

MAKE GOOD THINGS HAPPEN

A Rossen Law Firm Publication



January 2020
Volume 4 Issue 1



➤ Sunrise, FL
March 8, 2019

DROWNING BY SUNRISE

What Police Say is Accidental, Family Say is Impossible

Last March, Sunrise Police officers stood by and watched as a child drowned in a canal.

Damain Martin, 16, died March 8, 2019. Damain was running from police officers who saw him and a few friends in a car that was reported as stolen. The chase ended near a canal, and Damain jumped in. But first, a police officer deployed his taser near the water while attempting to catch Damain.

A new mini-documentary about this local South Florida tragedy came out in December. While it's only 8-minutes long, the story told and questions raised are significant. Official reports recently claimed no taser came into contact with Damain and ruled his death as an accidental drowning. Family and friends say that's impossible – Damain was a strong swimmer and athlete.

"There are some questions we want to be answered. As to the cause of death, was he tased? Was he tased in the water? Was he tased outside of the water? Everybody knows that DJ knows how to swim," Christina Atwell, Damain's cousin, says in the documentary. She also questions why none of the observing Sunrise police officers went in to help him when he was asking for help.

Witnesses say the black teen begged police for help as he drowned. A witness' voice can be heard in the documentary recounting that they saw Damain jump into the canal and surface from the water twice – screaming 'help me.' The witness continues to say, *"the third time he went down, he didn't come back at all."*

—continued on page 2

Cheers
TO THE NEW YEAR

"You are never too old to reinvent yourself."
— Steve Harvey

WISHING YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE ROSSEN LAW FIRM

THANK YOU FOR YOUR REFERRALS!

Starting in December 2017, we began donating one pair of shoes to a child in need for every referral received.

0211



- Joel B.
- Camille C.
- Carlos C.
- Jose S.

SUPER LAWYERS

Congratulations to Adam & Manny for earning a spot on the 2020 Florida Rising Stars list! Only 2.5% of Florida attorneys receive this distinction for excellent practice.

Together, We Can Do More

A Unified Partnership Between Attorneys & Mental Health Professionals

When we join together, we can do more – whether it's for our clients or our community.

Lately, we've been focusing on the importance of our firm making connections with local mental health counselors. In a sold-out event Rossen Law Firm hosted Nov. 21, more than 40 therapists filled the Vienna Wine Bar while Adam shared invaluable information.

The event was held in partnership with **Private Practice Connect**, a networking platform that helps mental health professionals to collaborate and connect with others in the field. Private Practice Connect is passionate about helping people to connect, develop new referral relationships, build businesses and create partnerships while maintaining passion for the important work mental health professionals do.

We were thrilled to partner with this amazing network and to provide an informative lecture about the importance of having a unified partnership between attorneys and mental health professionals.

"It was fantastic," Adam said of the event, noting many therapists said *"they got a tremendous amount of value"* from the presentation. Even after the event, emails from therapists followed saying it was *"a pleasure to learn"* from Adam.

We are so grateful to Sofia Robirosa (MBA, LMFT, CAP) and her team that made this all possible and joined us in making this event happen in our community. ®



Adam speaks to 40+ therapists about the importance for mental health counselors and attorneys to be unified partners.

—continued from page 1

Drowning By Sunrise...

A witness told news sources they saw a police officer get ready to jump in after Damain, but he was allegedly told not to.

Damain's death was ultimately ruled as an accident. A report says that the Broward Sheriff's Office completed an investigation and ruled Damain's death to be an *"accidental drowning"* – it also cites there was no evidence of a taser probe contact.

The documentary, however, reports *"an investigation by the Florida Center for Investigative Reporting suggests that Damain may have been struck by a police taser as he entered the water."*

Dr. Angelique Corthals, a forensic anthropologist at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY; says there appears to be a discrepancy in the autopsy report. She says the autopsy report is very thorough, as are the photographs of Damain's body. **While the autopsy report is thorough, she says there is a missing detail that is quite obvious in photographs** – a wound on Damain's arm. She says that this type of wound is exactly what someone would be looking for if they were investigating a potential taser wound. The fact that this wound is not mentioned in the report, which is otherwise very complete, she says is *"a grave omission."*

Crime scene photos show a taser cartridge roughly 5 feet from the sea wall, according to the documentary. An officer fired two taser probes – one about 33 feet from the sea wall and the second was never found.

The Sunrise Police Department has declined requests for comment. Damain's mother also says in the documentary that the police department didn't even tell her about her son's drowning – she says they didn't tell her anything.

Adam's Hot Takes On This Story:

- 1 Regardless of a crime, or if Damain was running from the police, I believe general human decency would have clearly been to save Damain's life – especially since most people go into law enforcement to help people.*
- 2 In my experience both as a prosecutor and criminal defense attorney, when something about a case isn't quite right - there might be reason to suspect foul play. The fact that the second taser cartridge is "missing" could likely mean a police officer picked it up, or it went into the water.*

"If the officer tased Damain . . . and the officer just watched – not only would that be cruel, not only would that be inhumane, it could very well be illegal," Paul Butler, a law professor and legal analyst, says in the documentary.

We encourage you to watch the brief, important, documentary for yourself.

The documentary was directed and reported by Jess Swanson & Jason Fitzroy Jeffers. You can watch it by searching for *"Drowning by Sunrise by the Intercept"* on YouTube or Google. ®

Adam is Featured on a Podcast!

Breaking News... being a criminal defense lawyer is NOT like *Law & Order*, according to Adam.

Adam was recently featured in a **World of Marketing Podcast** created by Foster Web Marketing. The podcast series Adam's interview takes place in features a variety of prominent figures in various web marketing industries, including former NFL players, video marketing and other lawyers.

In the episode, Adam delves into more of the **history of Rossen Law Firm** and what business building looked like for him when he began the firm in 2008 after leaving his job of being a State Prosecutor after only 2 years.

Something that has remained throughout the years is Adam's commitment to continually improving customer service to provide a "Ritz Carlton" experience. **The whole team at Rossen Law Firm is committed to ensuring clients know that we care about them**, will fight hard for them and always treat them with respect.

"We genuinely do care about our clients [and] really try to make them the best version of themselves," Adam says in the podcast. ®



To learn more about the interview and the origins of Rossen Law Firm, visit our blog at www.rossenlawfirm.com/blog to find the whole 30-minute podcast!

NEW YEAR HEALTHY RECIPE 5-Minute Oatmeal Power Bowl

INGREDIENTS

- + 1 ripe banana, mashed (the more ripe the better)
- + 2 heaping tablespoons chia seeds
- + 1/3 cup rolled oats (can use gluten-free oats)
- + 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- + 2/3 cup almond milk
- + 1/3 cup water
- + 1 tablespoon ground flax (optional)

OPTIONS FOR GARNISH

- + Soaked almonds
- + Pepita seeds
- + Hemp hearts
- + Cinnamon
- + Toasted coconut
- + Nut butter
- + Dried or fresh fruits
- + Spices (cinnamon, ginger, allspice)
- + Flax seed (optional if you don't like the texture)

DIRECTIONS

- 1 The night before: Grab a medium bowl and mash the banana until smooth. Now stir in the chia, oats, cinnamon, milk, and water until combined. Cover and refrigerate overnight.
- 2 In the morning: heat the mixture until thickened on the stove (or in the microwave!) At the end of cooking, stir in flax, if using.
- 3 Pour oats into bowl. Garnish with your desired toppings. Get cozy!

TIPS

We love topping our oatmeals with spices – a pinch of cinnamon, ground ginger, and allspice create a perfectly spiced bowl. ®

Vegan, gluten-free, oil-free, refined sugar-free, soy-free, but still filled with fun!

Source: <https://ohsheglows.com/2014/11/17/5-minute-oatmeal-power-bowl>



MANNY
PROTECTS
YOUR HOME

Smoke Detectors

The U.S. Fire Administration advises testing your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms once a month and replacing the batteries once a year. If your old dried-out Christmas tree catches fire and damages your home, an insurance company will want to know the exact time you last checked your smoke detectors before they pay for damages caused by the fire.

Routine maintenance will not only protect your home from damage but also protect you from a **wrongful denial** if you were to make an **insurance claim**.





Fort Lauderdale Office
6400 N. Andrews Ave. Suite 510
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309
Phone: 754-206-0085

Inside This Issue...

- » New Local Documentary Highlights Potential Police Wrongdoing
- » Adam Hosts Lecture For Area Therapists
- » Rossen Law Firm Featured in World of Marketing Podcast
- » Healthy New Year Recipe
- » Sewage Floods Fort Lauderdale

Happy

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
JANUARY 20, 2020

*"Injustice anywhere is a threat
to justice everywhere."
- MLK Jr.*



Filthy Rich in Fort Lauderdale

A broken sewer line ushered millions of gallons of sewage into the Rio Vista neighborhood in Fort Lauderdale last December. One of the streets most impacted was Ponce de Leon Drive, and according to the Sun Sentinel, some neighbors came to call the drive "Poop de Leon."



In this photo published by the South Florida Sun Sentinel, workers pump raw sewage from Ponce De Leon Dr. in Fort Lauderdale

We imagine many homeowners found themselves in a stinky, crappy situation. Homes on Ponce de Leon are valued from \$800,000 to \$4 million – two homes currently for sale are listed for \$11.5 million and \$22.5 million. The 54-inch cast iron sewer pipe that broke flooded the area for more than a week, according to the Sun Sentinel. So much contamination entered the Tarpon River that people in hazmat suits had to remove dead fish from the waters.

While we hope your (or your friends' and family's) homes haven't been affected by this Rio Vista neighborhood sewage break, we want you to know we're here to help if you need it. **Manny Serra-Jovenich offers free consultations for you to learn how to ensure your insurance company doesn't leave you underpaid.** Manny will work to maximize recovery of your insurance claims and minimize your stress level all along the way.

"Manny was able to get me almost 5 times what the insurance company wanted to pay. Manny is an unbelievably professional individual who helped me during a difficult time and walked me along the process step by step." – 2019 review by Mr. C

A NOTE FROM MANNY

"Typically (and unfortunately) breaks from a city or municipality's water or sewage line are not covered by standard insurance policies. The key is to look to where exactly the break occurred. If the break is located on community-owned property then your chances of recovery decline drastically. If the break occurs inside or under your home, then the odds to recover will be much greater. Because the city line is likely not on your property, the insurance company can deny responsibility for the damage to your home, as the damage was not caused by a "Peril Insured Against." However, there is still a possibility to receive funds to fix your home from the city or your insurance company through subrogation – file that method of recovery under 'things that are easier said than done.'

Be very careful not to confuse the city pipes with your pipes. If the damages were caused by a pipe break located on your land, then it is an entirely different and easier process of recovery."

Give us a call if you or someone you know is considering filing an insurance claim to pay damage from broken pipes.

4 Call today at: 754-999-2499 with any questions or to set up a free consultation. ®