

The Road To Justice Starts Here



we have entered THE "UBER" PHASE OF PARENTING

By Attorney Michael T. Gibson

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As I write this, our oldest, Brady, is in his first days of high school. It is crazy to think that in just four years, we will have a kid in college. Parenting is often a paradox. When the kids are small, you have so much work and responsibility, as they are completely dependent on you. Then, as they grow, they grow more independent, and they do not need you as much, and you find yourself missing some of the things that exhausted you a few years back. But, if I had to put a phrase on where Jen and I are currently in our parenting journey, I would call this the "Uber" phase of parenting, where our main job and responsibility is getting them to and from their school and extracurricular activities, with all the correct gear, on time, and ready to go.



In our house, each kid has a particular activity, outside of school, that they are passionate about. For Brady, it is hockey, and for Emery, it is dance. Both activities have practices and obligations 4-5 days of the week. In order to stay on top of these requirements, Jen and I have each taken on primary responsibility for 1 kid and their activity. I took hockey, as I know nothing about competitive dance, make-up, costumes and the like. And Jen does not know how hockey equipment works, or what forecheck system to run, or how the 1-3-1 powerplay works. Jen also takes the primary responsibility on transporting the kids to and from school. This is no easy task this year, as Brady starts school at 7am, and Emery an hour later. Their dismissals are staggered as well.



Two years ago, when Brady began playing travel hockey, I got asked by his Coach at the time if I wanted to help out coaching on the ice. Being that I would have to be at all his practices and games anyway, I thought it was better to be on the ice and involved versus sitting in the stands. And thus, my journey into coaching began. Last season, for the first time, I was promoted to being a bench coach. And for the forthcoming season, I have once again been promoted to assistant coach. I will candidly admit, there are times where the time demands of coaching, in conjunction with my everyday work responsibilities, get a little overwhelming. And there are days where I am running around all day, every day, to make it all work. I even took a new client call on the Bench during a game last year. But again, I have only a few short years left to do this with my son. So selfishly, I want to make every memory I can. Some of the happiest times of my life have been spent being on the ice with him. No matter how demanding the current schedule is, I know this time is precious and short lived, and I want to make the most of it that I can. The trips we take to play out of town and out of state are a lot of work. But when I hear him talk of his favorite memories in life, all of them involve these trips. So, it is worth it.

Once school is out, two days a week, I take Brady to the gym with me to train. This is to keep him strong and reduce the risk of injuries during the season. In the offseason, the focus turns to adding strength and speed. I train as well, to make sure that I stay injury free, and to keep myself active. This past year was the first time where Brady started pushing me in the gym. He keeps reaching for the heavier dumbbells and pushing harder each set. Being the competitor that I am, I just cannot let him win the workout, so I upped my weight as well. The dif-

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convención bienal

EN PUERTO RICO

Por Juan Jose Rodriguez, Abogado de Enlace

En el mes de Julio, tuvimos la oportunidad de compartir en la Convención Bienal De la Iglesia De Dios Pentecostal, MI en Mayagüez, Puerto Rico.

Primeramente, antes que pregunten, deseo explicar el significado de "BIENAL". Este termino significa que ocurre cada dos (2) años. Como la organización de Iglesia De Dios Pentecostal, Movimiento Internacional tiene iglesias en más de 80 países, el realizar una reunión anual es costoso para muchos pastores y delegados que provienen de países lejos de la sede. He participado en las últimas 3 bienales y he sido testigo del aumento en membresía, liderazgo y cantidad de iglesias. También he visto con entusiasmo cuando nuevos países son agregados.

Algo interesante es cuando veo a naciones como Haití, ser la región con más feligrésia, y a la nación de Nicaragua, con más Iglesias, sobrepasando a la región De Puerto Rico, la cual es la región "madre" de la organización. Esto demuestra el crecimiento a nivel mundial sin el concepto de etnicismo – el concepto que tiene la tendencia a valorar las características de una raza sobre la otra. Ver a representantes de más de 80 naciones reunidos en armonía, es una gran victoria para esta organización.

Es interesante señalar que después de haber asistido a 3 bienales consecutivas, al finalizar me da nostalgia. Conozco a muchos ministros de varias naciones, que solamente nos vemos cada dos años. Un sentir que uno es parte de la familia, y que desea compartir más. Al compararlo con una reunión familiar, me recuerda algo que decía mi sabio abuelo: el lugar donde uno ve a toda su familia es en las cerebrazones de cumpleaños, en las bodas o en los funerales.

También, el celebrarse esta bienal en la ciudad de Mayagüez, fue un éxito. La ciudad, incluyendo al alcalde y los funcionarios representativos, fueron excelentes anfitriones y trataron muy bien a todos los que asistimos. Obviamente la centralización del Palacio de los Deportes, alivio el dolor de cabeza de viajar grandes distancias para asistir a los servicios y reuniones de asamblea. De hecho, el conducir por una ruta con tan bello panorama – incluyendo Guajataca- es una experiencia grata para los que nacimos en la isla y regresamos de vez en cuando a nuestra patria.

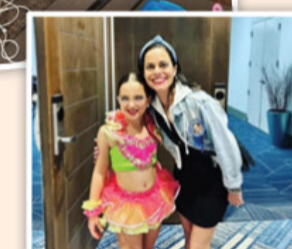
Por último, deseamos felicitar al Obispo Mundial, Rev. William Hernandez por su reelección histórica. Digo histórica, porque según fue mencionado durante el proceso, es la primera vez en la Historia de la organización que un OBISPO mundial, es electo sin oposición. La asamblea, por aclamación y sin necesidad de sufragio, emitió su voto de confianza para que el Rev. William Hernandez continúe con su gran labor. El obispo ha hecho mucho, pero sabemos que le falta mas por hacer, y cuando termine su mandato, dejara un legado histórico en esta organización, con el favor de Dios. Nosotros, en el bufete de abogados de Michael T. Gibson, nos alegramos tener a un gran amigo en esta posición. Que Dios los continúe bendiciendo. ■

"We have entered the "Uber" phase of parenting" continued from page 1.

ference is he is fine the next day, whereas I am physically sore and beat up. Once our workout is done, we head home, where I usually have an hour or two to finish up work for the day and eat. Then it is off to the rink for practice. Some practices are an hour. Some are two hours plus. During the season, we will usually have a video session with the kids, and office training as well. There is also an additional day a week devoted to skill and skating practice. The fun part on those days is that I gear up and do those things. So, all in all, in a regular week, you are looking at about 6 hours of hockey practice and training. We usually have games or tournaments every other weekend. Tournaments usually involve travel out of town and back home, in addition to one to two games daily. Normal, in-season game days are two games a day. So, throw in another 5-6 hours on the weekend during the season.



For Emery, dance practice is usually three nights a week, and lasts anywhere from an hour to four hours a session. Emery's competition season usually kicks in during the spring, right around when Brady and I get done with travel hockey season. So, as soon as I am home, and not traveling for a few months, then Jen's turn to travel begins and they are gone every other weekend. In addition to her regular company practices, Emery also takes private lessons, to work on specific dance areas and solo routines. And just like I am constantly working on and packing Brady's hockey gear, Jen is constantly staying on top of costumes, hair, and makeup for all the various dance routines. All in all, I would say Jen puts in the same hours weekly into dance, as I am into hockey. And usually it is about ten at night before all four of us are home and together. Weekends, from September through May, are a matter of whose home, and who is traveling. June and July are usually the only months where we are free of any dance or travel hockey obligations.



You might be thinking, this sounds like a lot, and how do you guys pull this off, work, and find any time for yourselves and time as a family. Again, this is why I call this phase of parenting the "Uber" phase, as it feels that we are just constantly shuffling one kid or the other to their next event. And yes, sometimes we are just flat out exhausted. But what this schedule has also done is to make us value the quiet downtimes more. On vacations, we really try

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what our clients say

ABOUT WORKING WITH US

By: Attorney Michael T. Gibson

As the President of this Firm, my number 1 job is to make sure that we are delivering for our clients. So, I constantly seek out and review client feedback. Below are some of the recent reviews our firm received. I think they say a lot about what we do here.

Tyler G.

"From start to finish, they made my experience easy, comfortable, and amazing! They took care of appointments, all bills; I literally had to do nothing but go to the appointments and get better. They also found a settlement for me that was better than I ever expected, and I got treatment for my injuries that have made me feel outstanding since the car accident. I will never go anywhere else, and could NOT recommend higher, if you have been in a car accident and have been injured, call Michael T Gibson today! Everyone is fantastic and thoughtful, and I am so thankful I called and had them handle my auto accident. Janet, Amanda, and Amit are all amazing, caring, and wonderful people to work with! I am blessed they handled this for me!"

Laila D.

"I got to a Car accident. Todd was my Attorney, He went above and beyond what i thought was impossible. My case took about 2 years ... But I was very satisfied with outcome. Angie was my Guardian angel throughout the whole Process, Angie kept me updated and always answers my phone calls and emails. Angie Thank you so much for All your help. Todd thank you for making it happen."

Sam E.

"Success. That's the re-assurance you need when finding an accident / personal injury attorney. There is only one method here when working with the team at Michael T. Gibson: "Winning". The paralegal team (Angelina & crew) behind the leadership of Mr. Todd Curtin helped me close a 5 year chapter on an injury case. When all I had was a will, you found a way. Best of luck and success."

Edise J.

"This is the best firm you can trust to work with ever, they treated you like family, always checking on you and they're real and caring. Thank you guys for my settlement, I'm very happy in less than a year. I will recommend anyone to work with Michael T Gibson firm because they care."

We are so grateful for each and every one of our clients, and your referrals of your friends and family are what keeps this firm going. Thank you so much for your support. We will continue to strive to provide the best in class, client service experience in this industry, and to meet and exceed your expectations. ■

"We have entered the "Uber" phase of parenting" continued from page 1.

to slow things down, and just spend time together. If we get a half-hour a night to sit down, we try to do it together. Daily life is chaotic, and so much of our time is spent getting from one activity to the next. When that is done for the day, we just try to take a moment and regroup. It makes the little moments in the day and week count all that much more.

Why do we do all these things? Because in short order, the kids will be fully grown and on their own, and Jen and I will find ourselves wishing we could do it again. The journey of parenthood goes so quickly. We are trying our best to build as many memories as possible, so when that day comes, we have a full memory bank. It isn't always easy, and yes, there are days we wish we didn't commit to these things. But in the end, we are doing our best to build lifelong memories and experiences for them. My goal is to give my kids the chance to pursue their dreams. I got to live out my dream; I just want them to have the same opportunity.

So, for all of you that are in the "Uber" phase of parenting, know that we are right there with you, and we would not have it any other way! ■

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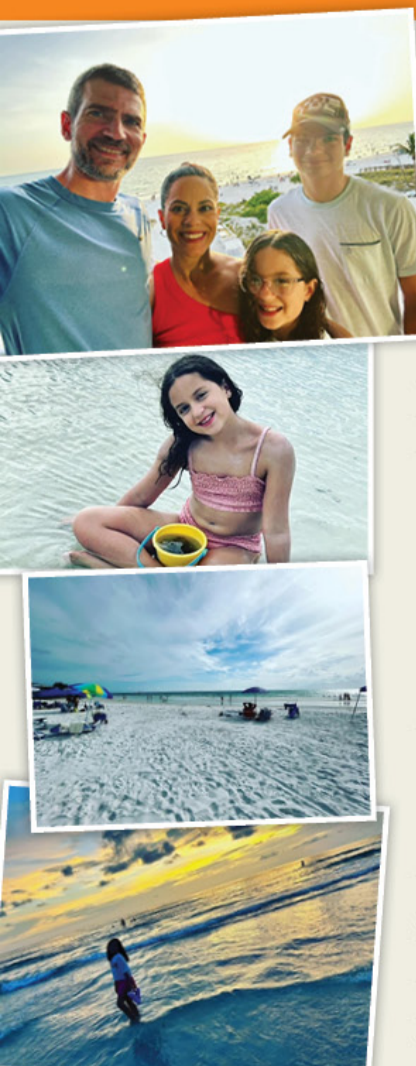
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THE GIBSON SUMMER BEACH TRIP – in a new place

By: Attorney Michael T. Gibson

Every year, since 2010, we have taken our summer vacation in Sanibel Island. Jen and her family used to vacation there yearly when she was a kid. We adopted this tradition and made it our own. In 2017, we purchased a timeshare at a condo right on the beach. And two years ago, I purchased a second timeshare, in the unit right above us, so that Jen's family could join us. Unfortunately, when Hurricane Ian struck last September, our timeshares were destroyed. And while the owners are working to rebuild our units, they are still months away from having the guests return. So, for the first time in fourteen years, we had to find an alternative spot for our annual summer vacation. We looked around, and settled on Siesta Key. This was a new spot for all of us. We are so used to our favorite spots in Sanibel, that it took us a couple of days to settle in. The condo was very nice, and had an awesome view. In fact, we ended up being right next door to a huge mansion, where apparently a reality show was shot years ago. Brady did some research and found us a go-to pizzeria. We probably ended up there four out of the six nights we were there. We also found some outlet malls, and got in our back to school shopping for the kids. Other than that, Brady and I played some golf, while Jen and Emery enjoyed the beach. The beach was really different than what we are used to in Sanibel, but it was still nice. All in all, it was a nice break. With our trip being about two weeks later than normal, and with school, hockey and dance right around the corner, we really tried to just relax and take it easy. And while we missed our Sanibel home immensely, it was fun to take in a new place and new experiences. We hope you and your family got to enjoy a break this summer as well. As the kids grow up, these trips become more precious, and I try to enjoy them while we still have them. ■

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