



**Employment, Injury &  
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# DEBT BUSTING NEWSLETTER

QUARTER 2 - 2016 / VOLUME 7

*John's Hot Topic*

## Getting Paid

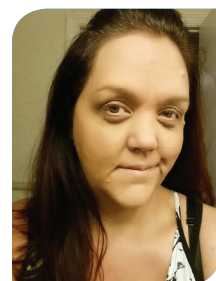


Our office was recently featured in three front page newspaper stories. The first was in connection with a "wage and hour" case, that involved multiple workers who labored in the construction industry for Marina Cantina right in downtown Clearwater Beach. These laborers routinely worked in excess of 40 hours a week, but were not paid time and a half for those hours worked over 40 hours each week. Instead, the employer concocted a scheme to pay the overtime hours out of a separate account and label the employees as "independent contractors", a "no-no" under the law by any stretch of the imagination. Each employee represented by our office recovered every penny they were owed, plus liquated damages an attorney fees. I always remind friends of the office to keep "wage and hour law" close to their hearts. The fact remains that many, many friends and co-workers routinely come in early, stay late, work through lunches and attend meetings/run errands after hours. Smiles don't lie:

The Tampa Tribune also ran front page stories on our "Stripper Cases" and our case copyright claim against Frenchy's, a popular eatery on Clearwater Beach. Each article has been linked to our website: [www.dbtbustr.com](http://www.dbtbustr.com) and each case has received considerable attention. The "Stripper Cases" involve claims bought by numerous exotic dancers who have worked for various clubs in the Pinellas County area. In each case, these ladies were not paid any wages at all, but rather forced to dance purely for tips and often did not make even the minimum wage as required by law.

Most recently, the Tampa Tribune ran yet another front page story in regards to the Silas Beach v. Frenchy's. Silas Beach is a local artist of considerable note in the Tampa Bay area. Silas is known for producing a great deal of local artwork, including the famous mile markers that decorate the Clearwater Beach roads. Silas owns a copyright on what is best known as the "fishbone" image and that image has been used without his permission by Frenchy's, who uses the image to sell various T-shirts, coffee mugs, shot glasses, flip-flops and basically every tourist related trinket you could imagine. The Tampa Tribune article is also available on our website: [www.dbtbustr.com](http://www.dbtbustr.com).

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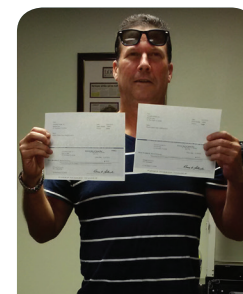
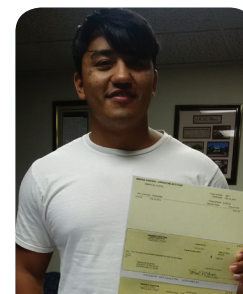
### NIKKIE'S CORNER

I just wanted to let each of you know that I am back at my desk, for now. I am sure most of you remember me as I have been working with John for a long, long, long period of time. Recently, I was working with our Co-Counsel

Lisa Wilcox, as well as working marketing and outreach for a friends faith based fashion apparel company. I tried other jobs, but realized that I love helping client's with legal issues and concerns, and missed you guys (AND JOHN!) and the office hustle and bustle. Should you have any questions or any issues that might give rise to a legal concern or simply want to say hello, please let me know.

### SUN 'N FUN INT'L FLY-IN EXPO

John recently took his passion of flying and planes to another level with his annual visit to SUN 'n FUN Int'l Fly-In Expo. Check out all the great shots of planes from all over the world who spent the week at Lakeland Linder Regional Airport April 5-10, 2016.







## PET OF THE MONTH

Fred aka Lucky Duck, is the Pet of the Month. Fred is a duck that our office assistant, Nikkie, recently rescued and re-homed, and he is currently living out his glory days, among the hens and roosters, out on a small plot of land in Tampa. He has fit in quite nicely and loves his new home.



## Roast Chicken with Spring Vegetables

### Ingredients:

3 1/2 pounds skin-on, bone-in chicken quarters  
Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper  
1 lemon, halved  
3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil  
1 pound fingerling or other small potatoes  
2 bunches radishes  
1 bunch scallions  
1 bunch baby carrots  
1/4 cup chopped fresh dill

**Total:** 40 min

**Prep:** 5 min

**Cook:** 35 min

**Yield:** 4 servings

**Level:** Easy

### Directions:

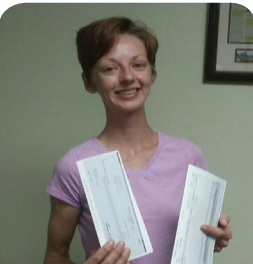
Preheat the oven to 500 degrees F. Rinse the chicken and pat dry. Season with salt and pepper, then place skin-side up on a rimmed baking sheet. Squeeze 1/2 lemon over the chicken and drizzle with 1 tablespoon olive oil. Roast 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, cut the potatoes and radishes in half and cut the scallions into thirds. Toss the potatoes, radishes, carrots and the remaining 2 tablespoons olive oil in a bowl; season with salt and pepper.

Remove the chicken from the oven and scatter the vegetables around it. Continue to roast until the vegetables are tender and the chicken is golden and cooked through, about 20 more minutes. Squeeze the remaining 1/2 lemon over the chicken and vegetables. Top with the dill and season with salt.



The results our clients have obtained are not necessarily representative of results obtained by the lawyer in each case. Every case is different, and each client's case must be evaluated and handled on its own merits. Each consumer's individual facts and circumstances may differ. These featured testimonials are not necessarily representative of all clients' experience with this law office.



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Lawyering is a service based business. It is also a highly personalized business and if you are serious about a legal issue or have serious legal concern, you owe it to yourself to have a face to face consultation with an attorney. Taking legal advice from legal secretaries or even attorneys that you only met on the phone simply never a good idea.

The same thing is true for obtaining legal advice from various forums and websites.

In regards to any type of dispute that you might have, the most important thing you can do is to educate yourself about what can be done. The easiest way to go about this is to obtain a consultation with a lawyer. Of course, you can also obtain a lot of information "on-line", but caution should be used before you form an opinion or embark upon a particular path as a result



of what you read on line. If you have legal question or concern, our doors remain open. As you all are aware, my preference is for "face to face" consultations as I believe that is the absolutely best way for an attorney to understand a fact pattern and it is surely the best way for an attorney to aid the potential client and set reasonable goals. No prior client or friend of the office needs to be talking to strangers.

## Consumer Law BASICS



As our existing clients know, consumer law is an important topic at our office. Everyone needs to know the basics of their consumer law rights. Why? Because every one of us is a consumer and we will remain consumers throughout the entirety of our active lives. Accordingly, everyone needs to be aware of the following:

1. Pull your credit report at least once a year.
2. Bring your debt collection letters into the office.
3. Do not delete your cell phone log.
4. Participate! If you do not stay in touch with our office and if you do not heed steps 1-3, your odds of improving your credit or improving your consumer lot in life is going to be slim to none. However, those that do participate, we have a proven record of obtaining results and resolutions.

This communication is intended for existing clients of W. John Gadd, Esq. If you have received this communication by mistake, please contact my office at 727-524-6300. Though this newsletter is intended for existing clients only, please keep in mind that the hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisements. Before you decide, ask us to send you free written information about our qualifications and experience.

Debt Busting is defined by this office as taking the necessary steps to protect yourself from unsubstantiated or challenged debt and taking the steps necessary to learn your rights and to enforce them by using the consumer law statutes in your favor when applicable, including but not limited to Fla. Statute Section 559-72 as well as the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and the Fair Credit Reporting Act.

