex with the wife, there was no evidence of any damage to the husband. After a lengthy trial, the jury agreed and awarded no damages.

Mr. McArdle is one of the more respected and successful family law attorneys in the Mecklenburg County area. If you have any family law matters to resolve, don't hesitate to give us a call for a consultation appointment.

2015 NCAJ MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

Contributed By: Micah Scott, Legal Asst.



The 23rd Carolina Center for Civic Education NCAJ High School Mock Trial Regional Competition was held on Saturday, February 7, 2015 in Charlotte. Nearly 70 students from 10 teams from Mecklenburg, Lincoln & Iredell Counties participated in the competition. The team from Westchester Country Day School won and has advanced to the state finals to be held at Campbell Law School in March.

What is Mock Trial?

Mock Trial gives students an opportunity to learn about our justice system and trial by jury. Case materials are released in early fall and students spend months working on their presentation, guided by teacher coaches and mentored by local attorneys. Students learn to think critically, communicate clearly, collaborate on complex problems and deal with unexpected challenges while simulating judicial proceedings.

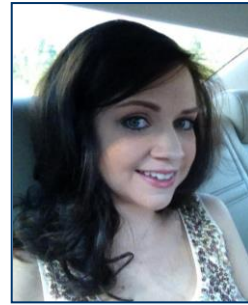
We at the Knox Law Center are happy to have helped with Regional Coordination for the last ten years in a row. Ten staff members and attorneys from the Knox Law Center worked alongside of a number of judges and attorneys from the surrounding counties.

A TRIBUTE TO AN INSPIRATION: JESSICA LINK

Contributed by: Haynes Brotherton

There are many stories in human history that are used to motivate or inspire us all to be more than we think we can be. I believe in today's age we have to use those tales of the past because there aren't many whose lives can move us in the same way. On January 22, the world lost one of the souls whose life encouraged our office to strive for better. Her name is Jessica Link.

Now, I wouldn't say that I had a special relationship with Jessica because the fact that she was a formative part of my young life as a babysitter and close friend. I would say I had a special relationship with Jessica because everyone who ever met this young lady had a special relationship with her. She always smiled, always cared, and was always genuinely and respectfully interested in your ideas and worldview. These are all qualities that you may say, "well, I know plenty of people who are just like that". I agree, but let me say this, no you don't. I say that because this woman did all this and so much more while battling one of the more ravenous diseases we see in this world: Cystic Fibrosis.



This disease is extremely painful, and kept Jessica in and out of the hospital constantly. For those of us who knew her, it was hard to watch her go through this process. But it was also incredibly uplifting and motivating to see her battle CF with both grace and humor. She never let anyone know she was in pain, and was constantly mindful of projecting an image that gave us all strength. I regurgitated a tribute on my Facebook wall soon after her passing, and I think it does the best job of describing how incredibly inspirational this young lady was to us all:

"I'm sure you know how many lives you have inspired through your conquering of CF. I don't think you lost your battle, because as we learned from the recent passing of Stuart Scott, "You beat [any sickness] by HOW you live, WHY you live, and in the manner in which you live."

Jess, you inspired us all by living a life that modeled HOW to be a better person. The way you served others around you through your writing, wit, and simply your presence inspires me every day to attempt to become half of the person you were. I remember with such clarity the speeches you made at the CF Balls I attended, and the strength it took to be the incredibly eloquent and wise voice for those with the same sickness. You led such a purpose-filled life with such grace, that it was almost easy to glance over the everyday occurrence of brilliance you produced. If someone asked me WHY you lived, it would be easy for me to give a college-length lecture on the subject.

You were a scholar, an intellectual comedian, a fashionista, a great friend, and most importantly the best damn babysitter anyone could ask for. The manner in which you lived only further cemented your incredible legacy to the thousands of us who were lucky enough to have met you or called your friend and family (to me, there was no either/or with you). You lived continually showing me how to meet hard times with a smile on your face, and that's something that I will never, ever forget. I will never eat another microwave cooked s'more without thinking of your beautiful, bright and smiling face and your words that will continue to inspire me for the rest of my life.

I am truly blessed to have been a part of your amazing story, Jessica. Rest in the arms of your creator and breathe easy, you've made this world a better place."

Jessica was an ambassador for the CF community, and upon her passing left two missions for those of us who knew her to spread to those we could. First, she wished for all of us to choose to possibly save lives by donating our organs through the Donate Life initiative (<http://www.donatelifenc.org/>).

Secondly and most importantly, Jessica wanted us to follow the Spiritus Project. This was her brainchild to aid those families who needed financial assistance for treating their Cystic Fibrosis. The disease is tremendously expensive to treat and many families are driven into extreme debt to help their loved ones. Jessica learned this fact while in the hospital, and decided to help out. Make sure to stay updated on the happenings around this worthy project at: <http://www.spiritusproject.org/home.html>

To get a better idea of her inspirational story and her vivacious personality, Jessica had a blog that she updated constantly. I encourage you to check it out when you have a free moment and look through her thought provoking and hilarious musings. <http://chroniccuriosity.com/>



Jessica Nicole Link

June 28, 1986 - January 22, 2015

“To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.”

NEWS & EVENTS

Super Lawyers

Eddie Knox Awarded NC Super Lawyer for 10th Consecutive Year

Super Lawyers Magazine has issued its annual list of the most outstanding attorneys in North Carolina and once again Eddie Knox has been honored. Super Lawyers is a rating service of lawyers who have attained the highest degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. The patented selection process includes independent research, peer nominations and peer evaluations. Those named Super Lawyers comprise roughly 5% of the original pool of nominees. Eddie Knox has been part of that top-tier 5% for the past decade.



This continues a long history of recognition and awards for Eddie from the legal profession, including induction as a member of the Bar Association's "General Practice Hall of Fame". His outstanding litigation record and his life of public service, including tenure as a leader in the legislature and as Mayor of Charlotte, have made Eddie one of our area's most decorated legal and political personalities. The Knox Law Center would like to congratulate him on a 10th consecutive year as a North Carolina Super Lawyer.

Keeping Your Passwords Protected

Keeping your online account passwords a secret can be hard because of two things:

- ❖ There are so many to keep track of that you may forget many of them.
- ❖ Many of the ways we store them are easy to find and easy to steal by others.

Lawyers Mutual has given some tips in order to help us keep our passwords safe.

- **Never ever tell anyone your passwords**
- **Never write down your passwords, especially on your monitor**
 - Is this not the same as leaving the keys for your car in the ignition?
- **Don't save passwords on your computer hard drive**
 - This file can be located in seconds with a hard drive search
- **Use a password manager**
 - Widely used password managers include 1Password, LastPass, and Robo-Form
- **Use biometric scanners**
 - These scanners help you avoid the need to remember passwords.
- **Don't use the same password for everything**
- **Change passwords on important accounts on a regular basis**
- **Change any compromised password immediately**
 - Do this even if you only suspect a password has been compromised.
- **Don't use the "remember password" feature**
 - By selecting this option you give unchallenged access to accounts to anyone sitting down at your computer.
- **Use two-step authentication**
 - This second layer of security is what makes two-step authentication more secure.



Trolley Progress

Our Charlotte office has been plagued for the last year with ongoing major construction for the newest edition to the public transit system. If you've been to our website, we are constantly updating the status of this trolley project because so many clients are finding it difficult to navigate the seemingly endless amount of cones and equipment in order to park in our lot.

We are gaining optimism as the construction nears its final phases. The last few cones and pieces of equipment are almost gone, and we may see the first trolley ride by fairly soon. We are ecstatic to inform you, our valued clients, that 5th street is now navigable and mostly clear to make your visit with us much easier!



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