



The **BOYK** LAW REPORT

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Lawsuit: Wood County Fair Board Negligence Led to Abuse of Local Minor by Indicted Former President

Charles Boyk Law Offices has filed a major civil lawsuit in the Wood County Common Pleas Court against the Wood County Agricultural Society, the Wood County Fair Foundation, and former Fair Board President Brock E. Abke. The complaint, filed on behalf of a local minor and his family, alleges that the Fair Board's negligence allowed Abke to use his position of authority to groom and abuse a 17-year-old boy.

The civil filing follows a 13-count criminal indictment against the 31-year-old Perrysburg man. The criminal charges include:

- *Five second-degree felony counts of pandering obscenity involving a minor.*
- *Five fourth-degree felony counts of pandering obscenity involving a minor.*
- *One fifth-degree felony count of importuning for allegedly soliciting sex from a 15-year-old.*
- *Two counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor.*

The civil complaint argues that the Wood County Fair Board knew or should have known that Abke was "dangerous and outrageous" and had previously lost regular employment due to inappropriate conduct with minors. Despite this, the lawsuit claims the board allowed Abke to remain in direct contact with junior 4H clubs and even lead youth camping events.

The plaintiffs allege that from May 2023 to May 2025, Abke used his status to groom the minor, purchasing him vapes and alcohol, sending him money, and sharing over 40 sexually explicit photos via Snapchat.

Abke's history with the Wood County Fair is extensive; he served as a board member starting in 2015, held the office of president from 2017 to 2018, and was the board's secretary as recently as 2025.



"Families put their trust in the Fair Board that their children are safe when participating in wholesome 4-H activities," says Attorney Chuck Boyk. "The Wood County Fair Board has failed in its fiduciary responsibility and betrayed that trust."

Currently, Abke remains under strict house arrest with GPS monitoring. A judge recently denied his request for bond modification after representatives for the alleged victims appeared in court to state they were "absolutely opposed" to any loosening of his restrictions.

The family, whose identities are being protected due to the sensitive nature of the case, is seeking in excess of \$25,000 and punitive damages to address the severe psychological damage and emotional distress reportedly suffered by the minor. The case was assigned to Wood County Common Pleas Judge Mary "Molly" L. Mack.



AUTO ACCIDENTS • MEDICAL MALPRACTICE
WORKERS' COMPENSATION • DOG BITES
WRONGFUL DEATH • PRODUCT LIABILITY
ATV & MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENTS
MASS TORTS • SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS

Memories of a Former Bailiff by Mike Bruno



Mike Bruno

In 1980, while finishing my first year of law school, I was hired by The Honorable George M Glasser as a criminal bailiff. I had a seat in the courtroom. I learned much of what I know today over those three and a half years.

Ignorance is No Defense: During my first few months, there were no jury trials. Finally, a criminal case was tried with a guilty verdict. Judge Bruce Huffman, visiting from Sandusky County, was presiding. After the verdict was read, the defense made a request, which caused Judge Huffman to turn to me and shout, "Bailiff, poll the jury." The whole courtroom went quiet. All eyes were on me. I'm sure I had the "deer in the headlights" look. I gathered my wits enough to ask permission to approach the bench, where I informed the judge I had no idea what he was requesting of me. Judge Huffman then calmly polled each juror, making sure they agreed on a guilty verdict.

Best Carnival Atmosphere: State versus Gentry was tried in October of 1982. Jack "Jack o lantern" Gentry was a Hell's Angel accused of killing Ralph "Real Time" Tanner, a member of The Outlaws motorcycle gang.

This was well before metal detectors and limited entry points to the courthouse. Hundreds of Hells Angels came to town to support Gentry, including their leader, Sonny Berger. Country singer Johnny Paycheck stayed for the whole trial. The case was tried across the hall from our courtroom. Yet, each day, the defense lawyer would enter our courtroom and request permission to use our Jury Room during the noon recess. I figured he was going over his notes, preparing for the next witness. Not at all. When I peeked into the Jury Room, there he was, lying on the table, sound asleep. Gentry was acquitted of the murder.

Biggest Miss: One thing I've learned over the years is to keep your eyes open and ears open during a trial. Stuff happens. Blink, and you might miss it. During a murder trial in our courtroom, the eyewitness was asked by the prosecution to point out the murderer and indicate what he was wearing. Instead of pointing to the defendant, the witness pointed to a lawyer, sitting inside the railing as a spectator. The lawyer representing the defendant did not pick up on it. The trial continued, and the misidentification was never mentioned. The defendant was still found guilty of murder, and the lawyer identified in the open court as the murderer continues to walk free.

Biggest Whiff: While the judge was giving the jury the instructions of law, it was my job to stand outside the

courtroom door and not allow anyone to enter until after the jury was charged. So, there I was, guarding the door next to a conspicuous "do not enter" sign, when Bobby Kaplan came down the hallway. As he approached, I utilized every nonverbal, including both outstretched hands to signify "Halt". Well, it was as if I were invisible. Bobby forced open the door, took a few steps into the courtroom, and exclaimed (loudly), "My God, they let Murray Guttman sit on the jury?" Just Bobby being Bobby.

The Perfect Lunch: Another murder trial offered the rare opportunity to escort a sequestered jury to lunch at the former Town Club on Adams Street. So there I was with 12 criminal jurors, two alternates, and a few Sheriff's deputies, all together at a long table. To my surprise, a single waitress took everyone's order and returned later, serving each of us exactly what we ordered, all without taking a single note. I was stunned. This was my first experience being served by the legendary Dao Regikner, who started her work life 60 years ago selling fruit in Vietnam. At first, the Town Club owner limited Dao to a single table because she struggled with English. Well, Dao solved that rather quickly, putting her amazing memory to use. Dao continues to use her gifts at Georgio's Cafe in downtown Toledo. The food is great, and Dao's attention to detail is impossible to beat

Celebrity Lawyer Crush *Spring is the Air, in your Mind, and on your Screen*

With February 14th fading in the rearview mirror, there is still time to consider thoughts of romance and secret admirers. Let's face it, who doesn't long to be the subject of a romantic comedy and live out their own personal meet-cute moment with the person of their dreams?

At times, we legal professionals can be hard to love. Whether talking, arguing, or billing too much, we are the porcupines of professionals: prickly on the outside, cuddly on the inside. But Hollywood gets us, and shows it through the sexy actors/actresses they cast as legal professionals. With this in mind and love in the air, here



Michael B. Jordan in "Just Mercy"

Jordan plays a young Harvard graduate who moves to the south to defend those who need help the most:

are Boyk Law's top legal show crushes of all time!

wrongfully imprisoned or improperly represented. Jordan shines through with his intensity and charm. In the hierarchy of celebrity crushes, Jordan is tough competition.



Patrick Adams vs. Gabriel Macht in "Suits"

It's never easy to decide between Adams and Macht in Suits. No matter who nominated this show for these actors, it was consistently unclear who was more deserving of "celebrity crush status". Suits is about a brilliant man who never graduated or attended law school (Adams), yet convinces a partner at one of the biggest NY law firms (Macht) to hire him anyway. The show ran from 2011 to 2019 and even had its own spinoff. Both are charming, and their characters make you connect emotionally to them, which makes this duo a hard crush to top!



Reese Witherspoon is "Elle Woods"

Unlike the others, this character

needs no introduction! The incomparable Reese Witherspoon tops the chart with her portrayal of Elle Woods in Legally Blonde, Legally Blonde 2: Red, White, and Blonde, and Legally Blonde 3! In fact, while not played by Ms. Witherspoon, Elle Woods was so famous that they made a musical based on her. Loved and crushed on by all (or at least a clear majority), Elle Woods is the Hollywood Lawyer Crush of the Month!

Special thanks to every employee who participated in our unscientific survey this month and put themselves out there for love.

This Time My Client Was Innocent by Chuck Boyk

I have been involved with numerous bank robbery cases. (I'll have even funnier stories in the future) I was on the federal criminal appointment list in the early 2000s, and seemed to get several bank robbery cases with bad facts for a defense attorney.

One of my clients was caught with dye on his hands. I had a client arrested inside the bank he was robbing. Another of my clients was arrested in his car with the money. Don't get me started on the client who was apprehended in a crack house with the dye-stained money.

It was so bad that the assistant US attorney began kidding me about my horrible fact patterns.

My job was essentially to reduce points under the federal sentencing guidelines, find mitigating factors, and professionally beg the government and the judge for leniency.

Then I was appointed to another bank robbery. We arraigned the client. An eyewitness in the bank had positively identified him. I had a long talk with the defendant. The bank was in a shopping center. The defendant claimed he had just eaten lunch at the bagel store next to the bank and was walking to his car when he was arrested. The client had no prior record, a family, and a good job. In addition, he appeared to be 100% normal and telling the truth.

I approached my assistant US attorney opponent and

the FBI agent. The agent had spent a summer in college working with my father and was a super nice guy. I told them my client was innocent. They both burst out laughing. I reminded them that in the past, I NEVER told them my client was innocent. I just attacked their evidence. I explained the story, and they promised to investigate. Two days later, they admitted the eyewitness was wrong and dropped the charges.

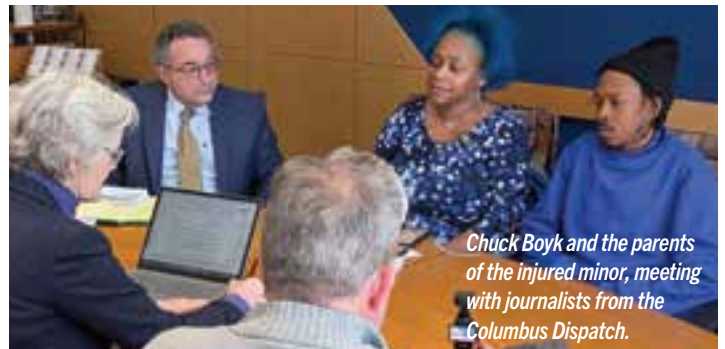
The local newspaper ran an editorial about the scientific studies disputing eyewitness testimony, and they talked about this specific case.

Some of my days as a criminal defense attorney, I actually accomplished more than just creating a funny story.

Altercation at Youth Facility Paralyzes 15-year-old

A reporter and photographer from the Columbus Dispatch visited Boyk Law's Holland Office recently to talk with our clients. Their minor son was a resident at the Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility in Massillon, Ohio, operated by the State's Department of Youth Services. A week after arriving at the facility, another youth pushed our client, who fell and broke his neck. The injury paralyzed him and caused serious damage to his nervous system.

Our firm is investigating this case to ensure that our client gets the justice he deserves. The incident is getting state-wide media attention because this attack and the resulting devastating injury occurred in a government-run Department of Youth Services facility, with a history of chronic violence and understaffing.



Chuck Boyk and the parents of the injured minor, meeting with journalists from the Columbus Dispatch.

Co-Counsel Opportunities

Whether you have an injury case that is outside your core practice area, a case you do not have time or the resources to pursue on your own, or a case outside your geographic area, our firm would love to talk with you about a referral or being associated as co-counsel.

We are proud to work with co-counsel throughout the country. And when those cases resolve, we are honored to pay significant referral and co-counsel fees.

For more information about Co-Counsel Opportunities, contact Charles E Boyk Law Offices, by phone at 419-241-1395, email at referceb@charlesboyk-law.com or visit our website, www.charlesboyk-law.com/referral

ABOUT THE CO-COUNSEL NEWSLETTER

Charles Boyk Law was founded more than 20 years ago with the intent of helping people in need. Behind a team of outstanding lawyers, professional support staff, and state-of-the-art technology, our firm has grown to become one of the leading personal injury law firms in NW Ohio and SE Michigan.

We consider it an honor to be contacted by attorneys, both locally and across the U.S., who are seeking co-counsel to help litigate complex personal injury cases. It is an even greater honor when those attorneys refer us a case involving their loved ones or friends.

Our co-counsel newsletter is tailored to attorneys. It highlights examples of cases we are handling and provides updates on litigation. If you have a personal injury case you are looking to refer, we invite you to consider our firm. Our team of attorneys and professional staff have the experience, knowledge and resources to provide your clients with the best representation and maximize the recovery.



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A Newsletter by Attorneys, For Attorneys

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LAWSUIT FILED AGAINST TOLEDO CHILDCARE CENTER AFTER CHILD ALLEGEDLY LEFT UNATTENDED OVERNIGHT

Charles Boyk Law Offices filed a civil lawsuit in the Lucas County Court of Common Pleas against Little Miracle's Childcare Center LLC and former employee Tommy E. Colbert following an incident in which a six-year-old child was allegedly left unattended at the daycare facility during overnight hours.

The Complaint was filed on behalf of Zuri A. Sutton, individually and as parent and legal guardian of her minor daughter. The lawsuit alleges that on the evening of January 16, 2026, Ms. Sutton dropped her daughter off at Little Miracle's Childcare Center for overnight care while she worked her shift.

When she returned at approximately 2:30 a.m. on January 17, 2026, the facility was locked and dark. After knocking for approximately 20 minutes, the minor child allegedly came to the door and let her mother inside. The lawsuit alleges that no staff members were on the premises at the time. Police reportedly responded to the facility at

approximately 4:00 a.m. The Complaint further alleges that Mr. Colbert, who is a relative of the owner, was responsible for supervising the children during the overnight shift, left the premises for approximately one hour, leaving multiple children unattended. The lawsuit states that Mr. Colbert was subsequently arrested on three counts of child endangerment.

The lawsuit alleges that Little Miracle's Childcare Center failed to properly supervise Mr. Colbert, failed to implement appropriate safety protocols, and failed to ensure adequate staffing and oversight during overnight operations.

"Our client entrusted this daycare facility with the care and safety of her child, yet they permitted an employee without documented childcare education, credentials, or training to be with children," says Attorney Emily Warnimont. "This conduct represents a serious breach of the trust parents place in a childcare provider. Boyk Law is committed to advocating for our client and her child, and we encourage any



Attorney Emily Warnimont being interviewed

other families who have been affected or who have relevant information to come forward so they can understand their rights and options."

New address or phone number? Help us stay current by letting us know! Call 419.241.1395 or e-mail marketing@charlesboyk-law.com