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## THANK YOU FOR YOUR REFERRALS!



We appreciate referrals from our friends, clients, and colleagues – they are the lifeblood of our business. We limit our practice to helping people in accident cases, personal injury and employment matters, and you can be assured that we will treat your referrals exactly as we would want to be treated if we had a problem: with respect, empathy, sound guidance and strong advocacy. While we cannot help everyone, we do our best to dole out sound advice to those who take the step to contact a lawyer.

## We're here to help.

Remember, as always, that we're here to help. Think of us as the lawyers in your family and call us if you have a legal need. If we can't help you, we almost certainly have someone in our network who can.

If you have questions, or would like to be removed from this list, just send an email to [newsletter@doraziopeterson.com](mailto:newsletter@doraziopeterson.com), or call the office.



*"The truth is, everyone is going to hurt you.  
You've just got to find the ones worth suffering for."*

- Bob Marley



## OUR TAKE

By Scott

Unintended consequences...

Somewhere in Mexico there is a man, walking. He is walking for reasons that we don't know. Maybe he wants a better life for his family; maybe he is looking for work; maybe his reasons are nefarious. But either way, he is walking, with many others, towards the United States – Mexico border. He is part of what's being called the "Mexican caravan." This is a large group of individuals and families – from various Central and Latin American countries – walking towards the border with unknown expectations as to what they may encounter when they arrive.

I could be wrong here, but I strongly suspect that very few of these individuals has any idea about the political furor across the United States that erupted as a result of their actions. But erupt it did. And without getting into the politics of it, it's safe to say that their actions have resulted in unintended consequences.

Of course, a look at history provides, if nothing else, a wonderful example of unintended consequences. How many wars have been fought as a consequence of a decision that was made in a seemingly unrelated situation?

We take a cautious approach to starting or

encouraging a client to start a lawsuit. This is because once that action has been taken, it cannot be completely undone. And while our experience allows us to counsel our clients on what should happen, we can never know with one hundred percent certainty what will completely happen.

Will, for example, a local news outlet picks up on the case and write a front-page story about it? Will an online troll post a nasty, uninformed comment about the case? Will the client receive a settlement, and then have an estranged family member come looking for a piece of it?

These are all things that have happened after lawsuits have been filed. They were not expected, but rather were the unintended consequences of a legal proceeding.

Not all unintended consequences are negative, of course. That front-page article can often lead to a significant (and often long overdue) culture change at an employer, for example. The important thing to remember is that many actions, including legal action, can lead to unintended consequences. And while we certainly cannot predict or prevent them all, we can think our actions through before making them, and maybe prevent or at least prepare for some of those inevitable consequences.

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NEWSLETTER



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## *HOW DO I KNOW IF I NEED A LAWYER FOR AN INJURY? (AND HOW DO I FIND ONE?)*

Following an accident, it is very typical to have a lot of questions. Some of these can be answered on your own. Many cannot. How will your bills be paid? Who is going to take care of you or your family members? Who is going to supplement the income that is lost when someone is hurt? All sorts of questions, and the internet is full of answers. Some right, many wrong, and none specific to your situation.

These are the kind of questions that should prompt you to think about reaching out to an attorney. These cases are very fact specific. They can be complicated. And in many cases, there are specific timelines that can destroy your rights if they are missed.

If you find yourself online and looking at all kinds of websites for information, it may pay for you to reach out to someone who can help, have a conversation, and see if you need to take the next steps and pursue legal action. At a minimum, you'll get your questions answered.

The next question, of course, is that if you make the decision to contact an accident lawyer, how do you find a good one?

Walk down the street or turn on the television and you'll see ads for lawyers who handle accident cases. The question you have to ask yourself, however, is what type of attorney you want to work with? Do you want to work with a larger

firm that handles higher volume cases, who does a lot of advertising, where you may be dealing with or working with a paralegal or some type of assistant or newly minted lawyer? If that's what you want, great. There are plenty of ways to find those firms.

Some people, however, would prefer to work with a lawyer within a more personalized setting, where they can speak with the attorney individually, get to know them, and know that when they have specific questions, the attorney's going to answer them personally.

We have kept our firm small for that exact reason, because we would like to get to know our clients, we would like to be able to pick up the phone when they call, we would like to be able to respond to their emails and we would like to be able to give them guidance to help them through these difficult times.

So, if you decide you want to work with an attorney, give it some serious thought. Do yourself a favor and don't hire an attorney haphazardly. It's a big decision. Do your homework (whether by researching online and reading reviews and articles, talking with friends or colleagues, or some other way). I wouldn't hire a doctor because I saw an ad on television. I would do my homework. I would do my research. And I would decide if that doctor was a good fit for my condition or my concerns, and my personality. Do the same when you're looking for a lawyer.

We recently took the kids to see the film *Free Solo*. It's a National Geographic documentary about Alex Honnold. Most readers will have no idea who Honnold is - he is a rock climber and was the first person to "free solo" (or climb without ropes) El Capitan at Yosemite National Park in California.

Yes, you read that right. He climbed a 3,200 foot rock wall with no ropes. This photo does not begin to do it justice.

If you have the chance to see this movie in theaters, I cannot recommend it enough. For one thing it's the most visually stunning thing I've probably ever seen on film. But it's also an insightful look at Honnold; at the type of person who would do this sort of thing - the sort of thing where, if you make a mistake, it's over.

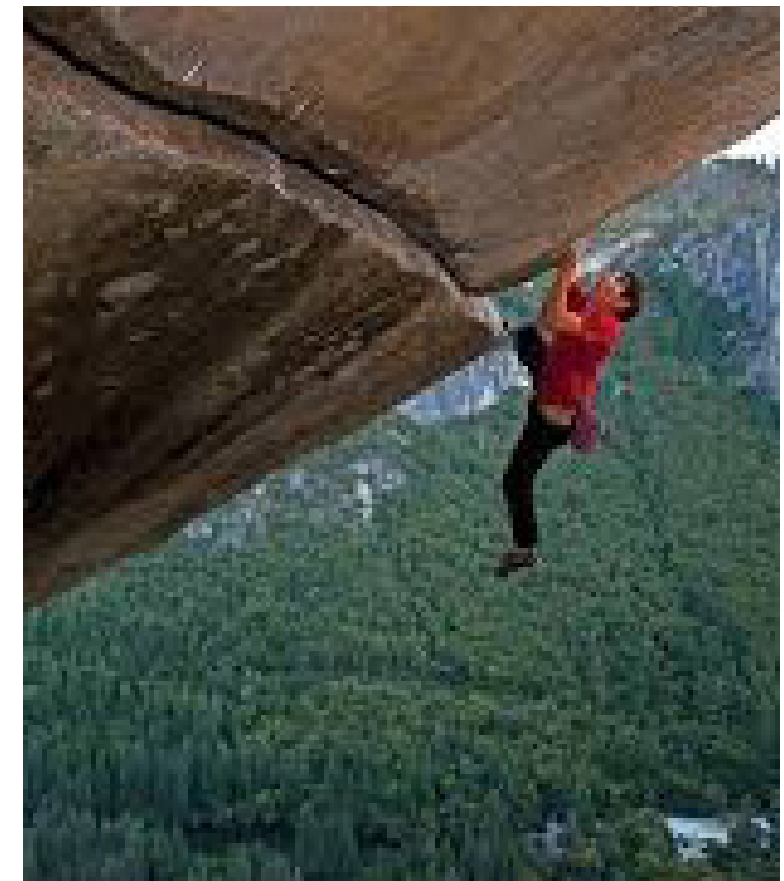
Watching the film you can't help but see the obvious similarities between someone like Honnold and people like Steve Jobs, Jeff Bezos or Kobe Bryant - those who are known for their blind drive towards success in a



particular field. Their complete and utter dedication to a single thing, often at the exclusion of so many other things (including a balanced life) is both inspiring and also, often, quite sad. To quote Honnold from the film, "no one achieves anything great in the world by being happy and cozy." For someone like him, peace is found, if at all, somewhere high up on the wall, alone.

Honnold's idea of achievement, of course, is very different from most of us. Many of us want a life of fulfillment, satisfaction or contentment. For many of our readers, I suspect that "happy and cozy" would be just fine.

Nonetheless, watching Honnold complete the climb (with hands clenched from the raw emotion of the whole thing), is a welcome reminder of the capabilities of humans to accomplish the seemingly impossible; to physically and mentally overcome enormous obstacles. In these days where the news contains very little to be awed by - particularly outside of technological advances - this story is a welcome change.



**GO SEE *FREE SOLO*.**