

888-694-7994



700 NEWTOWN RD.  
STE. 112  
NORFOLK, VA 23502

PRST STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
BOISE, ID  
PERMIT 411

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

MIRACLES IN LIFE  
page 1

WHY YOU SHOULDN'T WAIT TO  
HIRE AN ATTORNEY  
pages 2

TESTIMONIALS  
page 3

AVOCADO AND CUCUMBER  
COLD SOUP  
page 3

PET HERO OF THE YEAR  
page 4

# PET HERO OF THE YEAR | How a Beagle Mix Helped Pass a Law in Georgia

You probably remember the Best Picture debacle at the Oscars this year. Best Picture: "La La Land." Wait, actually — "Moonlight!" On the other hand, April's 5th Annual Pet Hero Awards went without a hitch, and one pup walked away with the night's top award for pets.

### Amazing Grace's Story

In 2006, Gracie was one of 3 million dogs in shelters nationwide. Unfortunately, she was on mutt death row. One July day, Grace and six other dogs were loaded into a gas chamber at Liberty Animal Control in Hinesville, Georgia. Thirty-two minutes later, the control officer returned to empty the gas chamber, only to find that one mutt — Gracie — was still alive and gasping for air.

The horrified officer rushed her to a local veterinary office, unwilling to put her through it again. Local news outlets picked up the story of the miracle survivor, and eventually, so did CNN. One viewer was particularly taken with the story. Phil

Draughton of Illinois pledged to pay for her recovery and, ultimately, adopted her.

Since then, Phil and Gracie have headed a campaign to spread awareness of banning gas chambers. On December 31, 2010, Georgia passed a law to ban them — a law called "Gracie's Law" in her honor. Along with Animal Aid USA and the MOMS Rescue, they collected over 25,000 signatures of support to push the law through the state legislature.

According to the Humane Society of the United States, 2.4 million adoptable cats and dogs are put down in the U.S. each year, many in gas chambers. For them, Phil and Gracie continue to fight the good fight.



# NEWSLETTER

08 | 17

FOLLOW US



WWW.JOEMILLERINJURYLAW.COM | 888-694-7994

## MY MIRACLE

### THE AMAZING STORY OF MY DAUGHTER

We live in a crazy world, and sometimes we forget miracles can happen. When I feel overwhelmed, I think about my youngest daughter, Emmi, and I know someone's looking out for me. The story of how she came into our lives is nothing short of miraculous.

My wife gave birth to our first daughter, Dalya, a year after we were married. It was scary being new parents, but we were excited to start our family. A few years later, when Carol and I decided to have another child, it wasn't as straightforward. We tried "traditional" techniques and in vitro fertilization to no avail. Nine years after Dalya was born, we started to seriously look into adoption.

Adopting is not an easy process; it involves home inspections, paperwork, recommendations, and more. It took almost a year to get everything submitted, but finally we were ready. We were prepared to travel to China or Romania to adopt, but fortuitously, a young lady in the area — we'll call her "Sarah" — was pregnant and looking for someone to adopt her child. This sort of happenstance is unheard of in the adoption process, and I called Sarah as soon as possible. While I invited her to our home to meet us, simultaneously, my wife was on the phone getting the news that we'd been approved to adopt! Such serendipity was nothing short of a miracle.

The very opportunity to adopt this baby was another miracle. Sarah's circumstances

prevented her from raising a child, and even though she was about seven months pregnant, she only just learned she was expecting! She wasn't even showing, and all of her pregnancy tests had somehow come back negative. When she visited us, she liked Dalya a lot and told us any people who could raise such a sweet girl must be great parents. This was a true Blessing. Other parents wait for years and suffer so much disappointment on their journey to adoption.

Our baby was due in mid-January, so we were concerned when Sarah called the house in the middle of the night in early December. She'd been throwing up for hours and was afraid she'd be fired if she couldn't get a work excuse. I drove her to the emergency room, got her a work note, and since she lived alone, we agreed she should come back to our house until she felt better. The next night, we were woken up again, this time by a knock on our bedroom door as Sarah informed us her water broke!

Carol rushed her to the hospital while I struggled to get in touch with our attorney. I consider this another miracle. Had Sarah not called us on Thursday, and had I not agreed to take her to the ER that night, she would have been completely alone when she went into labor. Instead, Carol got to be with her through the entire birth. Meanwhile, I finally got ahold of our attorney, who was furious when I called him at home. He explained that we needed to wait until the baby came and please not bother him on the weekends. Then I told him the baby had

come early and after he got over the shock, he quickly jumped into gear and got us the paperwork we needed to establish custody of our daughter and take her home with us from the hospital. Of course, that is also unheard of in the adoption world, and yet another miracle.

Emmi was a healthy 5 pounds, 9 ounces when she was born, a normal weight for a girl. Turns out, she wasn't early at all. We were overjoyed to meet our healthy baby girl, and Sarah felt no hesitation about giving her to Carol at the hospital. She knew this was best for herself and the baby. Emmi's full name is *Emunah*, which is Hebrew for "deep faith in G-d." We experienced many miracles so we could bring Emmi home almost eight years ago, and I'm grateful for every single one. Our lives wouldn't be the same without Emmi.

It's important to remember that miracles can, and do, happen. If anyone out there has miraculous stories of their own, I'd love to hear them! Send me your stories via email at [jmiller@joemillerinjurylaw.com](mailto:jmiller@joemillerinjurylaw.com) or through Facebook by visiting [facebook.com/joemillerlawltd](https://www.facebook.com/joemillerlawltd). We may publish your story in a future newsletter.

- Joseph Miller



**If you belong to a union or other labor-related group and want to schedule my presentation at your group's speaking arrangement, you can do so by calling 888-694-7994. The presentation is free of charge, offers important information for taking appropriate action in Virginia workers' compensation cases, and everyone in attendance gets a free copy of my book, "10 Traps and Lies that Can Ruin Your Virginia Workers Compensation Case." Education is the best way to protect yourself from making a mistake, so call now before it's too late.**



# COULDA WOULD DA SHOULD DA

## Yet Another Reason You Should Not Wait to Hire an Attorney for Your Workers' Compensation Claim

By Joe Miller, Esq.

Recently, we started working with a woman who hired us long after her work accident and after she had already undergone surgery. We were, at first, somewhat reluctant to accept the claim, because we recognized that the surgeon who treated her was notoriously a “puppet” of the insurance companies.

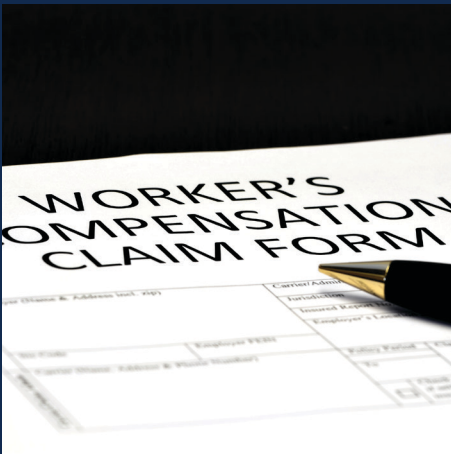
Despite that, we hoped that we could move forward, since this doctor did, in fact, elect to operate on this woman.

As is typical after we become involved, we wanted to ensure that the client remained covered under her workers' compensation claim, even after she would be released to light duty. Accordingly, we were about to proceed with filing her claim for benefits to begin that process, so we could get her under an award order from the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission.

Up until that point, it appeared the workers' comp insurance company had been voluntarily paying her medical bills; however, they had not been providing this woman with any workers' compensation weekly checks.

Unfortunately, shortly after we began our representation, we received a “laundry list” opinion letter from the defense lawyer that was meticulously filled out by the “puppet” surgeon. What I mean by “laundry list” is that the defense lawyer had gone through each and every possible question that she could ask the physician to help the defense, looking for particular answers that would basically destroy our client's claim. And of course, this insurance industry physician did not disappoint.

The physician said that the entirety of our client's injuries were the result of pre-existing arthritis and that there were no mechanical changes of any kind that were caused by the work accident.



After this letter was sent to us by the defense attorneys, we had no choice but to withdraw from the claim and advise our client that there was really nothing more we could do for her. Fortunately, she did have short-term disability insurance coverage, as well as private health insurance.

How did this occur and why could we not help her?

What had happened is that long before we became involved in the case, the workers' compensation insurance company had initially told this woman to be seen at their go-to medical facility. That facility, in turn, referred the claimant to the puppet surgeon who operated on our client and also utterly ruined her claim.

Had this woman hired us initially, we would have advised her that the medical facility had **no right** to make a direct referral to the insurance-friendly surgeon specialist. She was entitled to a **three-physician panel** from which she could have chosen a different surgeon. Although there is certainly more than one local doctor who is insurance-friendly, it just so happens that none is quite as bad as this particular physician.

I have no doubt that if we had been advising this unfortunate woman at that crucial juncture in her claim, we could have steered

her to a more neutral and fair surgeon to choose out of the three-doctor panel, who would likely at least been able to give an opinion that some portion of our client's injury was due to the work accident. That would have been sufficient to keep the claim compensable, obtain an award, and likely would have led to a substantial settlement for our client.

At this point in the claim, after the specialist had already become our client's authorized treating doctor and already operated on her, there was no way to go back and obtain a panel. It was way too late, and we were essentially stuck with the authorized doctor's opinion.

The moral of the story: **Do not wait to hire an attorney** if you have a workers' compensation claim. You must be fully aware of your rights every step of the way, because the employer and insurance company are under **no obligation** to inform you of those rights.

There are **deep holes full of quicksand** all over the place for your claim to fall into. This story is just one of them!

# TESTIMONIALS

*“Woow! I am so glad my brother chose you guys, because in the beginning, the insurance adjuster had talked me into handling his case ourselves. The insurance company was cooperative at the time but little did I know that there was someone who was knowledgeable with workers' compensation and who really cares about my brother's well-being and overall health. Okay, so I'm having an emotional moment! Thanks for your hard work!”*

- Anonymous



## Joe's Monthly ‘SOUL SNACKS’

“The entire purpose of our existence is to overcome our negative habits.”

- Vilna Goan

“Your fellow is your mirror. If your own face is clean, so will be the image you perceive. But should you look upon your fellow and see a blemish, it is your own imperfection that you are encountering. You are being shown what it is that you must correct within yourself.”

- Bal Shem Tov

## Avocado and Cucumber COLD SOUP



### What You'll Need ...

- Olive oil
- 2 medium ripe avocados, halved
- 1 large cucumber, halved
- 6 stalks spring onions
- 1 jalapeno
- 1 lemon, juiced
- ½ cup cold water
- 1 clove garlic
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon black pepper

### Step by Step ...

1. Preheat grill to medium-high.
2. Coat halved avocados with lemon juice to avoid browning. Brush olive oil over avocados, cucumber, spring onions, and jalapeno. Oil grill while hot.
3. Grill vegetables until everything is grilled or slightly charred. Once grilled, remove and place on platter to cool.
4. Chop grilled veggies and puree with lemon juice, cold water, garlic, salt, and black pepper.
5. Once smooth, portion soup into bowls and refrigerate to cool before serving.
6. Garnish with toasted cubed bread, avocados, spring onions, chives, lemon zest, or a drizzle of olive oil, if desired.

*Recipe inspired by kirantarun.com.*