



"Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act."

Proverbs 3:27

Greetings from Paul Bennett

When I last wrote the greeting for our newsletter, our offices were closed, Dallas and Travis counties were in lockdown, and I lamented that my only mediations were between my kids over Netflix. Fast forward nine months. My kids are back at school, our offices are open (with masks and social distancing), we had an election, and Jonathan Hernon and I just returned from Houston where we tried a case to verdict before a live jury. You read that right, we had a jury trial in the middle of a global pandemic! Although I wouldn't recommend it, the trial went just fine and I guess we'll always have bragging rights. Even in a pandemic there are cases to defend, conflicts to resolve, and the lawyers of Fletcher Farley are fighting for our clients.



And we now have reason to be hopeful for 2021. We're told that safe and effective vaccines are just on the horizon and, with that, a return to more normalcy. As we enter the holiday season and reflect back on this remarkable year, our country has much to be thankful for and to be proud of. I hope that each and every one of you has a safe and joyous holiday, and I sincerely hope to see many of you in person again next year.

Honesty is Still the Best Policy or Set the Stage for Success

Jonathan Hernon

Happy Holidays

Click on the image below to see our holiday card.



All of us at Fletcher Farley are grateful for your support this year. We wish you a joyous holiday season and a happy New Year!

You can also view our holiday card by [clicking here](#).

Supporting our Community

In the spirit of the season, we are honored to donate to the North Texas Food Bank and the Central Texas Food Bank.

This year has been one like

Grab the jury's attention. Standard practice says to introduce yourself and your client when addressing the jury for the first time in voir dire but always first read the room. Recently, Paul Bennett and I attended a week long jury trial in Houston that stemmed from a multi vehicle trucking accident.



Our trial theme was credibility because we had impeached the plaintiff in the depositions he had previously given. Basically, he changed his story in the second deposition after receiving a settlement from one of the parties and attempted to shift blame to the non-settling parties.

Armed with only a face shield and a microphone, I addressed a panel of 65 potential jurors spread across an auditorium of about 300 chairs. Straying from the standard approach, I began by telling the jury that because it was election season I would revisit an election story. I then retold President Richard Nixon's 1972 Watergate scandal, where men who worked for his reelection campaign were arrested after they were caught breaking into the Democratic National Committee headquarters and were attempting to steal documents and plant bugs. President Nixon would go on to win reelection but because an anonymous whistleblower was able to tie the break in to President Nixon, he was forced to become the first president in U.S. history to resign. I asked the jury whether, in their opinion, honesty (credibility) mattered and all 65 hands were raised in agreement.

The stage had been set for a theme of our case and I continued discussions with the jury.

Conflicts Resolved

Fletcher Farley Obtains Summary Judgments and Dismissal of Plaintiffs' Claims in Two Vehicle Accident Suits

[Jeffrey D. Smith](#) and [Matthew Skidmore](#) were successful in obtaining summary judgments and dismissal of plaintiffs' claims in two motor vehicle accident suits arising under similar circumstances. Both suits involved rear-end motor vehicle accidents in which our client was operating the middle vehicle that had come to a complete stop before being rear-ended and pushed into the rear of plaintiffs' vehicles. Plaintiffs' alleged our

we have never seen. We appreciate your support during this challenging year and we hope that our donation can bring joy to our neighbors. Everyone should have a nutritious meal to share.



We hope you and your family have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thanksgiving Wishes



We had to forego our annual Thanksgiving lunch this year. It's been rough but the firm still finds ways to show how much we care for our employees. This year we provided a care package with canned goods to help celebrate at home.

We hope you had a great Thanksgiving as well and hope to see everyone soon.

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clients were negligent, which contributed to the accidents. Following written discovery, depositions, and unsuccessful mediations when the culpable co-defendants failed to resolve the claims, we filed No-Evidence Motions for Summary Judgment. Plaintiffs failed to present any evidence sufficient to raise a fact issue resulting in courts in both Dallas and Denton Counties granting our No-Evidence Motions for Summary Judgment and a complete dismissal of the claims asserted against our clients.

Fletcher Farley Obtains Summary Judgment in Vehicle Accident Suit

[Matthew Skidmore](#) and [Jeffrey D. Smith](#) were successful in obtaining a summary judgment in a motor vehicle accident suit filed by our client's co-workers against him. Plaintiffs were passengers in a vehicle driven by our client and alleged that our client was negligent in running a red light resulting in the accident. At Plaintiffs' depositions, Matt Skidmore was successful in getting both Plaintiffs to admit that they believed our client had a green light when he entered the intersection, and as such, they did not believe our client was actually at fault for the accident. The depositions resulted in Plaintiffs' counsel withdrawing from the case, and the Court granting summary judgment and dismissing the claims asserted against our client.

If you want more information or have questions, please contact:

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