



TODD LAW TIMES

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GEORGIA TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
GTLA
Providing the Right to Trial by Jury

GEORGIA ASSOCIATION
GAWL
FOR WOMEN LAWYERS

Heritage Bank Goes Above & Beyond For Clients, Businesses



Heritage Bank Jonesboro

Technology has made it easier and easier for people to do all of their banking online and never have to be in front of a teller. We are so thrilled with Heritage Bank and the customer service they provide that we would gladly opt to work with them in person.

Heritage Bank helps our clients open accounts, manage large transactions, and plan

for their financial futures. Their amazing employees take the guesswork out of figuring out the next steps to save money and help it grow.

"Everyone is always so kind and friendly," Attorney Jillian Todd said. "Heritage is extremely dependable, even on complex issues with which our clients need help."

Located down the street from our office, the Jonesboro branch has been a downtown staple since 1968. The original bank began in Clayton County in 1955 and has since grown to service the southern crescent of Atlanta.

Heritage Bank's culture makes it a great place to do business. The employees are constantly participating in or hosting events such as mentoring luncheons for women, trunk or treats for kids, and golf classics. They are involved in the local community and really encourage those living in and around our area to join in.

In addition to checking and savings accounts, car loans, mortgages, safe deposit boxes, and investment options, Heritage is on the cutting edge of technology. Their Teller live!® drive-up service provides extended hours,

simplified transactions, and the ability to speak with a representative via video chat. They also have a fantastic, monthly electronic newsletter that offers readers a wealth of information on financial security; health and wellness, and family matters. To sign-up, simply visit <https://www.bankadviser.com/heritagebank/> and click "subscribe". Thank you for all you do for our community, Heritage!



Heritage Bank Golf Classic



Teller Live ribbon-cutting

Daily Report Interviews Attorney Joseph Todd Regarding Ex-NFL Player's Case, Lands Front Page Coverage

Staying after hours to speak with a reporter regarding a decision that came down from the Court of Appeals ended up making the front page of the Daily Report's Law.com website. Attorney Joseph Todd was quoted in a breaking news article after a decision came down from the Court of Appeals of Georgia regarding his client, NFL retiree and former Buffalo Bills tight end, Buster Barnett. Barnett's estranged wife Sandra was killed in a tragic, highly-publicized murder-suicide after being kidnapped by Barnett's ex-girlfriend, Lisa Brown, on July 15, 2015. Both women died after Brown led police on a high-speed chase from the Atlanta area to Alabama, before ultimately shooting Sandra then herself. The family was trying to invoke The Slayer Statute, OCGA § 9-11-56 (c). OCGA § 53-1-5 which states, in part:

(a) An individual who feloniously and intentionally kills or conspires to kill or



procures the killing of another individual forfeits the right to take an interest from the decedent's estate and to serve as a personal representative or trustee of the decedent's estate or any trust created by the decedent. For purposes of this Code section, the killing or conspiring to kill or procuring another to kill is felonious and intentional if the killing would constitute murder or felony murder or voluntary manslaughter under the laws of this state.

Since Buster had no hand in the kidnapping or murder of his wife, it was determined that the Slayer Statute did not apply.

"He had nothing to do with it," Joseph M. Todd said to the Daily Report. He believes that since all the couple's assets were in Buster's name, attempting to invoke the Slayer Statute was Sandra's family's way of trying to get to his estate. "It looked like a money grab," Todd said. That's the only reason for it – to get his money."



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Pork Tenderloin with Apples & Onion

This seasoned roast is light yet flavorful and pairs perfectly with mashed potatoes.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon ground coriander
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 pork tenderloin, 2-2.5lbs
- 1 Tablespoon olive oil
- 2 cloves minced garlic
- 1 large sweet Vidalia onion, sliced
- 2 large Fuji apples, sliced
- 1 Tablespoon butter
- Salt and pepper to taste

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 450 degrees F.

2. In separate bowl, mix together garlic powder, cumin, coriander, thyme and salt. Rub the pork with the mixture over both sides of the meat, pressing gently so the seasoning adheres well to the tenderloin.
3. In a large skillet over medium-high heat, add the olive oil and heat. Add the minced garlic and sauté, stirring, for one minute. Put tenderloin in the pan and cook for about 10 minutes, searing each side using tongs to turn the meat. Transfer meat to a roasting pan and bake for 25-30 minutes.
4. As the pork roasts, add butter to same pan used to sear pork. Once butter melts, add onions and apples. Cook until soft and caramelized.
5. Allow pork to sit for 10 minutes after coming out of the oven. Slice and serve with apples and onions.



Employee Spotlight – Joyce Pierce



Helping clients solve their problems while managing a large caseload is no small feat – especially when many of the clients needing help are in pain from an accident and confused about the claims process.

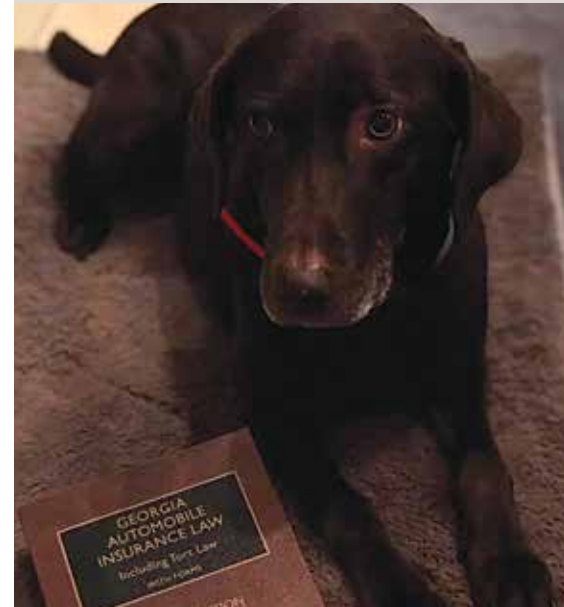
That is why we are so lucky to have Joyce Pierce on our team.

Always pleasant and patient with our clients and visitors, Joyce is the glue that holds everything together. From helping new callers figure out how our office can help, to opening new files and handling correspondence with the insurance company, she tackles it all.

We are so grateful for Joyce and proud of the work she does. Thank you, Joyce!

Taylor the Office Dog Holds Down The Fort On Weekends

It's no secret that we often work through the weekends. That is also when Jillian's dog, Taylor, becomes the unofficial Weekend Office Dog while she tags along!



DO YOU KNOW THE RULES OF GEORGIA'S HANDS-FREE LAW?

It's not hard to understand that distracted driving can have serious, sometimes fatal consequences. Thankfully, Governor Nathan Deal signed House Bill 673 into law, also known as the "Hands-Free Law". There has been a significant increase in the number of auto accident injuries and majority of those crashes were caused by drivers 15- to 25-years-old using their cell phones. The 15 states that passed hands-free driving laws saw a 16 percent decrease in traffic fatalities in the two years after the law went into effect. We are hoping that Georgia sees the same trends from our Hands-Free Law.

If you are caught violating the Hands-Free Law, expect to face these penalties:

First conviction: \$50 fine and 1 point on your license
Second conviction: \$100 fine and 2 points on your license
Third and subsequent convictions: \$150 fine and 3 points on your license.

Below is a breakdown of what is and is not allowed under the law; the only exceptions to these new rules are if you are:

1. Reporting a traffic crash, medical emergency, fire, criminal activity, or a hazardous road condition.
2. An employee or contractor of a utility service provider acting within the scope of their employment while responding to a utility emergency.
3. A first responder (law enforcement, fire, EMS) during the performance of their official duties.
4. When in a lawfully parked vehicle—this DOES NOT include vehicles stopped for traffic signals and stop signs on the public roadway.

We urge you to obey these laws and encourage anyone who has been injured by a distracted driver to contact us for help navigating the claim.

GEORGIA'S NEW 'HANDS FREE' LAW: THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF DISTRACTED DRIVING

PROHIBITED:

- HOLDING OR SUPPORTING A WIRELESS DEVICE WITH YOUR HAND OR BODY
- RECORDING VIDEO
- WATCHING A VIDEO OR MOVIE
- WRITING, SENDING OR READING TEXT MESSAGES WHILE HOLDING YOUR DEVICE

ALLOWED:

- SPEAKING OR TEXTING WITH HANDS-FREE TECHNOLOGY
- WEARING AND USING A SMART WATCH
- USING AN EARPIECE TO TALK ON THE PHONE
- USING IN-VEHICLE SYSTEMS FOR ALL PURPOSES
- USING A GPS SYSTEM OR MAPPING APP

#HANDSFREEGA

WSB-TV 2 AJC WSB



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*Joe and
Jillian*

CALL US. YOU'RE GOING TO FEEL A WHOLE LOT
BETTER ABOUT THINGS. (770) 477-7878



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LAW
TIMES

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CASE OF INTEREST

Being willing to stick with a case until the end is something that not all attorneys are willing to do for their clients, especially when the odds are stacked against them. When the insurance company completely denied liability in our clients' case, claiming that their insured was not at fault for the accident, no one thought that there were any options – including our clients' previous attorney. They came to Todd Law for a second opinion and Mr. Todd was able to settle the case for \$70,500 at mediation after months of working the case to prove that the other driver did, in fact, cause the injuries that our clients sustained. Up until that point, our clients were given an offer of \$0, so they were thrilled with Mr. Todd's determination to put his foot down and accept nothing less than what was fair.



Raving Review of the Month

"Mr. Todd, Jillian and ALL of the wonderful people here are absolutely amazing people. After awaiting my car accident case, dealing with the stress of what all comes with such a horrific accident and the injuries I obtained.... it's my pleasure to be able to say that that settling wasn't as bad as I thought it would be. I'm completely satisfied with the outcome we've worked so hard for... Thank you Mr. Joseph Todd, Ms. Jillian Todd and staff. I'd recommend you guys for any one..." – **Jason Tuten**



Jason Tuten explaining how pleased he was with the outcome of his case