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The Nobel Prizes

So, President Trump wants to win a Nobel Peace prize, reportedly. That is possible, but you cannot get a Nobel prize just for the asking or based on half-hearted attempts and campaign promises. As David Brooks, the conservative columnist for the New York Times, said: [If you want a Nobel prize] “you gotta do stuff.” For him to achieve this, the US would have to play a big role in resolving the conflict between Russia and Ukraine while also achieving some measure of peace in the Israel-Palestine conflict. This would be an uphill battle for any President, but in Trump’s case, he is also hampered by the weakness of his diplomatic team. Steve Witkoff is no Henry Kissinger, and Marco Rubio, the Secretary of State, wears multiple other hats: acting National Security Advisor, USAID acting administrator, and interim leader of the National Archives. Rubio is tasked with an excessive number of responsibilities, and diplomacy just might be a full-time job.

The history of the Nobel Prize is a long one. The Nobel prize was underwritten by a Swedish businessman, Alfred Nobel, an inventor who acquired a number of patents and also had a big interest in literature and writing. In 1895, he bequeathed much of his fortune in his hand-written Will to fund the Prize. The money left by Alfred Nobel has been invested, and the interest earned is sufficient in itself to fund the awards. The average award is \$1.1 million in US Dollars. The Nobel prize is awarded in multiple categories: physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature, and peace. No one can nominate themselves and an individual can only be nominated by an eligible nominator. Individuals are eligible, but so are groups. The award winners are publicly announced each year on December 10th, while the names of the non-winning nominees are kept confidential for 50 years.

The criteria in its most basic form is to use the money “for those who, during the preceding year, shall have conferred the greatest benefit to humankind.” Up to three individuals can be awarded and share in a single prize. In his will, Alfred Nobel designated the institutions responsible for the prizes he wished to be established: (1) The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences for Physics and Chemistry; (2) Karolinska Institute for the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine; (3) The Swedish Academy for the Nobel Prize in Literature; and (4) A committee of five persons to be elected by the Norwegian Parliament for Peace.

The first set of Nobel prizes were awarded in 1901. In 2012, in a controversial move, the prize for peace was awarded to the European Union. That was not the only controversial award, however, as several other recipients have also sparked controversy: Mikhail Gorbachev, Yitzhak Rabin, Shimon Peres, Yasser Arafat, Le Duc’Tho, Henry Kissinger, Jimmy Carter, Barack Obama, and Abiy Ahmed.



The previous US Presidents that have been awarded the Nobel prize are Jimmy Carter, Barack Obama, Woodrow Wilson, and Theodore Roosevelt. Besides the four US Presidents, the following US citizens are Nobel prize recipients: Al Gore for his work on climate change (2007), Jody Williams for her work banning and clearing landmines (1997), Elie Wiesel for his work raising awareness of the Holocaust (1986), Henry Kissinger for his work on the Paris Accords (1973), Norman Borlaug for his efforts to fight hunger (1970), Rev. Martin Luther King for his work in promoting civil rights and social justice (1964), Linus Pauling for his work opposing weapons of mass destruction (1962) and for chemistry (1954), George Marshall, the originator of the Marshall Plan (1953), Ralph Bunche, the first African American recipient, for his role as acting mediator in Palestine (1950), Emily Greene Balch for her lifelong work as a pacifist – awarded when she was 79 (1946), and many more: John Mott (1946), Cordell Hull (1945), Jane Addams (1931), Nicholas Butler (1931), Frank Kellogg (1929), Charles Dawes (1925), and Elihu Root (1912).

Credits:

- www.nobelprize.org
- Nordlinger, Jay (20 March 2012) Peace, They Say: A History of the Nobel Peace Prize, the Most Famous and Controversial Prize in the World
- Nobel Peace Prize, Wikipedia, last updated [3 June 2025]



About Susan Barilich, P.C.

I'm Susan Barilich, the owner and founder of Susan Barilich, P.C.

Our practice focuses on litigation and trial work. We have over 30 years of experience handling civil disputes involving commercial, corporate, real estate, construction, and other business disputes.

Being involved in a lawsuit can be expensive and risky. You want a lawyer with a long track record that has the ability to develop the strategy necessary to effectively handle your case and obtain a result that is cost-effective and successful. Experience in this area is key. You need a lawyer who can think quickly on their feet, so to speak. The court room is not an arena for beginners.

Before we take your case, we discuss with you the issues of importance, and make a realistic assessment of the result you wish to accomplish and whether we can achieve that for you. Where budgeting is of concern, we address that, as well.

We are able to compete with much larger firms due to the extensive litigation experience we have. We are able to control our expenses much more readily than a larger organization and will commit only the resources actually needed. Our approach is a practical one; you get experienced counsel at reasonable rates.



"We develop the strategy necessary to effectively handle your case and obtain a result that is cost-effective and successful"

ARE CHINESE EVs THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE?

I don't think about China when it comes to buying a new car. There may be a reason for that, as the import of Chinese automobiles is very limited to virtually non-existent in the United States. Besides tariffs, there are outright prohibitions on the import of Chinese vehicles due to non-compliance with emissions standards and other regulatory issues. The reality is that the restrictions have existed since 1988 and were imposed largely to protect the American car industry. However, as the trade war with China has grown, the possibility of these vehicles being imported into the United States remains small.

The Chinese electric vehicle market is booming, nonetheless. The EVs are sold in South America and Mexico, all over Europe, the Middle East, and in other parts of Asia in addition to the vibrant domestic market they enjoy in China, the world's largest auto market. A company known as BYD, based in Shenzhen, leads the auto market and eclipsed Tesla in annual sales in 2024. BYD is comparable in quality to the Tesla, and in some areas, even exceeds the Tesla, with its rapid charging technology which adds 250 miles of range in 5 minutes and an advanced drive-assistance system called "God's Eye". BYD's top selling models are the Qin and the Song. They start at \$10,000 US Dollars (before import duties and taxes, etc.). The Tesla starts at around \$42,490, and can increase to around \$100,000, depending on the model.

BYD has been interpreted through clever Chinese marketing as "Build Your Dream." However, its founder referred to the company by the Chinese characters "bi ya di" which is just a random collection of characters without any particular meaning. (We have this too, consider Exxon, Axios, and other computer generated names that mean nothing in English, aside from the brand name, derived solely to avoid claims of trademark and copyright infringement.) BYD's founder, Wang Chuanfu, is a tech guy, and has a rags to riches story: born in 1966 to a rural family in Anhui province in eastern China, he was orphaned while he was in middle school and relied on his older brother to provide for him and assist him in getting an education. Wang spent several years at the state-owned Beijing Non-Ferrous Metal General Research Institute, where he earned his master's degree. He ventured into the car industry in 2003 by acquiring a struggling state-owned automaker. Notwithstanding BYD's success, he still focuses a lot of his time on the company's technology. BYD has grown from its start in 1995 to \$107 billion in sales at present.

BYD does manufacture an electric bus that is sold legally in California, but it has not yet made any inroads in any other market. Car enthusiasts in the United States can import one of these cars, but the costs of compliance in terms of getting them here and making them 'roadworthy' are excessive. Apparently, you can lease one from China for up to a year, but it takes several months to get the car to the US and get it back to China, minimizing the driving time while in the US to just a few months. There are a few manufacturers in the United States, such as Polestar, Volvo, and Ford, that sell made in China vehicles in the United States. Ford's CEO reportedly drives one but they are not Chinese "branded."



Credits:

- Emory Economics Review: "Chinese Electric Vehicles and Their Implications in the US Car Market" by David Wu, January 6, 2025
- CNN.com "It's the worlds hottest car company. You can't buy one in America" by John Liu and Hassan Tayir, March 26, 2025
- Wired.com, "This Is How You Get a Chinese EV Into the United States" by Zeyi Yang, April 12, 2025

Yuzu and Gin Cocktail

I am hooked on yuzu juice, with or without gin (its pretty good with vodka too). Yuzu is a Japanese fruit, which supposedly taste like a cross between a lemon and a grapefruit ... close, but does not do it justice ... just call it delicious.

Yuzu juice is easy to come by. My preferred choice is Kimino Sparkling Yuzu Juice, which is available at Whole Foods and other specialty food shops. Marugoto Shiburi Yuzu Juice is supposedly the best, and other popular choices are Yuzuco 100% Yuzu Juice and Yakami Orchard Yuzu Juice. The actual yuzu fruit is not easy to come by. It is grown in Japan, and its importation into the US has been widely restricted. The fresh fruit is funny looking, round and yellow, has little juice, and is mostly seeds and rind. There is one US grower ... in California, but the fruit’s availability is limited, so it is not cheap. For the real thing, you can order it online from Pearson Ranch, a citrus fruit specialty farm in Porterville, California (somewhere near Fresno).

Now the question of which gin to use? I drink little gin so whatever suits you. Beefeater seems to be a respectable choice, Tanqueray Rangpur or Hendricks, too. Gin ranks far below whiskey, vodka, bourbon, tequila, etc. in popularity with American consumers. Apparently, the quality of gin imported into the US has vastly improved from what it was a decade or so ago, due to more craft and premium categories, innovation, diverse flavor profiles, and an appreciation for artisanal spirits. Enjoy!

****Credit to Todd+Diane, *White on Rice Couple: Stories of Food, Travel, Life, Photography* @2025**

Ingredients

- 1-1/2 Tablespoons yuzu juice (or taste)
- 2 oz gin
- ½ oz. simple syrup
- 2 oz. club soda
- Dash of orange bitters, optional

Instructions

- Add the yuzu juice, gin, simple syrup, and optional bitters into the cocktail shaker
- Add ice & shake for 15-20 seconds
- Put ice into glass & strain cocktail over the ice
- Top with club soda, stir, and garnish as desired

