

MAY 2021

# OPENING



# STATEMENTS

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## FROM THE DESK OF *JOHN RAZUMICH*

Welcome back! It's been a busy time around here, so I'll do my best to update you.

First and most importantly, we have a new associate attorney helping us at the office! Andrew Redd recently joined our practice and will have been with us for nearly a full month by the time this reaches your mailbox. Andrew is a graduate of the Indiana University McKinney School of Law (same as me!) and will help to ensure that each and every one of the people we help receives the maximum amount of attention that their cases need to get the best possible outcome.

Second, we are in the process of adding additional phone staff to make sure that your calls are answered in an orderly and timely fashion. Leonardo will be staying with us, but will be transitioning to more of a client success management role. He will begin reaching out to existing clients on a monthly basis, just to check in and make sure that everything is going okay for them. This will also allow us to address any concerns that you might have in a quick and timely fashion and to follow through on our promise to provide you with more access to our attorneys than any other law firm would.

Third, it looks like jury trials are back in full swing, meaning that we will *finally* start seeing justice for our clients. It's been a long time coming, and we are looking forward to getting back into the fight.

Here's to a great month and better times ahead!



*-JOHN RAZUMICH*



## THE SECRET TO CONFIDENCE! ACCORDING TO THE AGE GROUP WHO HAS THE MOST OF IT

They say wisdom comes with age, and apparently so does confidence. A 2018 study of more than 191 research papers and 165,000 people found that confidence peaks at age 60 and remains at that point until ages 70–80 when there's a small dip. The more I thought about these findings, the more I started to agree. Given what life looks like for many people in their 60s, it's difficult to not be confident!

According to the study, our confidence increases from birth as we learn more about the world, then it stabilizes during our teen years. When we're still unsure of ourselves and trying to figure out what we want out of life in our teens, 20s, and even in our 30s, our confidence wavers and dips, but by age 60, we have some stability. That may be why we are at our most confident at that age, researchers say. By this age, many people are maintaining long-term relationships, enjoying a lucrative career, and are engaged in their communities. To put it simply, we've planted our roots by the time we reach 60, and that boosts our confidence!

*Continued on Page 2 ...*

Researchers found that the slight dip in confidence in older age can be attributed to disruptions in this stability. We often face more medical concerns, the death of loved ones, and retirement. These changes — much like those challenges during our turbulent teens — can shake our confidence.

Whether you're in your 70s and looking to find that spark from a decade ago or are firmly planted in your 30s and hoping to boost your self-esteem, I believe we can all learn something from our confident 60-year-old counterparts. There are three big lessons from this research that I think everyone should know.



**1. Always be learning:** Our confidence grows throughout childhood because we are learning new things and discovering the world around us. As we learn that planting one foot in front of the other will help us walk, we become more confident in continuing to do that, until we're running and going further than ever before. Don't stop learning — even if you're at that sweet 60-year-old spot — because knowledge will give you greater understanding and confidence in your world.

**2. Find your stability:** You don't have to be married with 2.5 kids and hold down a steady job to find stability, but finding people, hobbies, or a community to ground you is important. Find a core group of people whom you trust and can confide in. Discover a hobby that you can learn more about, or develop habits that help you throughout the day, like meditation or maintaining a morning routine. Plant a few roots, whatever they look like, and grow from there.

**3. Accept that things will be difficult:** You cannot control what happens to you, but you can control how you react to what happens. Your confidence can be diminished when faced with major life changes, like a medical diagnosis or a career change. Yet, no matter how hard you try to avoid it, life will change. It's important that you accept that — rather than resisting it — because that's the simplest way to return to stability.

We have a lot to learn from our elders, and perhaps no lesson is as important as the one that we will all apparently learn in our 60s. I'll leave you with a confidence boost for the road: You got this!

## Could Vaccine Passports Open Doors for Travel?

### CONCERNS ABOUT VACCINATION VERIFICATION

Are you hoping to travel this summer? Not like how you "traveled" from your bedroom to your living room couch all this past year, but really travel — get out and see the world beyond your hometown.

With the COVID-19 vaccines finally available, millions of people are becoming immune to the virus that has ravaged the global economy, especially in the areas of tourism and hospitality. Industry leaders in these sectors are understandably eager for the vaccine to bring back tourism. Some are hoping vaccine passports will play a part in jump-starting tourism around the world.

Vaccine passports are a means by which someone can prove they have been vaccinated against COVID-19 and are, therefore, free to travel internationally. Some countries are eager for the sort of verification these passports could bring, should they exist. The Seychelles,

Cyprus, Romania, and other countries have all said they would welcome tourists who could prove they were vaccinated.

Now, you might be sitting on the same couch you've sat on for the past year, thinking, "Well, I would like to travel internationally after I get vaccinated!" However, this proposal is not without concerns. Firstly, health care officials still don't know if vaccinated people can transmit the virus. So, even if they're vaccinated, they could still spread it to unvaccinated people around the world.

Another concern is a vaccine passport's potential to create classes of "haves" and "have nots" among travelers. Many developing countries won't receive the vaccine for another few years. Should they be barred from returning to normal? Similarly, could the vaccine passport be abused domestically, enabling private businesses to bar customers

from their spaces without proof of vaccination? Finally, what form would these passports take if they were to exist? Would they be on a smartphone app? A laminated card? A verified doctor's note?

So, while the prospect of traveling far and wide this summer after getting vaccinated is exciting, it might be better to temper your expectations for now and hope for clearer guidelines in the near future.



# AUSTRALIAN WOMBATS IN CHARGE



## SAVING LIVES ONE HOLE AT A TIME

Remember the Australian wildfires of 2019–2020? These fires ravaged large areas of the country, displacing and leaving countless animals to fight for survival. To make matters worse, swaths of the country have been dealing with drought. It's one challenge after another for humans and animals alike.

But one species has taken matters into its own “hands.” Numerous wombats have been discovered digging holes in search of water — and they found it! According to Australia's ABC News, one group of wombats was discovered on a farm in New South Wales, which was situated over a large underground reservoir. So, the wombats went to work. One farmer, Ted Finnie, reported that wombats dug a hole roughly 4 meters deep by 20 meters wide (or about 65 feet). Their incredible work made this source of water remarkably accessible.

At this particular watering hole, Finnie captured all sorts of creatures on camera — birds, emus, possums, echidnas, and monitor lizards — congregating around the wombats' creation. What isn't known is how, exactly, the wombats discovered the water, but they surmise the animals likely picked up on environmental clues and dug until they found what they were looking for.

Interestingly enough, wombats have been known to help other animals in the past. During the Australian fires, countless animals were left searching for refuge, and they found it in wombat burrows.

While the wombats weren't exactly welcoming other species into their homes with open arms, they seemed to “tolerate” the visitors, as one ecologist with the University of Adelaide noted. It was a case of accidental heroism, much like their search for water, but it was heroism nonetheless.

## Shaved Asparagus Salad

Inspired by [ACoupleCooks.com](http://ACoupleCooks.com)



Tangy citrus and salty Parmesan cheese complement earthy, fresh asparagus, a favorite spring vegetable with a short growing season.

### Ingredients

- 1 lb asparagus spears
- 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 1/2 tsp kosher salt
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard
- 1/8 tsp red pepper flakes
- 3 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- Freshly ground black pepper, to taste

### Directions

1. With a vegetable peeler, shave each asparagus spear from tip to base. This is easiest to do if the asparagus is on a flat surface.
2. Place shaved asparagus in a bowl and blot off excess moisture with a paper towel.
3. In a separate bowl, make a vinaigrette by whisking together lemon juice, Dijon mustard, and olive oil.
4. Pour vinaigrette over shaved asparagus and add Parmesan cheese, salt, red pepper flakes, and black pepper. Toss to combine. Taste and adjust seasonings.

## HAVE A LAUGH!





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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Desk of John Razumich

**PAGE 1**

The Most Confident People Share  
Their Secrets

**PAGE 1**

Could Vaccine Passports Open Doors  
for Travel?

**PAGE 2**

Australian Wombats Are Saving the Day!

**PAGE 3**

Shaved Asparagus Salad

**PAGE 3**

Mila Kunis Got Sued for That!? (And 2 Other  
Weird Celebrity Legal Cases)

**PAGE 4**



# THE 3 STRANGEST CELEBRITY LAWSUITS

Stories about celebrities can be enjoyable or awkward, but no matter what happens, they usually create great material for BuzzFeed or Reddit users. This also includes celebrity stories involving the law, which bring on a lot of head-scratching and legal action — like these three strange cases.

### **Simon Cowell pays for a chef's disappearing shoes.**

Known for his unrelenting critiques and setting the stage for some of the world's biggest names in show business, Simon Cowell has amassed enough wealth to afford a private chef. When one such chef came by his house for a job interview, she was asked to remove her shoes, but according to court documents, she never received her shoes back. The chef claims to have tried multiple times to retrieve the shoes — which were outfitted with \$500 orthopedic insoles — but

never succeeded. She sued Cowell for the shoes and gas money, and the "America's Got Talent" star shelled out.

### **Internet conspiracy theory results in a court case against Beyoncé.**

The internet is a wild place, and conspiracy theories are often born on its digital channels. One such theory was that Beyoncé and her husband, Jay-Z, hired a surrogate to give birth to their daughter, Blue Ivy, in 2012. Internet trolls who saw her pregnant belly roll as she sat down for an interview fanned the flames of this theory, and soon, a lawsuit emerged. A woman claimed she was the true biological mother of Blue Ivy, and she asked for compensation and DNA testing to prove it. Previously, the same woman claimed to be the birth mother of North West, the daughter of Kim Kardashian and Kanye West, but the court threw out the case.

### **Mila Kunis ruffles some feathers.**

Actress Mila Kunis was sued for \$5,000 by her childhood friend, Kristina Karo, in 2015 because Kunis allegedly stole a chicken from Karo when they were still children in Ukraine. Karo, an aspiring singer, claimed the theft resulted in extreme emotional distress and prevented her from pursuing the American dream. According to Kunis, the theft occurred when she was 7 years old and Karo was just 1 month old. Kunis and her husband, actor Ashton Kutcher, speculated that the case was all a publicity stunt to promote Karo's upcoming music video, and the case was eventually dropped.

