

# LAWYER ALERT

Stopping Medical In

## Stories From the HEART



Life is made up of many small moments that are special. It's not enough that we experience these moments—we need to share them with our loved ones (they may not remember them or even know about them). Our relationships with our family and friends are our most prized possession.

This is why I am sharing these stories from the heart.

### A LOVE Letter to My Wife

Why I am writing this.

There are moments that make our friendship and marriage special. I value these moments, because they have made a major impact on my life (and our kids' lives).

We have come a long way together and I believe we can weather any storm together. I want to share a few of my favorite moments with you.

#### The Day We First Met

When we were first introduced at a dinner party in January, 1992, you asked me, "What do you do?" I responded, "construction", and realizing I was not serious, you boldly responded with a strong sense of sarcasm, "I'm an airline stewardess."

**Why I Love You:** I knew you had a sense of humor from the first day we met and did not take yourself seriously. You have always laughed at my jokes when others didn't. Thank you for appreciating my sarcastic sense of humor.

#### Dreaming of the Future

After having dated for several months, we were having dinner in August, 1992 when I asked you, "Where do you think we'll be a few years from now?" Without hesitation, you responded, "I hope we'll be married."



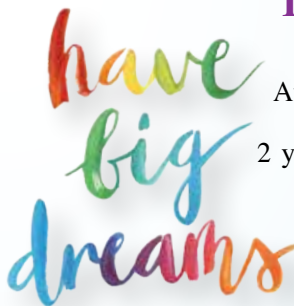
**Why I Love You:** Your loyalty and devotion to our relationship and marriage has never been in doubt.

#### The Marriage Proposal

For a long time, the decision to propose was a tough one for me, as I was searching for certainty in the biggest decision of my life. Eventually, I came to the realization that I could not imagine what the rest of my life would be without you. That realization made the decision easy.

**Why I Love You:** You have always put our kids and our marriage first. Proposing to you was the best decision of my life.

#### The Job Opportunity of a Lifetime



At first, this was a hard decision.

2 years into my career as a lawyer, I had the opportunity to accept my dream job at a nationally prominent catastrophic injury law firm. But the decision became difficult when the partners at the law firm where I worked tried to convince me to stay and made promises of higher pay and better opportunities. What at first seemed like an easy decision now became difficult.

You made the decision easy for me by saying, "If you don't take this [dream] job, you will regret it for the rest of your life." Deep down, I knew you were right, but I just needed to hear it from you. This decision began my career in catastrophic injury law, and I know I would never be happy doing anything else.

**Why I Love You:** You have always pushed me to be the best version of myself. And isn't that the most important thing we can have in a spouse? I thank God that I spend my life doing work that I love, and I know this may not have occurred without your encouragement and persuasion.

#### The Typing Lesson

When I got my first job offer as a lawyer, I came back to our

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apartment in downtown Albany with good and bad news. The good news was I got an offer for my dream job as a catastrophic injury lawyer, but the bad news was I told my future employer that I had strong computer skills and knew how to type (both of which were far from the truth).

You dropped everything you were doing and spent hours teaching me to type. Every night for 2 weeks you taught me the basics of typing. Eventually, I was no longer hunting and pecking on the keyboard and none of my co-workers seemed to notice my novice typing skills when I began working at my new law firm.

**Why I Love You:** You always put me first. Your career and your interests were secondary to what you could do to help me.

You never doubted me. You believed I could do great things with my career and life. Without your trust and confidence in me, my career (and life) would be completely different.

## Decision to Adopt

At the orphanage (a/k/a “baby house”) in Southern Russia in May, 1999, you and I were confronted with a decision that we did not expect we would have to make. We were shown 3 one-year old babies (Boris, Liliya and Oleg) and asked if we were interested in adopting them. Without speaking with me, you quickly responded, “We’ll take all three.”

I knew this was the right decision. I could see the love in your eyes when you held our three babies in your arms, and I knew you were filled with love from the moment you first saw them.

**Why I Love You:** You continually sacrifice your own interests for our kids and they are the lucky beneficiaries. Thank you for being an amazing mother for our children.

## Opening My Own Law Firm

When it came time to leave the safety of working for a law firm, you encouraged me to open my own firm. You did not doubt my ability and through tough times, you encouraged me to keep moving forward. Whenever I doubted myself, you encouraged me when I needed it most.

I’ve had more than my share of defense

verdicts and while each one hurts, your support and encouragement makes them easier to overcome.

**Why I Love You:** Thank you for believing in me. I don’t know where I’d be—professionally or personally--without you.

## My Weight Gain

When the pandemic began in March, 2020, I stopped monitoring my body weight and I began gaining weight. About 12 months later, I asked what you thought of my weight gain and you looked at me and quickly responded, “It’s very noticeable.” I didn’t expect that, but it was true—I needed to do something about my weight gain.

Within a few days, I joined a weight loss program and began monitoring my weight and adjusting my food consumption. Over the course of the next 12 months, my body weight dropped from 193.6 lbs. to 165.4 lbs. And since that time, my body weight and fitness have never been better.

**Why I Love You:** You told me the truth when I needed to hear it. If you had not told me that my weight gain was “very noticeable”, I probably would not have done anything. Thank you for being brutally honest with me when I needed to hear the truth.



## Decision to Run for Judge

At first, the idea that you would be a candidate for Supreme Court Justice seemed like a great idea. That idea quickly faded. Election experts told me that you had no chance of winning and it would be a waste of money. Truth be told, the so-called experts convinced me, and I was on the fence about your decision.

When I expressed my doubts about your chances (I thought you had no chance), you responded, “I’m running and I’m going to win.” Okay, the decision was made.

On the morning of election day in November, 2014, our then 14-year old son,

Tim, told you, “I don’t care if you win or lose, mom, you’re a winner in my book.”

**Why I Love You:** Tim was right. Those who succeed in life are willing to take chances that no one else is willing to take. Even if you had lost, your willingness to embrace risk provided an invaluable lesson for our children.



## The Best Day of My Life

For several weeks before my father’s death in December, 2004, dad expressed a desire to go with me to a casino in Connecticut. Dad was dying of cancer and did not have long to live. I was busy at work and other commitments seemed to get in the way of making the trip. Finally, one day you told me, “You’re taking your dad to the casino this Saturday.” The decision was made.

Dad and I had a great day. We shared jokes that day and he told me things that I never knew about him. Dad and I played blackjack for hours into the evening at the casino (mostly losing, but we didn’t care) and while he was in obvious pain, I could tell that dad was enjoying every moment with his only son.

It was the last time that dad and I would be together alone. Dad passed into God’s hands three weeks later. In hindsight, I know it was more than just a special day, it was the best day of my life.

**Why I Love You:** Thank you for forcing me to make this trip. You gave me a special day with my dad that I will always cherish.

## Death of My Father

At the wake for my father in January, 2005, you sat next to me in the funeral home, and told me something I will never forget. You said, “I owe your dad a lot—he gave me you.”

**Why I Love You:** Those words meant a lot to me when I needed them the most. Thank you for loving me. Your love for me has been the greatest blessing of my life.



## A LOVE Letter to My Mother

I just knew it was a special moment.

In the spring of 2023, my son, my sister and I were swimming in the ocean on a sunny, cloudless day in Florida while my mother watched from the beach. It dawned on me that it was a special moment. Not really unlike many others, but just spending time with my mother with her daughter, grandson and son was a great day—you might say a perfect day of doing nothing other spending time with our mother.

Life is made up of many small moments just like that special moment. These moments are precious and worth reflecting on. These are a few of the moments that have been special in my life.

### The Turning Point in My Life

It was my first year of college and I was home for the fall break when my mother just happened to say something that caught me by surprise.

As my mother and I were driving home from church midway through my first semester of college, my mother said, "You're going to have at least a 3.5 GPA this semester, right?" I was dumbfounded. I had no idea my mother expected academic excellence in college and I didn't know what to say. So, I said nothing.

I drove back to college later that afternoon with a completely different mindset. Nothing less than perfection would be acceptable. I worked night and day to live up to the standards that my mother expected, and following two months of hard work, I had no idea what the results would be.

When the final grades came in the mail after the end of the semester, I was stunned. My friends in high school had told me that I was stupid, and I assumed they were right. But now, I was in the top 3% of my class. And the results didn't stop there.

Thinking back on our lives, we need someone who believes in us. Someone who believes we are not average or "stupid". Someone who believes we are capable of achieving amazing things. That person is my mother, Sally Fisher.

### Tears of Joy

My wife and I had no idea what to expect and we were a bit anxious about sharing the big news.

The day had come to share a big secret. My wife and I were adopting 3 babies from Russia. Lisa and I had not told anyone about the adoption. Lisa and I felt that the adoption was a decision that only we could make and we did not want anyone to discourage us.

When the day finally came to share the big news, my wife and I took my parents to a restaurant. Lisa handed my parents a photo of our 3 babies and said, "John had to take a trip to Georgia...the Republic of Georgia." As my parents looked at the photo, they instantly realized we were adopting 3 babies. My mother's eyes welled with tears of joy and she was unable to say a word. Tears flowed down my mother's cheeks. I knew everything would be alright.

That day, I was hoping for acceptance of our adoption from my parents, but I received something more special. My mother didn't only accept our 3 babies into our family, she expressed joy and love for them from the moment she first saw their photo.

This pure expression of love for our 3 children meant the world to me. And our 3 children have been blessed from that moment with the certainty that their grandparents would love them as their own children.

And I could not ask for a more special gift.

### Our Dream Come True

As my parents and I drove down Notre Dame Avenue on my arrival at Notre Dame for my first day of college, my mother said, "This is a dream come true." I didn't respond. My mother was right. I was going to my dream school and there was no need for words.

I know that dreams can come true. But dreams don't happen magically, but rather, by hard work. My mother spent countless hours working on homework with me. My mother taped vocabulary words on sticky notes on the window of our family's bathroom, to instill a love of learning in her children (and she quizzed us on these words every day). My mother knew when to push hard and when to take it easy on me. My mother was shaping my life.

When we drove down Notre Dame Avenue on the first day of college, my mother was only partly right when she said it was a dream come true. It was our dream come true. And there's no question our dream would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of my mother.

My life has been blessed by a mother who sacrificed every day for her son. This is how dreams come true.

THE NEW YORK

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## Special Announcement for the Mastermind EXperience in Florida!

We will have two special presentations for the Mastermind Experience ([www.MastermindExperience.com](http://www.MastermindExperience.com)) in **West Palm Beach, Florida on Friday, January 26, 2024.**

*“The 5 Essential Key Performance Indicators for Growing and Scaling a Plaintiff’s Law Firm”* by Craig Goldenfarb, Esq. of Gold Law, West Palm Beach, Florida

Craig Goldenfarb, Esq. will share the 5 most critical key performance indicators that he uses to run his law firm, Gold Law: Personal Injury Lawyers (voted the #1 small business for employee satisfaction in South Florida by the Sun Sentinel). You will know exactly what you should be measuring and how you can use the KPIs to make data-driven decisions about the marketing and management of your law firm.

During this special presentation, Craig Goldenfarb, Esq. will share with you:

- How he uses the Entrepreneurial Operating System (EOS) and the software, 90.io and his case management software to monitor and track key performance indicators.
- How Craig creates and tracks key performance indicators and breaks them down into sub-KPIs and how he calculates profit per case.
- How Craig uses KPIs to make informed decisions about marketing and managing his law firm.

As a special bonus, Craig Goldenfarb, Esq. will share the secrets of his “Employee Referral System”. The Employee Referral System is Craig’s system for generating 23% of his firm’s revenue from employee referrals. Craig will share the “Four Pillars of Employee Happiness” and provide his insights into his firm’s events, programs and incentives. The workplace that Craig has created at Gold Law is unique.

You won’t want to miss this.

*“How to Create an Exceptional Employee Experience Through Onboarding”*, by Lin McCraw, Esq. and Gloria Campos, COO of the McCraw Law Group, McKinney, Texas



Gloria Campos, Chief Operating Officer and firm administrator of the McCraw Law Group, created a consistent onboarding experience that sets up new employees for success and embeds them in the firm culture from day one. The McCraw Law Group has watched their success as a firm soar through their onboarding system, and now they will share their system with you.

“We build up the employees through a journey just like we do a client. We want them to be full on, sold out culture believers in what we are doing.”

**Lin McCraw, Esq.**, McCraw Law Group, McKinney, Texas

Gloria and Lin will share their secrets for creating automated onboarding processes that welcomes new employees with a “WOW” experience. This onboarding system is best in class and will stop the churn of employees that many law firms experience.

This is the first time Gloria and Lin have given this presentation. And I know it will be one-of-a-kind.

You can apply to participate in the Mastermind Experience on Friday, January 26, 2024 at [www.MastermindExperience.com](http://www.MastermindExperience.com). If you have any questions, you can call John Fisher at 518-265-9131.

We hope to see you in sunny South Florida on January 26th!

*Practice Limited to the Representation of Seriously or Catastrophically Injured Persons*

[www.MastermindExperience.com](http://www.MastermindExperience.com)