



# RISEZINE

**A Publication of Please Rise**

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Welcome to **RISEZINE** my quarterly electronic magazine (ezine) that can help you solve problems in your business and your life. It is my desire to bring to you the experiences I gained from the twenty (20) years I spent as a Judge of the Denver County Court participating in the transformation of lives. I'm convinced that those experiences will heighten your knowledge, sensitivity and outlook on the issues you face in your business and your life. I am honored to share your precious time with you.

## ***HOLD FAST TO DREAMS***

Langston Hughes, the Harlem Renaissance Poet wrote, "Hold fast to dreams for when dreams die, life is like a broken-winged bird that cannot fly; hold fast to dreams for when dreams go, life is like a barren field frozen with snow."

Last month I had the pleasure of keynoting the Fifth Annual Banquet for the Young Men of Honor at T.W. Spencer Elementary School in Savannah, Georgia. [Community and Boule Salute Young Men of Honor](#) It is significant that only a short time ago Spencer Elementary School was scheduled to be closed as a non-performing school. Thanks to the work of dedicated people like Mrs. Diane Jackson, the Par-educator who founded the Young Men of Honor program and "changed the grade" for this school inspired these thirty young men to achieve high honors.

So, on that night I told that audience that dreams are the picture of what we can achieve in our lives. I asked the young men if they had a dream. All answered with a resounding YES! I then asked, "How do you make your dreams come true?" Dreams foreshadow their future. Foreshadowing is seeing yourselves achieving something by stretching farther than you thought you could.

Here are my three tips for achieving your dreams:

1. Be clear and focused about your dream.
2. Map it out; use GPS if necessary.

3. Identify the people and resources you need.



### BE CLEAR AND FOCUSED ABOUT YOUR DREAM

Your dream must be specific, not vague; saying “I want to be successful” is insufficient. You must say you are going to be a lawyer, doctor, banker, educator, business-owner or journalist. You must clarify the role of your dream life in everything you do. Take on the personality of your dream. If you want to be a care-giver, start by helping someone today. If you want to be an educator, begin by helping someone solve a problem in their job, family or life today. Settle disputes with your classmates, friends or siblings if you want to be a lawyer. Refer to yourself as Doctor Jones; Professor Davis; Attorney Sanchez. It’s never too early or too late to start; it’s your dream isn’t it? So you aren’t sure what your dream is? There is a place where you can find your dream. I call it the dream-holder, the library. You can get a free card; spend hours exploring to your heart’s desire until you find the roadmap to your dream.

### MAP IT OUT; USE GPS IF NECESSARY

At the library you can find out what it takes to become the person of your dreams. What education is required; what talents are needed; what personality is helpful. You can think of the library as the global positioning satellite (GPS) a device that can direct you to the professional destination of your dreams. Search the stacks, surf the electronic catalogue, ask the reference librarian and let the magic carpet take you on a journey to your dream. If you want to be a lawyer you will learn that you must be a good communicator. How are you communicating with your peers now? Do you speak loudly and clearly? Do you use good grammar? Are you a good listener? Do you enjoy reading and writing? Those are the qualities required to fulfill your dream to become a lawyer. Research and build the roadmap to your dream.

### IDENTIFY THE PEOPLE WHO WILL HELP YOU ACHIEVE YOUR DREAM

Who have you seen in the position, job, career, personality and experience of your dreams? Make a plan to develop a relationship with him or her. It may be someone at your school, church, family or in your neighborhood. Once you locate him or her, tell the person of your interest. Here’s a conversation you can have with your resource person: “How do you make your living? How did you choose that career? Are you happy with that choice? Who helped you along the way? Would you help me? After this conversation, don’t forget to follow-up. Ask them if you can call them for advice, suggestions or if you could visit them at work. Your resource person can become your mentor and expedite your journey to your dream.

When you to speak to a group of elementary school students and their parents are in the room, you must take the opportunity to address the role they can play in helping their youngsters achieve their dreams.

## PARENTS

I then turned my attention to the parents and posed the following question, “WHY AREN’T ALL KIDS’ DREAMS REALIZED?” In my twenty years on the bench I heard a lot of parents explain why they thought their young person was standing in my courtroom charged with an offense. The most frequently repeated response from a parent was “I don’t know!” Upon further questioning, they began to say it was the crowd he hung around with. I asked, “What did you tell him or her that they could be when they grew up?” These are the responses that I heard too often:

“You’re not going to amount to anything.”

“Don’t get your hopes up too high, because you’ll only get hurt.”

“You’re not smart enough to be a doctor.”

“I don’t have any money to send you to college.”

When we make these limiting statements to our kids, be unknowingly or unwittingly hurt them and kill their dreams. The young person internalizes these statements and believes them. IF YOU SAY YOU CAN OR YOU CAN’T, YOU’RE RIGHT! I asked those parents to listen to their children and support their dreams. First, ask questions and have them talk out their dreams. Second, share their dreams with their children. Finally, they must rekindle their own dreams. How will they know their dreams? Usually it’s a talent, passion or knowledge they gained and it keeps cropping up in your life.

I’m often asked how I knew I would become a lawyer or a communicator. I dreamed of being in front of an audience. I didn’t know then, but I had a speaking part in the Christmas play in first grade; and, I gave the closing graduation speech in high school. What talents, skills or passions have you seen repeating in your life? Were you in a high school play; a program at your church; or in a neighborhood singing group? A passion that keeps cropping up in your life is the preview of your dream. You can jump on that magic carpet to your dreams, or ignore it and have your dreams pass you by. Which will it be? Remember, if you aim at nothing, you’ll hit your target every time! DREAM ON!

If you or your organization needs inspiration for the challenges you face, I can give you tools that will help you achieve your dreams. “Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all.” -Dale Carnegie. Gain insight and wisdom from the man who spent thirty years in the courtroom and maximize my experience to your benefit and help your group **RISE**. Contact me at [Beau@Pleaserise.com](mailto:Beau@Pleaserise.com) or through my website, [www.PleaseRise.com](http://www.PleaseRise.com).

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