



The Law Offices of Marc L. Shapiro, P.A.

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The Power of Passion

Lessons From Gloria Allred

“D

o not let adversity break you. Think of it as a learning experience that will make you stronger.”

—Gloria Allred

This past summer, I attended a conference hosted by PILMMA, an organization that helps personal injury lawyers run their firms better. At this conference, one of the keynote speakers was none other than Gloria Allred.

Allred has been an attorney since the 1970s, and she's become an internationally acclaimed attorney for her work in civil rights suits, with many cases involving women's rights or employment discrimination. Regardless of whether or not you agree with Allred politically, it's hard not to appreciate the passion she has for what she does. Her legal career has spanned decades, and Allred has remained committed to her cause, even when there's nothing for her to gain in it.

In one of her more recent cases, Allred represented 28 women who accused the actor Bill Cosby of sexual assault or harassment. What made this case extremely difficult was that there was legally nothing that could be done for these women in civil litigation. Their case had gone beyond the statute of limitations in California. Allred took their case, knowing there was nothing she could gain from it, because she felt that the public needed to know about the situation. Her reputation gave these women a forum to speak out, and as a result, Allred



“It's not about making a living anymore; it's about making a difference.”

was able to help extend the statute of limitations for sexual assault survivors to come forward with their cases in California.

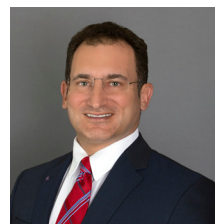
This kind of passion is something I deeply relate to. There are a lot of attorneys who get into law just to make money. I admit that there was a point in time when my motivation for winning cases was not what it is today. But there comes a point when you realize that being a lawyer isn't just a way to make money; it's truly your calling in life. This is why I was put on Earth — to be there for people who are in trouble. It's not about making a living anymore; it's about making a difference.

I've always gravitated toward personal injury law. For me, it's a matter of fairness. There are people who have been treated unfairly. They've had something bad happen to them, and they're trying to make the best of it. I'm able to make a difference by helping them get the money they need to work through the situation, put together a team of good people who will treat them right, and be there to talk about their struggles.

When someone is in a bad accident or they're the victim of another person's negligence, their life is changed forever. Part of the process is learning how to cope with the disconnect of the life you imagined you would have and the life you are in today. That can be a difficult season for a lot of people. When my son was diagnosed with severe autism, I experienced the same struggle. I know what it's like to reimagine your life, and I am glad I can offer that level of empathy to my clients when they need someone to lean on.

It was really cool to hear Gloria Allred speak. She has led an impressive career and is an example of what we're capable of when we have a real passion for our work.

—Marc Shapiro



The King of Streams Is Dead

Streaming in the Wake of 'Game of Thrones'

With the conclusion of "Game of Thrones" earlier this year, the streaming industry looks eerily similar to the first season of HBO's fantasy series. The king of binge-watching is dead. The once-proud house of HBO Now is trying desperately to maintain its dominance, but there's plenty of streaming royalty vying for the crown. Most interesting of all are the different tactics these services are using to win over subscribers.

Netflix Gets in the Robot

The most venerable of the streaming houses, Netflix has spent the last two years courting a new ally: anime fans. This flirtation with Japanese animation reached a fever pitch in June with the re-release of 1995 cult classic "Neon Genesis Evangelion." A heady psychological drama told with giant robots, religious iconography, and tormented characters, "Evangelion" isn't for everyone, but it's still revered by many for its complex story. The fact that Netflix was willing to pay a king's ransom to bring this hugely influential show back to the U.S. underscores their commitment to winning over anime lovers.

Hulu's Old Enough to Party

Hulu may have looked like an upstart a decade ago, but the video-on-demand service has always had powerful friends. Thanks to early alliances with broadcasting giants like NBC and Fox, the service has always been defined by great, binge-worthy shows. Riding the success of "Brooklyn 99" and "The Handmaid's Tale," Hulu has turned its attention to film, releasing several classics this summer including "Drop Dead Gorgeous" and "Superbad." By finally beefing up its movie selection, the site feels like it's come of age.



Amazon Expands 'The Expanse'

Like many wise rulers before it, Amazon has made a bid for the throne by giving the people what they want. The multimedia giant shrewdly picked up the rights to "The Expanse" after Syfy canceled it last year, delighting fans who petitioned for the show's continuation. But Amazon's likely trying to reach more than just science fiction lovers; the fact that "The Expanse" has widely been described as "Game of Thrones" in space" suggests Amazon is hoping to convert HBO fans directly.



Rules of the Bus

How to Keep Your Child Safe on the

School buses are responsible for the safety of over 25 million children every day. With such precious cargo onboard, it's no wonder that school buses are the most regulated vehicles on the road. School-bus accidents count for less than 1% of all traffic fatalities nationwide. Unfortunately, children are not 100% safe around the school bus. School children face the greatest risk when approaching or walking away from the bus.

Safety Rules for Students

If your child rides the school bus, make sure they practice these safety measures:

- Arrive at the bus stop early. Never run toward a bus if you see it at the stop.
- Never run or play at the bus stop.
- Wait at least three big steps (6 feet) from the curb.
- Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop and the doors open before approaching.
- When exiting the bus, take five giant steps (10 feet) away from the doors before turning.
- If you need to cross the street, make eye contact with the bus driver and wait for them to signal first.
- Always look both ways before crossing the street.



Italian for "cheese and pepper," cacio e pepe is like a refined version of mac and cheese. It's crowd-pleasing enough to satisfy the pickiest eaters and refined enough to sate the foodies.



Safety Rules for Other Drivers

It's a well-known rule that other drivers must stop for school buses that are loading or unloading passengers. But in 2017, a survey of Florida bus drivers conducted by the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services reported over 15,000 cases of buses being illegally passed in a single day.

When a school bus has its red stoplights flashing and the "stop" sign-arm extended out, all surrounding traffic must stop. This includes vehicles going in the opposite direction on two-lane or multi-lane roads. Drivers must remain stopped until the arm in the front of the bus is withdrawn and there are no children in the road.

If the highway is divided by a barrier or an unpaved median, drivers going in the opposite direction do not have to stop for a school bus that is loading or unloading passengers. However, drivers should proceed with caution in case a child unexpectedly runs out into the street.

With school back in session, the roads are going to get a bit more crowded. It's everyone's responsibility to practice care and make sure school children get to their destinations safely.

How Are We Doing?

A Whole Team Behind You

"Marc is the best real estate and personal injury attorney in Naples! The employees at his firm are all top-notch! As far as I am concerned, we couldn't ask for better! I am grateful to have him and I don't know what I would do without him! He is a very smart and wonderful man who is a valuable asset to our community! Thank you, Marc!"

-Becky I. Brooks



"They are amazing with what they do! Especially Gerta S. Toska. After she helped my mom a couple years back, whenever I need anything, she is just a text, email, or call away! She makes me feel like I am not just a case number. She is super friendly, and they have just the perfect team. Everyone at the firm knows what is going on with your case! If you need a law firm, this is the one to go to! Thank you, guys, for everything."

-Paola V.



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Cacio e Pepe

Inspired by Bon Appétit magazine

Directions

1. In a large pot, bring 3 quarts of salted water to a boil. Add pasta and cook, stopping 2 minutes short of desired doneness. Drain pasta, reserving 1/2 cup of pasta water.
2. In a large pan over medium heat, melt 2 tablespoons butter. Add pepper and cook until toasted and aromatic, about 1 minute. Add reserved pasta water and bring to a simmer.
3. Transfer pasta and remaining butter to pan and reduce heat to low. Add Parmesan cheese and cook until melted, tossing pasta throughout. Remove pan from heat and add pecorino, continuing to toss until cheese is melted and sauce coats pasta.
4. Transfer to bowls and serve.

Ingredients

- 6 oz pasta, ideally spaghetti or bucatini
- 3 tbsp unsalted butter, cubed and divided
- 1 tsp freshly ground black pepper
- 3/4 cup finely grated Parmesan cheese, ideally Parmigiano-Reggiano
- 1/3 cup finely grated pecorino cheese
- Kosher salt, for pasta water and to taste

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An Alpine Excursion

Tour Monte Rosa

Nestled between Italy and Switzerland, Monte Rosa is the second highest peak in the Alps, making it one of the best views in either country and one of the more physically demanding ascents in the mountain range. In the late summer and early fall, tourists and locals alike tour Monte Rosa to pay their respects to the peak and to be challenged by the cross-country trek over the mountain.

The full tour of the mountain is a nine-day journey that starts in Switzerland and crosses quickly over into Italy, winding its way through both countries before eventually returning trekkers to their starting point. The out-and-back path is the most popular route, though there are other ways to approach it. However you go, you'll encounter massive glaciers, rigorous 1,000-meter ascents and descents, and breathtaking views that are sure to make this journey memorable.

For accommodations, opt for charming mountain huts to immerse yourself in the true Alpine experience. You can book them in



advance to guarantee your bunk and a dinner of spaetle or lasagna, depending on which country you're in that night.

Unless you're traveling with an experienced mountaineer, a guide is recommended for touring Monte Rosa, even if you only plan to traverse a small section of the mountain. Weather can vary greatly and change quickly in this region, so you never know when you'll encounter ice or snow, which can lower your visibility. Toward the top of the peak, you'll even have an opportunity to cross a sprawling glacier, and having a guide will ensure you have the necessary equipment for a safe trip.

On top of the spectacular views, you can expect a beautiful blend of cultures and an experience unlike any other on your tour of Monte Rosa. Plus, you may even get to see a few Swiss cows or mountain goats along the way!