

# The Road To Justice Starts Here



## what I am thankful for

By Attorney Michael T. Gibson

It's Thanksgiving, and that means that the end of another year is rapidly upon us. Every year at this time, I like to take some time and reflect upon the past year. It is part of a planning and review process that I undertake yearly, in an effort to see exactly where the firm is at, and where we are heading in the future. It is also a time where I take personal stock of where I am as a person, a husband and a father. In each of these roles, I am constantly seeking to grow and be better. So, as I reflect upon this past year, I wanted to share with you my thoughts, and what I am thankful for this Thanksgiving.

In my work life, most of the early portion of this year revolved around the Florida Legislature passing significant tort reform legislation this past March. The bill was announced on Valentines Day, and by the end of the following month, it was law. I have been watching and participating in the inner workings of Tallahassee on these issues for 20 years now. I have never seen a bill move at such lightning speed, especially one that so fundamentally alters the rights of so many, and that has such a wide-ranging impact on our citizenry. For 20 years, I have feared the passage of such a bill, and the effect it would have on my abilities to obtain justice for injury victims in this State.

As soon as the bill was introduced, that fear and panic consumed me. But not too long into the process, and after studying the bill in depth, I realized that this law change would not be the end of me, or our firm. In fact, the more I read and studied, the more I came to understand how all this law did was basically give the insurance companies more excuses and more reasons to not pay and to deny rightful compensation to injury victims. Well, I have been fighting that for 20 years. And nothing they passed is anything I have not seen before.

Once I realized this, I went from panic to planning. Within weeks of the law passing, I rolled out an entire set of new systems and strategies, that we have already been deploying for months. Almost all of them have been successful thus far. I used this as an opportunity to really dig into the firm and its systems. I studied what we did really well, and I tweaked a few things to accommodate the law changes. Having worked on this for a number of months this year, and having reviewed these systems continuously throughout the year, I exit this year feeling very confident that our clients and our firm are in good position to handle and successfully combat any of the new, legislatively gifted tactics the insurance companies try to use against us and our clients.

Other than that, it was another great year for our firm. 2024 will mark our 15th anniversary. In a lot of ways, it still feels like we just opened the place yesterday. And in others, as time goes on, I find myself drawing more and more examples from our 15-year history, then my career that preceded it. I probably don't need to say this, but the personal injury business is ruthlessly competitive. Just look at all those billboards and TV ads that you see every day. My largest competitor outspends me on a scale of 25 to 1. And, as stated above, there have been the challenges of law reform, and a pandemic, which significantly affected us a few years ago.

Yet, despite all these challenges, we are continuing to grow each and every year. In the last 10 years, we have tripled in size, and we have tripled our cumulative recoveries to our clients. Our last two trials have resulted in verdicts for our clients that were 18 and 16 times the respective last offers from the insurance company. We have also built specialized teams within the firm to handle cases involving traumatic brain injuries, and commercial trucking accidents. These teams have achieved some of our highest settlements as a firm, resulting in significant recoveries for our clients. But what I am most proud of is the number of clients that come back to us, and the number of clients that refer their friends and family

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## What We are Thankful For

By The Attorneys and Staff of Michael T. Gibson, P.A.



I am thankful for the blessings I have been given. This year has had its ups and downs, but one thing that has gotten stronger throughout has been my worship. I'm grateful I have a job that allows me to be open about my beliefs with no judgement. Serving Him has helped me to be a better person in and out of work. **Miriam Salas – Intake Supervisor**

As 2023 comes to an end, I find myself reflecting on the many reasons to be thankful. I am thankful for my wonderful family. This year, I had an amazing trip to Italy and the Mediterranean cruise, which we never thought we would ever be able to go on. This will be a lasting memory for my family and the amazing adventure we shared. I'm thankful for the challenges that pushed me to learn and improve on myself, thankful to be a part of the volunteer and community work I did this whole year, and thankful for my health and wellness, being able to prioritize it. Finally, I want to thank the Lord for allowing me such a great year. I give Him all the glory.

**Yesenia Laboy – Marketing Representative**



Every year, now more than before, we have the opportunity to visit other countries in mission trips. When you see families having one meal a day, without basic necessities such as electricity and water. Teenagers or kids that have never tasted meat, fathers going to work riding a bike as their only way of transportation, schools without books or basic materials, teachers going without pay for more than six months- you can see how truly blessed we are here in USA. We have plenty of food and transportation, our kids go to school with excellent facilities, including air conditioning, and the great majority of us have a vehicle for transportation. We should take a look at what we have, instead of paying attention to what we do not have. We are more than blessed, and grateful for every single thing God has provided. We encourage our readers to pay more attention to those things we take for granted. GOD bless everyone and have a good and blessed Thanksgiving.

**Juan Jose and Dalmaris Rodriguez – Attorney Liaison and Marketing Director**

Thanksgiving is a time for reflection of all our blessings. I am thankful for my family, friends, co-workers, and most importantly our clients. I understand that clients have a lot of options with who to represent them for their injury case and I am thankful that you have trusted us with that privilege. With the recent changes to the law, you can trust that the team at Michael T. Gibson, PA, will always have your back and put the client first. From my family to yours, I wish you a Happy Thanksgiving!

**Amit Jhalli – Attorney**



I am thankful for so many amazing things that have happened this year. Thankful for having a supporting family, friends, and co-workers who throughout this year have had my back on my journey. I have learned this year that nothing is impossible if you put the right mind to it and stick to your plan. I am especially thankful to God, for giving my mother one more year to be with us and for the success that my son has accomplished in his academics and sport (Fencing). Happy Thanksgiving from my family to yours.

**Cyd Alvarado – Litigation Assistant**

This has been a year of new beginnings for me, and my family, and I am forever grateful for all the changes and the many blessings received. This year, I have had the opportunity to share special moments with loved ones and learn from the many ups and downs along the way. I have met incredible people that keep pushing me to become a better person and professional. I am grateful for the clients I have been able to serve throughout while in hardship, and the impact we have had on their lives and the lives of their families. Wishing you and your loved ones a harvest of blessings this Thanksgiving day, with much love, health, peace and warmth to last an eternity!



**Marcela Romero – Attorney**



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members to us, and the large amount of support we receive from our community. These referrals are the lifeline of our business, and they have allowed us to achieve these milestones. It is never lost on me the faith and trust someone puts in us when they refer someone to our firm. It is that awesome commitment, that inspires me, and fuels my resolve to relentless endeavor to make this firm the absolute best it can be for our clients.

On the personal side of my life, I am in a good place. I get to live and spend every day with my best friend, my wife, Jennifer Gibson, who I am still madly in love with. Jen turned 40 this year, and it is not lost on either of us, that we are no longer young. We have been together for 16 years now. And if anything, I love her more today than I did back then, and I loved her a lot back then. We have built a business together, and we have raised our two kids to be successful, happy teenagers. And although we are entering a new phase of our life together, I could

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There are so many things to be thankful for in my life. First and foremost, I am thankful that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior, that He has rescued me. I am thankful for a loving husband, a great son and daughter-in-law and 2 of the most precious grandsons ever. I am grateful for my church family that continues to feed me God's word. Of course, I am grateful for my family and friends and for this law firm and the wonderful people that work here, that care for their clients and truly treat them as family. My clients are also a blessing to me, hopefully to provide them with comfort and peace at a difficult time, and fight for the best possible outcome. My blessings are many, and I am forever grateful for them all!



**Janet DeFabrizio – Senior Paralegal**



This year I am grateful to God for giving my family and I the opportunity to visit Rhode Island after twenty years, and surprising my mom with a birthday celebration. My siblings and I live in different States, and my mom always wanted a big birthday with her children, grandkids and great-granddaughter, and this year, we made that wish come true. The smile on her face, and the memories created, was so worth it, and for that I am beyond thankful.

**Wanda Vazquez – Case Manager**

I am thankful for my wonderful friends and family who have pushed me to my full potential this year and encouraged me to take risks and chances on new experiences. I am also thankful for the new friends I have made this year at Michael T. Gibson P.A. who have given me the strength to become a better person.

**Denise Yarbrough – Case Manager**

It's been a tough year for my parents and their health. My mother with Cancer and my father with a Heart attack. On both cases the mercy and Grace of God worked in our favor and today both are doing great. I thank God for my family and all the opportunities that He has given us to bless a lot of people during this year.

**Jose Barreto – Director of Community Outreach**

I am thankful for my two daughters, my family, and friends. I am thankful for my health, the health and well-being of my family and friends, having a roof over my head and food in my fridge, and my job that allows me to have those things. I am thankful for the many blessings of life seen and unseen.

**Luisa Escoto – Intake Representative**

I am thankful everyday for my fantastic family and friends. We welcomed a 3rd grandchild a few months ago and everyone is happy and healthy. In this line of work, we've all come to learn that every day is a gift and life can change in an instant. I'm thankful for my dedicated and caring co-workers that give their all to assist our clients in their time of need.

**Kimberly Wise – Senior Case Manager**



What a better way to begin celebrating my 56th Birthday in October by running the Chicago Marathon this year!! I am so blessed that my number one fans my Hubby & Kids were there to cheer for me in person. I am thankful for my parents, family, friends, my co-workers & my running family as well. Blessed to have you all in my life! Last but not least, very thankful that earlier this year was also my 10th Anniversary working for this amazing family oriented Firm! Jen & Michael thank you!

Cheers to new challenges, but also new plans, new dreams and most of all new adventures for 2024!! Happy Thanksgiving from my family to yours!! I love you all!!

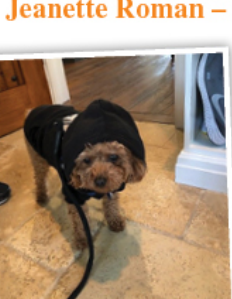
**Mayra Lopez – Receptionist**

Every year is a new year of blessings and so much more to be thankful for! Thank you god for always blessing and protecting my family, keeping us all in good health and getting us through all obstacles life throws our way. I am extremely blessed for another year at Michael T. Gibson, PA to have the opportunity to assist and guide each and every one of our clients during these difficult times. I truly couldn't be more thankful for the opportunity I get to help each and every one of you. I pray all who are reading this have a safe and wonderful Thanksgiving and holiday season from my family to yours!

**Angie Rodriguez – Litigation Paralegal**

I am grateful for a positive turn on my health and looking forward to more good things to come.

**Jeanette Roman – Pre-suit Case Manager**



This year was great. My sister, Emery, taught me some tricks and used cheerios to get me to do them. This led to me to learn that if I do the tricks every time someone gets off the couch, I can get a cheerio. And since then, I have had a lot of cheerios. I am thankful to live in a house where the owner and main boss, Jennifer, treats me like a king. The kids are getting older and everyone is always coming and going. But, when they are finally all home, I am always getting held, or played with. I would say I have it pretty good. Oh, and I got to star in the firm's latest commercials.

**Vladdy Gibson – The Gibson Family dog and firm mascot. 🐕**

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## what I am thankful for



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not be more excited for the journey ahead. I always tell Jen, I don't know everything the future holds. But as long as I am with her, I look forward to it.

Like I mentioned, the kids have grown up so much. I remember when there were toys everywhere around their playground. I remember it, because I always had to clean it up. Those days are gone. Our days now are filled with running them to school and then to dance and hockey. We got to see Emery really blossom and become a competition-winning dancer. And then there is Brady, who is one of the highest rated hockey players on his team. And both are maintaining straight A averages in school. I am so grateful they are healthy and happy, and I cherish every moment of time with them.

I am also thankful to be in good health. I did suffer a few injuries this year. I now have a chipped bone in my elbow. And for everyone out there who has dealt with plantar fasciitis, I literally feel your pain, and boy, is that pain terrible. Thankfully though, I have been able to work through these injuries. Neither kept me off the ice, or away from the gym. Most of my free time is spent in the gym or in the ice, and most of the time, it is training with Brady. We are at a point, where I really have to work hard to keep up with him. I keep telling him that natural testosterone is a wonderful thing, and to enjoy it while you have it. But, I am a 44-year-old guy, who trains with elite 14, 16 and 18 year old hockey players, and I keep up just fine. I have to stretch a lot, and I make trips to a chiropractor and massage therapist when I need repairs, but doing the physical work keeps me sharp, engaged, and focused. I have won two men's league titles this past year. I have also advanced as a hockey coach, and Brady and I just won our first tournament in two years, and in my hometown of Clearwater, Florida. I consider myself blessed to be able to do all these things. And God willing, I will have the health to keep going.

But just like everyone else, my life isn't perfect either. I have watched my brother-in-law battle a major health issue this year, one that has left him with kidney failure and in need of a kidney transplant. Being that we are only a few years apart in age, it has been hard to watch him endure the same. But I envy the fact that despite these challenges, he is living and enjoying his life, and I applaud the way he has dealt with this situation. I pray daily we find a match and he can get his transplant. Jen also had to be hospitalized early this year. The good news is that the doctors ran every test known to man on her, and all were negative. The bad news is she continues to have dizzy spells, and we are still without an answer as to why. And that chipped bone in my elbow isn't going anywhere, and at some point, I am going to have to have a surgery to remove it. I try to take these things one thing at a time. But they make you realize that life is precious, and that your health is a gift. Cherish it, take care of it, and enjoy it while you can.

Overall, I can only hope and pray for another year of health and happiness. I am very thankful for all the blessings God has bestowed on me, and my family. I pray he keeps you and your family in good health, and I pray for health and happiness to you all. 🙏



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