



THE LEGAL BEAGLE

IMMIGRATION | TRAFFIC | CRIMINAL DEFENSE

A monthly publication from Gardner and Mendoza, PC

June 2016



The Beautiful Game (O Jogo Bonito)

By Attorney John Gardner

For those of you who may not know, June is Immigrant Heritage Month. And nothing captures this spirit better than my soccer league – OTSL VB. It's a truly fantastic adult men's soccer league right here in Hampton Roads! For over 15 years, Sunday mornings for me have meant quality time with my family – my soccer family, that is. I currently play for the Rowdy Lucky Oysters. Every Sunday morning, hundreds of old(er) guys like me descend on the Hampton Roads Soccer complex in Virginia Beach to enjoy each other's friendship and to share what Brazilian soccer legend Pelé called "o jogo bonito" (*"the beautiful game"*).

Most of us have been playing soccer our whole lives, though the league is open to anyone who wants to join. That's my first soccer team, the 1978 Eagles, in the top photo. In the back row is my best and favorite coach ever – my father. Thanks, Pops! The other photos are from a few weeks ago – aged to perfection.

It's competitive. It's fun. It's great exercise. And it's a perfect display of the cultural diversity and unity that so uniquely define the American experience. Like immigrants from around the world melting together in these United States of America, so do my family of soccer friends when we bring our various backgrounds and shared American heritage together each Sunday morning.



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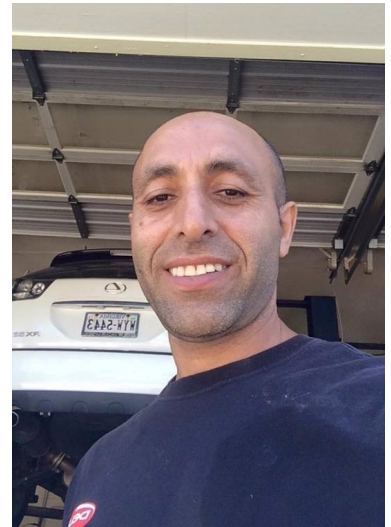
Mr. Gardner represented my daughter for a reckless driving ticket in Newport News, VA. Little did we know that reckless driving is a Class 1 misdemeanor. We spoke to another lawyer who basically scared us and told us that my daughter could go to jail. Instead of scaring us, Mr. Gardner reassured us. He and his paralegal gave us the information we needed, and we felt confident going into court with him. Thankfully we did. The day of court, the person in front of my daughter's case with a reckless driving charge was actually given jail time. My daughter's case was reduced to speeding and we all walked out very happy and relieved. I highly recommend Mr. Gardner and his team at Gardner & Mendoza. – *E.L., Virginia Beach*



Bayside Transmission

John met Celebi, the owner of Bayside Transmission in Virginia Beach, playing soccer in 1998. Celebi is a great soccer player and an extremely trusted mechanic.

When we met Celebi, he was a happy-go-lucky bachelor, but I had the supreme honor of helping the love of his life, Neriman, immigrate to the U.S. Neriman is also from Turkey, and it's pretty easy to see why Celebi fell in love with her. Now Celebi is a happy-go-lucky husband and dad to three little ones, ages 4, 6, and 8. His life is enriched in so many ways through his family, and if you talk to him, you will know that Celebi is a grateful man. He has the most giving heart and will take the shirt off of his back for you.



Celebi immigrated to the U.S. in 1989, and he worked as a mechanic for six months. When the owner of Bayside Transmission decided to retire, Celebi jumped at the opportunity to own the shop. Located off of Shore Drive in Virginia Beach, Celebi and his team handle auto repairs of all kinds and most importantly, have an excellent reputation.

Please go visit Celebi at his shop - you'll be glad you did! Not only will you have a reliable and honest mechanic, but you'll have a friend, too. Tell him John and Radlyn sent you!

Meet our new intern, Natasha Delille!

Meet our summer law clerk intern, Natasha Delille! Natasha is originally from Brooklyn, New York, and is currently enrolled as a third-year law student at Regent University School of Law in Virginia Beach, VA. Natasha earned her B.A. in Psychology from the University of Texas at San Antonio. After earning her B.A. and before starting law school, Natasha taught high school ESL in Spain for two years.

During the academic year Natasha works as student staff at the Center for Global Justice. The topics Natasha researches vary from international adoption to international human rights. Last summer, Natasha interned as a law clerk at organizations in both Vienna, Austria, and Pune, India.

Upon graduation, Natasha plans to pass the New York State Bar and practice immigration law. She hopes to work specifically with refugees and asylum seekers. Natasha's dream is to work for an intergovernmental organization such as the United Nations.

Natasha loves traveling the world, speaking with different accents (her favorite is the British accent), attending music festivals, and dancing to merengue and bachata. Most of all, Natasha loves food! She plans to continue traveling the world in search of the perfect dish.





Natasha's Haitian Griot (Pork Bits)

Haitian Griot (Pork Bits) is one of the main dishes served in every Haitian household. Griot is served at every event (casual or formal). It is usually served with fried plantain, pikliz, and/or rice and beans.



Ingredients:

| | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 3 lbs of pork shoulder (cut into cubes/pieces) | 2 teaspoons black pepper |
| 3 cloves | 1/4 cup green pepper |
| 2 garlic cloves | Paprika (to taste) |
| 1/4 cup of parsley | 2 limes (cut in half & juiced) |
| 1/2 cup onions | 1 or 2 habanero peppers |
| 2 teaspoons salt | 3 to 4 cups of water |
| 4 to 5 cups of vegetable oil | |

How to Clean and Marinate Pork:

Blend habanero pepper, green pepper, parsley, onion, cloves, garlic and paprika into a paste with about 1 tablespoon of lime juice, then set aside. In the sink, rub pork with limes, rinse with cold water. In a medium sized bowl, add pork, lime juice, paste of ingredients and mix with hands. Cover and refrigerate for 45 minutes to 24 hours.

Recipe:

In a large pot, add water, marinated pork and boil until tender, probably 30 - 45 minutes.

Heat oil in deep fryer. Separate pork from liquid and set pork aside. Do not discard liquid. Separate pork into batches for frying and fry until a light dark brown color. Set aside on paper towel.

If roasting in oven, prepare a baking dish and add the meat pieces. Do not overcrowd meat. Preheat oven to 375°F degrees and roast meat until golden brown, about 20 - 25 minutes.

Garnish with pikliz and enjoy!

THE BEAUTIFUL GAME (O JOGO BONITO)

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Brits, Jamaicans, Italians, Vietnamese, Turks – the list goes on and on. But all of us Americans. Sharing a common language and a common love – soccer. And always displaying a high level of sportsmanship. We all have to go back to work on Monday morning after all: builders, pilots, doctors, sailors, lawyers– the list goes on and on.

OTSL VB has open enrollment at the beginning of each spring, summer and fall season (we do not have a winter indoor league . . . yet). Games are on Sundays at 8:00 a.m. and/or 9:45 a.m. There are four age groups – over 18, over 30, over 40, and over 50. At the beginning of each season, all of the names for each age group are thrown in a hat and re-distributed to form new teams. So you never have the same team twice, which maintains balance.

If you're interested in joining (and I strongly encourage you to do so), visit the website at www.otslvb.com.

E pluribus unum – out of many, one. See you on the pitch!



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Here's Radlyn with Sami!
Send your favorite selfie to
marketing@gmlaw.net by
July 4th for your chance to
win a prize!

Thank you for your referrals!

Ask Our Legal Beagle

Q: Is it really illegal to have an air freshener, flag or decorative tassel hanging from my rear-view mirror?

A: Yes! It is "unlawful for any person to drive a motor vehicle on a highway in the Commonwealth with any object(s) . . . suspended from any part of the motor vehicle in such a manner as to obstruct the driver's clear view . . . through the windshield." Having these items dangling from your rearview mirror gives police a reason to pull you over, and if they do, they can arrest you if you don't have a driver's license or they see something illegal in your car. Remove these items from your mirror so the police don't go barking up the wrong tree!



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