



THE IMPORTANCE OF STAYING OUT OF LEGAL TROUBLE IN COLLEGE

For the July edition of The Mottley Crew Review, I thought I would focus on how parents, myself included, are preparing to send youngsters off to college in August. When getting a youngster out the door for the first time, many parents focus on things like how their child will decorate their dorm room, which meal plan they should buy, and how to help them get their class schedule nailed down. While these are important issues, I would suggest we also focus on talking to our college-aged kids about **staying out of legal trouble while in college**.

To tackle this subject, I recently sat down with my friend and neighbor who is a criminal defense attorney in Richmond. Taylor Stone's practice is located on Grove Avenue between Virginia Commonwealth University and the University of Richmond. He has represented numerous college students, many whom I have referred to him over the years! Although our discussion covered a variety of topics related to criminal law and how it interacts with college students, we boiled our discussion down **to the top five things your college-aged student should know about criminal law before heading off to college**.

1. CRIMINAL RECORDS ARE PERMANENT (MOST OF THE TIME).

Taylor stressed that the biggest concept he would like college students to understand is that, in many cases, stupid crimes committed while in college stay on your record forever and cannot be expunged. He provided an example: "If you're caught distributing marijuana in college when you're 18, it's going to be on your record when you're 50." This means that you could be in the position of having to disclose a criminal

conviction on employment applications, graduate school applications, professional licensing applications, financial applications, and in other situations for the rest of your life. It's a shame that something done by a person when they are 18 is still on their record when they're 50, but it happens all the time. Taylor routinely receives calls from older adults trying to get something expunged from their record that, unfortunately, cannot be removed. For that reason, Taylor emphasizes that youngsters really need to let that sink in when making choices in college.

2. A FAKE ID IS A BIG DANGER ZONE.

When I was in college, kids could print their name and a made-up birth date on a card called an "Identification Card," which they used to get in to college bars and fraternity parties. Things were so simple then. These days, fake IDs have gotten more elaborate. Kids can easily get them professionally made over the internet where they're shipped from China in a matter of days — and they look real. The attitude seems to be that, "everyone has a fake ID so what's the big deal?" Well, the big deal is that this is a huge danger zone for underage people. Taylor has seen serious criminal charges result from the use of a fake ID. For example, let's say an underage kid gets charged with a misdemeanor for having an open container of alcohol but, when the officer writes up the citation, the kid nervously gives the officer the fake ID to fill out the information on the form. Suddenly, when the youngster signs the summons as someone else, he or she has not only committed a misdemeanor, they've also committed a class 4 felony (in Virginia). That is very serious and



has lifelong ramifications. But even if the young adult does not end up being charged with a felony, possessing the ID or presenting it to someone is also a class 1 misdemeanor, which carries a maximum penalty of up to one year in jail or a \$2,500 fine. And we have not even started to talk about whether getting caught with a fake ID violates the school's honor code or some other student conduct rule that could damage the student's status with the school.

3. DUMB STUNTS CAN LEAD TO SERIOUS TROUBLE.

Surprisingly, one of the most prevalent crimes Taylor sees among college students has to do with what would, at first blush, seem like petty vandalism. For example, a kid has too much to drink one night, comes back to the dorm, and then roughs up the Coca-Cola machine in the lobby because it jams up. Across town, another

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student cannot get out of a closed parking garage, tries to manually raise the gate, and breaks it. Another student may take one of the free bicycles on campus out for a spin, and then toss it in the lake for laughs. If the resulting property damage is \$1,000 or more, these students have just committed a class 6 felony in Virginia. Students should understand that it does not take a lot of property damage to get yourself into some seriously hot water.

4. UNDERSTAND THAT THE SCHOOL HAS JURISDICTION, TOO.

College students who find themselves in legal trouble must deal with the charges issued by the police — and with consequences from their school. Taylor observes that, whereas the criminal justice system will deal with a criminal charge in one way, the college student's school will often issue its own punishments above and beyond what happens in court. Sometimes, a student is put in the position of either having a panel of students review their case or a panel of faculty. In Taylor's experience, the panel of students is often harsher on the student who is in trouble than the panel of faculty members. This is just another reason to steer clear of legal issues during college years.

5. DORM ROOM SEARCHES CAN LEAD TO TROUBLE.

Under the law, police cannot just waltz into your home and start looking around. In a dorm setting, however, the situation gets more complicated. Taylor has seen cases in which the school gained access to a student's dorm room for a legitimate purpose related to health or safety, discovered evidence of illegal activity, and then provided the information to the authorities for investigation. On this note, larger schools have their own police departments that have just as much power as county or city police departments. Students need to understand that dorms are governed by contracts between the student and the school, and those contracts invariably give the school broad latitude to access dorm rooms. That access can lead to legal trouble.

When it comes to the law, this list does not touch on all the dangerous areas for college-aged students, especially in regard to possession of alcohol, which is illegal for roughly 70% of the student population to possess. We have tried to focus on some issues that may not be the first to come to mind when thinking about potential challenges your child might face when going off to college. So now that we've got all that out of the way, we wish you and your student a safe, happy, **and smart** beginning to their college career!



HOLIDAYS YOU MAY WISH YOU ALREADY KNEW ABOUT

WAYS TO ENJOY JULY

Usually during this time of year, there's an assortment of fun local events and activities to celebrate summer holidays. Unfortunately due to the ongoing pandemic, many of these celebrations are canceled or postponed. But if you're still wanting to make the most out of your summer season, here are a few holidays you can celebrate with your family to create unforgettable memories.

WORLD UFO DAY

If you or your family members are fans of stories about what lurks past our solar system, then you need to celebrate World UFO Day! The holiday first took hold about 73 years ago when the first UFO sighting and crash was recorded in Roswell, New Mexico. So take this as an opportunity to explore some of the craziest alien conspiracy theories online! You won't believe the hours of entertainment you can get from an online search. If you're a movie enthusiast, check out all the binge-worthy alien-themed movies like "The Thing," "The Predator," and "Aliens."

NATIONAL ICE CREAM DAY

For the person in your family with the biggest sweet tooth, this is a great excuse to discover all the best or most exotic types of ice cream available! In contrast to World UFO Day, this one is recognized by the U.S. and was established by President Reagan who made it an official holiday on July 19, 1984. President Reagan even glorified the holiday and the entire dairy industry by stating that ice cream is "a nutritious and wholesome food enjoyed by over 90% of the people in the United States." Celebrate this fun event by taking advantage of the various ice cream discounts from Baskin-Robbins or Cold Stone Creamery.

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP DAY

If you've lost contact with a friend or family member in recent years, this is the perfect time to reconnect and bury the hatchet once and for all. The World Friendship Crusade created this holiday, celebrated on July 30, in 1958. It's a good time to reconnect with loved ones. Right now, we need one another more than ever before, so reach out to your loved ones to show you care.

WHAT SUMMER JOBS TEACH YOUNG ADULTS

We're in the heart of the summer season, and many teens are looking for summer jobs. But they're rather difficult for my kids to find. My son and one of my daughters usually lifeguard at the local pool, but because of the pandemic, their jobs are uncertain. So, I have them helping at the firm for the next few months. While I'm excited to teach them the ropes, I know they're missing some crucial life experiences while working for their old man. All this brings back my own experiences with my first summer job.

My dad was the first principal of Cold Harbor Elementary School in Mechanicsville, Virginia. He introduced me to some people there, and I got a job as a janitor at the age of 16. This was the first time I had set hours and a real paycheck. Before that, I mowed lawns for people in the neighborhood as summer work.

Being a janitor was a great summer job with lots to do. There were things to fix, organize,

throw away, and clean. My days were filled with mopping floors, cleaning toilets, replacing lightbulbs, and even cleaning out the office fish tank (which my dad, as the principal, purchased years earlier).

The best thing about that job, however, was that I was working with a quiet older gentleman who had a tremendous work ethic. When he did say something, it was always very kind and wise. While fixing the lawn mower or any other equipment, he didn't just demonstrate how to fix it. He also imparted valuable life lessons. And if he found me lingering too long at lunchtime, he would gently remind me to get back on task.

One of the best things that youngsters who are working their first jobs in this unique moment in history can learn is how to work with an authority figure who is not their parent. Yes, they get a paycheck out of it, but the ability to respect an authority figure and glean information from them goes a long way. Bosses offer teens advice from a



different angle than parents do, broadening their horizons and reinforcing respect.

It's good for young people — and arguably, people of any age — to be around stable adults who are older, wiser, and have different experiences. That guidance had a positive effect on me while working my first jobs, and I hope all our kids can gain that same insight this summer.

—Kevin Mottley

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2	8	9	6	3	7	1	4	5



SPICY SALMON CUCUMBER BITES

There's nothing quite like a refreshing treat on a warm summer's day. Mix up this cool appetizer for your new favorite snack.

INGREDIENTS

- 1/4 cup paleo mayonnaise
- 1/4 tsp smoked paprika
- 1/4 tsp Tabasco, or to taste
- 1/2 lb salmon, cooked
- 1 tbsp minced shallots
- 1 tbsp chopped chives
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 English cucumber, peeled
- 4 cherry tomatoes, quartered for garnish

DIRECTIONS

1. In a small bowl, mix together mayonnaise, paprika, and Tabasco.
2. Flake the salmon into large bite-size pieces.
3. Add the salmon, shallots, chives, salt, and pepper to the Tabasco mixture and combine.
4. Cut the cucumber into 3/4-inch slices.
5. Using a melon-baller, scoop out the center of each cucumber slice but leave the bottom fully intact so the filling doesn't fall through.
6. Divide the salmon mixture and put dollops into each cucumber slice.
7. Garnish with cherry tomato.



The Mottley Law Firm

The Hoger Building
8001 Franklin Farms Drive, Suite 125
Richmond, Virginia 23229

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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- 1 The Importance of Staying Out of Legal Trouble in College
- 2 Holidays You May Wish You Already Knew About
- 3 What Summer Jobs Teach Young Adults
Spicy Salmon Cucumber Bites
- 4 Inside the Biggest Escape Attempt of WWII

'THE GREAT ESCAPE'

THE DARING TRUE STORY OF AN ALLIED GETAWAY DURING WWII

What do Steve "The King of Cool" McQueen, Richard Attenborough, and James Garner have in common? They all starred in the 1963 World War II classic "The Great Escape."

What makes the movie amazing to watch isn't just that it's full of legendary stars like McQueen and Garner or the fact that the action sequences were filmed using practical stunts, not special effects. What makes it truly incredible is that this story actually happened.

Based on WWII veteran Paul Brickhill's book, "The Great Escape" depicts a group of Allied officers as they attempt to escape from Stalag Luft III, one of the most heavily reinforced prison camps under German watch. Loose sand, raised prison housing, and seismographic

microphones were all meant to deter prisoners from digging their way out.

But one prisoner wasn't discouraged. Squadron Leader Roger Bushell saw these factors as obstacles to overcome rather than inescapable conditions. And in the spring of 1943, he initiated a plan to get himself and 200 of his fellow prisoners out of the camp.

During the next year, over 600 prisoners helped with the effort of digging tunnels underneath Stalag Luft III. They had to be deep enough that the microphones couldn't detect them and long enough to reach outside of the camp's walls. On a chilly night in 1944 — a year after the endeavor began — one tunnel was finally ready, and the prisoners began their exit.



In all, 76 Allied men managed to escape from Stalag Luft III. While freedom was short-lived for some, the escapees were successful in redirecting Nazi efforts from the front lines. And as veteran Jack Lyon said of the escape, "It did do a lot for morale, particularly for those prisoners who'd been there for a long time. They felt they were able to contribute something, even if they weren't able to get out."

For the rest of the story, you'll have to watch the movie or read the book. You can watch "The Great Escape" on Amazon Prime, and you can find Brickhill's daring tale at most book retailers.