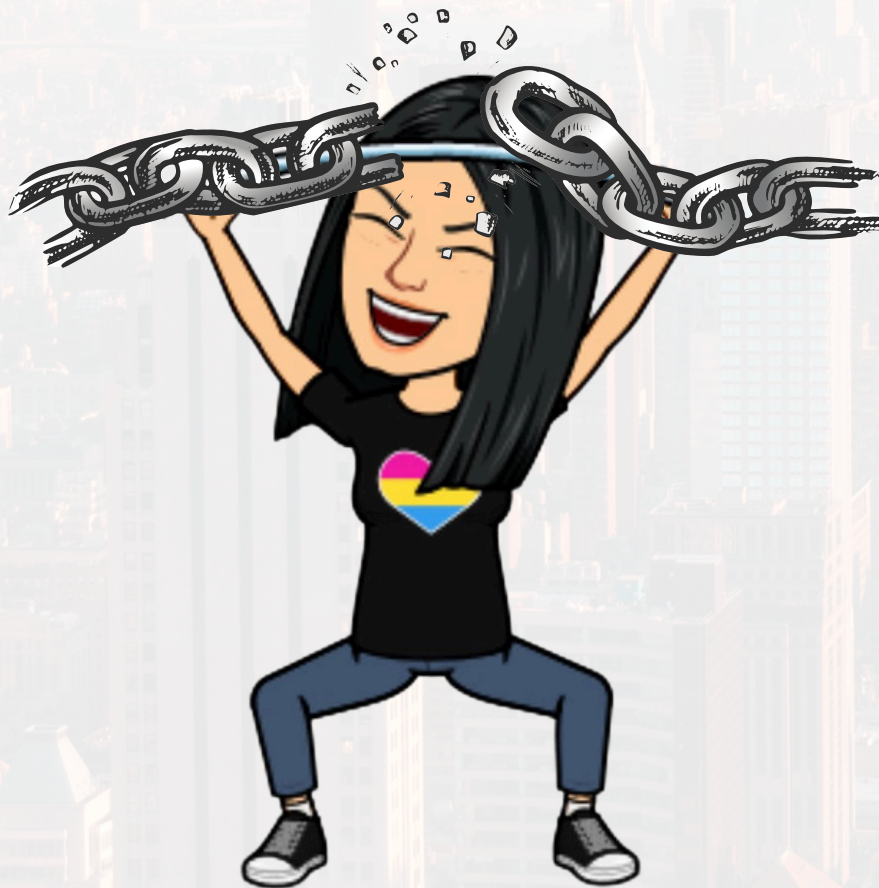


SHARI BELITZ COMMUNICATIONS

# I BREAK CAUSATION CHAINS



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**I Break Causation Chains!  
Let me show you how!**



That's right, Plaintiff you will not SATISFY YOUR BURDEN if we **BREAK YOUR CAUSATION CHAIN.**

That CHAIN is everything.

Before Mrs. Palsgraf

Before Substantial Factor.

Before CACI 430 and every other confusing jury instruction.

There was JOHN STUART MILL.

And Before JOHN STUART MILL there was SIR ISAAC NEWTON.

I-NEW would have been one hell of a trial lawyer. Look how simple he made CAUSATION.

'A' CAUSED 'B' if and only if 'A' happened in TIME before 'B' in and there was a physical CONNECTION between 'A' and 'B'.

This concept gives us the MOST IMPORTANT CONCEPT to break a CAUSATION CHAIN.

How did J-MILL took the element of TIME and expanded upon I-NEW's findings.

I-NEW's s all, "this is easy AF, the apple, blah blah" and J-MILL is like "you are making this too simple. There is MORE to CAUSATION and Mrs. Palsgraf has not even been born yet!"

J-MILL was totes all in on I-NEW's theory of TIME.

But that's where he's like "hold my beer (or apple or whatever)" and brought us a little closer to CACI 430 and friends.

# J-MILL's theory of CAUSALITY involved

1. TIME (cause must precede effect)
2. COVARIANCE (cause and effect must be related)
3. DISQUALIFICATION OF ALTERNATIVE EXPLANATIONS

Soooo, if we knock out one of the three elements we can destroy causation and not have to rely on affirmative defenses like our BFF COMPARATIVE NEGLIGENCE and it's wallflower sidekick, ASSUMPTION OF RISK.

Consider your CHAINSAW MASSACRE tools: TIME and CHOICE (1 and 3).

TIME: Bend it, warp it, manipulate it. To break CAUSATION we often want to stretch it.

TIME can't do it alone.  
TIME is your wingman.  
TIME is your base runner.  
TIME is your assist.

CHOICE is what is going to BREAK THAT CHAIN! JUROR CHOICE!

TIME passes the ball. JUROR CHOICE slam dunks it.

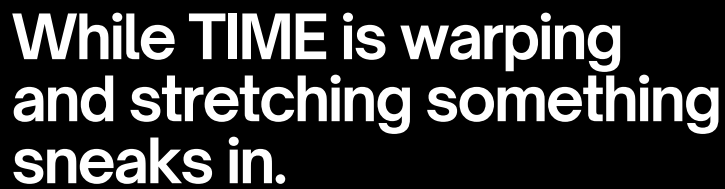
First we must stretch time between cause and effect.

- 🎯 Time between exposure to chemicals and manifestation of cancer
- 🎯 Time between sexual abuse and onset of emotional distress
- 🎯 Time between a trip and fall and spine injuries
- 🎯 Time between lighting breaking and an assault

Now long periods of TIME may make perfect sense in any of these scenarios.

**HOWEVVVA. . . here is the catch. . . JUROR PSYCHOLOGY. THE PSYCHOLOGY OF CHOICE.**





**While TIME is warping  
and stretching something  
sneaks in.**

### **ALTERNATIVE CAUSE!**

The legal world may use its fancy superseding/intervening WHATEVVVA but really what is happening in the mind of a human (ie juror) is they are running through the hundreds, thousands, millions of CHOICES they can make about how: 'A' got to 'B'.

They are empowered with these CHOICES, and when they brainstorm together fuhgeddaboudit!

"If P was exposed to benzene in 1980 and was diagnosed in 2010. .  
.maybe it wasn't the benzene. . ."

"If the P was abused in 2005 and started getting nightmares/panic attacks in 2015, well a lot happened between. . ."

AN ALTERNATIVE CAUSE DOES NOT have to be on the verdict sheet to be a chain breaker.

But the concept does have to be introduced as early as voir dire and throughout the trial.





If you can explain causation to jurors similar to how I did the last few days and then manipulate TIME which will empower them to CHOOSE all of the alternative causes you are on your way to leaving the chain broken and the burden unmet.

**TIME and/or CHOICE = BROKEN CHAIN =  
UNSATISFIED BURDEN.**

*Xo*  
*Shari*

# **HOW TO BREAK A CAUSATION CHAIN!**

*Shari Belitz Communications*