

## The Road To Justice Starts Here

Accidental Injury | Wrongful Death | Insurance | Wills/Probate



# not all accidents ARE CREATED EQUAL

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How often have you been traveling in your car or small truck and observed a tractor trailer closing in on you with frightening speed? Or, found yourself between two large trucks on the interstate, white knuckles on your steering wheel, hoping that the truck just outside your window knows you're there?

The fear is justified. U.S. Federal Highway Administration statistics show that in 2008, nearly 75 percent of the 4,229 fatalities resulting from truck crashes were drivers or passengers in cars that were involved in a collision with a truck. With the average weight of a Honda Accord around 3,300 pounds and a loaded freight carrier or big rig that can weigh in at 70,000 pounds or more, the results of a big truck crash can be catastrophic.

Most people don't know that trucking companies often have separate insurance policies representing the tractor, the trailer, and the driver. Since most trucks are owned by large corporations, you are not only fighting them, but potentially several insurance companies as well. These companies are not looking out for you; they're focused on their own best interests.

If you or someone close to you has been involved in a truck accident, it's important to contact an attorney with truck accident experience. An experienced truck accident attorney will:

- Talk to specialists who know about truck accidents and who might be able to give you information to support your case.
- Understand your case and be able to fight the insurance companies for a fair settlement for the damages you incurred.
- Know the law as it applies to your case. This includes federal and local laws and regulations that apply to insurance and trucking industries.
- Ensure that the evidence in your case is secured and available to you to support your claim.

In short, an experienced truck accident attorney will fight for you, help you recover fair and full damages, and get your life back on track. ■

# major settlement

ON SEROQUEL

FINALIZED



While continuing to deny allegations that it illegally marketed and promoted its blockbuster drug Seroquel for unapproved uses, British

pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca recently agreed to pay \$520 million to settle charges brought against it by the U.S. government.

Seroquel had only been approved by the Food and Drug Administration for use with patients suffering from schizophrenia or bipolar disorder, but the government contended that AstraZeneca promoted the drug to psychiatrists and doctors for patients with other ailments such as post traumatic stress syndrome, depression, ADHD, Alzheimer's disease, anger management, aggression, and anxiety.

The settlement will be split up among the federal government, the state Medicaid programs and the District of Columbia, with the government's portion coming in at just over \$300 million.

As part of the settlement, AstraZeneca also agreed to enter into a five-year monitoring program to ensure the company's compliance with U.S. laws. The company will also have to send a letter to doctors about the settlement.

Seroquel had estimated sales of nearly \$5 billion in 2009. ■



## NIGHTTIME DRIVING + TEENS + CELL PHONES = bad news

Like any other drivers, teenagers face a variety of risks when they get behind the wheel – especially if they drink and drive, speed, or fail to use a seat belt.

But, surprisingly, the biggest risk factor for teenage drivers is driving after dark, according to a recent study conducted by the Texas Transportation Institute.

Researchers who studied traffic fatality rates from 1999 to 2008, found that despite an overall drop in traffic deaths during that time period, nighttime fatalities actually increased. A closer look at the numbers revealed that among drivers over the age of 20, alcohol was to blame for the proportional increase in deaths, but that wasn't the case for teen drivers.

So, what accounted for the rise in teen nighttime traffic deaths? Researchers pointed to one other crucial factor – The huge surge in cell phone use by teenagers during the time period when the 10-year study was conducted.

The study's authors surmise that today's teenagers, having grown up with cell phones, are often so comfortable with a cell phone in their hands that they can develop a false sense of security and figure they can easily text or talk on a cell phone while driving. In fact, one out of every four teenage drivers admits to texting while driving. Unfortunately, that's a decision that leads to disastrous consequences. ■

# the key to choosing AN ATTORNEY



If you've suffered an injury, finding the right attorney for your case can seem like a daunting, confusing task. Honestly, just trying to sort through the maze of lawyer advertising that's out there can be a little overwhelming.

**The key to choosing an attorney is developing and following a system.**

We recommend that you start out by researching and learning what you can about your legal problem.

Nowadays, with the wealth of information available, especially on the Internet, it's relatively easy to track down good information and explanations about what you are facing.

Next, find the names of potential lawyers in your local area. Call them or visit their websites, and then request written information from them. Once you have a solid list of possible attorneys in place, you should set up in-person interviews with them to get a better feel for how they handle cases and if they are a good fit for you.

Finally, work on ranking the information you gathered in terms of importance to you.

Once you've done your research and made your comparisons, you should be in a good position to select the right attorney for your case. ■

July Important Dates

July 4 – Independence Day

## Lawson family addition



Congratulations to Geoff Lawson and his wife Erica, as they welcomed their new son Andrew Philip on June 20, 2010. The handsome fellow weighed in at 6 pounds 15 ounces and was 20 inches long. Many blessings to the growing family! ■

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# recent product recalls

Despite advancements in overall consumer product safety, there are still many products that we use in our everyday lives that can cause serious injuries. Our firm believes very strongly that public awareness of potentially dangerous products can go a long way toward preventing injuries or harm. To help in that regard, here are a couple of recent product recalls announced by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). For a complete list of recalls as well as tips and information on how to help keep your family safe, please visit [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).



### **Hoover Upright Vacuum Cleaners**

Hoover Inc. is voluntarily recalling about 108,000 its WindTunnel T-Series™ Bagless Upright Vacuum Cleaners with Cord Rewind Feature. The power cord is not properly routed or securely seated in the cord rewind assembly which can allow the power cord to be pulled loose, posing fire and shock hazards.

### **Buckyballs® High Powered Magnets**

Maxfield and Oberton LLC, is voluntarily recalling about 175,000 Buckyballs® High Powered Magnet Sets. The sets were labeled “Ages 13+” and do not meet the mandatory toy standard F963-08 (effective August 17, 2009) which requires that such powerful magnets not be sold for children under 14. Magnets found by young children can be swallowed or aspirated. If more than one magnet is swallowed, the magnets can attract each other and cause intestinal perforations or blockages, which can be fatal. ■

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