



SCOTT J CORWIN

A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION

PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEYS



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A MESSAGE FROM SCOTT J CORWIN

I hope you enjoy the inaugural issue of our law firm's newsletter. We will be providing current information, law and news in the area of motor vehicle accidents and personal injury. Every newsletter will feature "Corwin's Corner – Hot Legal Tips", as well as some of our recent successes and consumer news stories you'll want to read. Since opening our doors in 1992, we have successfully represented more than 2,000 injury victims with combined recoveries totaling more than \$65 million for our clients. We are committed to helping all our clients receive just compensation for their injuries, and have developed a unique ability to resolve the vast majority of our clients' claims at full value without the need for lengthy and costly litigation. However, we will litigate any client's claim when it is necessary to obtain the full and fair compensation. Our firm retains leading medical and technical experts so you achieve the highest results possible. When you hire Scott J. Corwin, A Professional Law Corporation, I will be personally working on your case. You can expect one-on-one attention, and that is exactly what you will receive. You will never be passed off to a lesser-qualified associate. I will listen to your story, explain your legal options and then fight on your behalf. Please feel free to contact me at any time. We are here to help.

NEW SURVEY REVEALS THE RISKS OF BEING A PEDESTRIAN

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has recently released statistics from 2010 that indicate it is not only becoming riskier to be a pedestrian in America, but in California in particular, it is more dangerous than ever.

The NHTSA report states that there were 4,280 pedestrians killed in 2010 involving motor vehicles. Of those, 599 were killed here in California. California was followed in pedestrian deaths by Florida and Texas. While disturbing, the high ranking can certainly be attributed, in part, to weather that is conducive to more walking, and of course, population size. For the sake of the study, pedestrians included walkers, runners, joggers and even those sitting or standing.

What is somewhat surprising is that 90 percent of these fatal pedestrian accidents nationally occurred in clear weather. While the weather may have been clear, almost 70 percent of the deaths happened after dark. In addition, 80 percent of the fatalities occurred in places other than intersections. The survey also

revealed that most (over two-thirds) of the victims were male.

So what can be done to reduce the risk of pedestrian deaths? An obvious answer suggested by the statistics would be to only cross roadways at intersections. Pedestrians, like drivers, should avoid use of electronic devices when moving. It is also a good idea to never assume drivers can see you. If you know you will be walking after dark, or if you are a recreational walker or runner, be sure to wear bright or reflective clothing.

At some point, we are all pedestrians. By keeping a watchful eye and using some common sense, we can help ourselves from becoming part of this increasing problem.

Source: CNN, "Pedestrian fatalities up 4 percent in 2010; non-intersection crossings most deadly," Jim Barnett, August 7, 2012.

STUDY FINDS EFFECTS OF CONCUSSIONS AND BRAIN INJURIES ARE LONG LASTING

In the wake of a motor vehicle accident, most people are concerned about treating their injuries as quickly as possible and returning to their typical lifestyle. In cases where the injured party sustains a brain injury though, a new study suggests the consequences from concussions or other traumatic brain injuries may continue for some time after all the scrapes and bruises have healed.

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Please send us your updated phone number(s), mailing and email addresses so we can bring our data base current.

Please email us at scott@sjclaw.com or call us at (310) 207-4030.



Super Lawyers



NEW BILL HOPES TO MAKE CYCLING SAFER IN CALIFORNIA

After failing to pass last year, a bill that intends to make bicycling safer in California has passed the State Assembly and is now awaiting a signature from the governor. The bill, known as "Give Me 3", would require motorists to give bicyclists a minimum of three feet of space when driving past them.

The governor vetoed the bill last year after the State Highway Patrol of California protested a particular provision in the legislation. The provision would have required motorists to slow down to 15 miles per hour, if they were unable to provide three feet of space for the cyclist. The Highway Patrol was concerned that the provision would result in an increase in accidents, as motorists would have to slow down quickly to abide by the law. That provision was taken out of this year's version of the bill and now backers are confident the Senate bill will become law. The governor can sign the bill into law, veto it, or it will automatically become law if he takes no action by September 30.

Cyclist organizations, including the California Bicycle Coalition, have supported the legislation. They claim

that cyclists are often targeted by motorists who pass them too closely and cut them off. If the bill becomes law, such aggressive activity will come at a price. The minimum fine for violation is \$35 with a \$220 penalty for violations that result in a cyclist injury.

The "Give Me 3" ordinance, or Senate Bill 1464, is particularly positive for cyclists in the vehicle-crowded streets of Los Angeles, where more bikers are taking to the roadways each year.

California is a leading state in the country in terms of the number of cyclists on the road, in part due to good weather and a large population base. This legislation aims to make the roads safer for the ever-increasing population of bicyclists in the state.

Source: Southern California Public Radio, "'Give me 3' bike safety bill heads to governor for final decision," Hayley Fox, September 4, 2012.

Our firm handles situations in which an individual sustains injuries in a motor vehicle accident. If you would like to learn more about our practice, please visit our Los Angeles bicycle accident page.

NEW THERAPY FOR SPINAL CORD INJURY HAS POTENTIAL TO RESTORE FUNCTIONS

The FDA has approved a clinical trial for the purpose of evaluating the transplanting of human Schwann cells into patients with paralysis. This is the first trial of its kind in the world.

Schwann cells are located in the peripheral nervous system, and have the job of sending electrical signals to parts of the body. Researchers believe that these cells might be the solution to curing spinal cord injuries in the future.

The first trial, considered a safety trial, includes eight patients with either acute spinal-cord damage or who are within the first month of paralysis. They will receive injections of their own Schwann cells, and scientists will monitor the patients for side effects.

A Schwann cell repairs peripheral nerves via its innate ability to change itself to suit the need at hand. Its most important function for the trial is to myelinate around a nerve, restoring function for that nerve.

Scientists have already proven the therapy in lab animals, wherein the animals' own Schwann cells were transplanted to the site of the injury. Schwann cells reinsulated the damaged nerve cells. Around 70 percent of movement and function was restored to the animals, which had been fully paralyzed. It was found that the cells

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STUDY FINDS EFFECTS

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Concussions and brain injuries can occur under many circumstances. Recently, much focus has been placed on the frequency of concussions in high school sports. It is important to note that brain injuries are also common following motor vehicle accidents.

The study, recently released by the University of Michigan, tested a sample of college students, including people who had sustained concussions when they were younger and those who had not. By asking the students to complete assignments on a computer, the researchers were able to identify the amount of brain activity for each participant.

The researchers found that the students who had a history of concussions had reduced brain activity while performing the tasks when compared to those who had not sustained any brain injuries. Most surprisingly, the researchers concluded that the injured students' brain activity continued to decrease for six years following the injury.

Consequently, the study found that concussions and brain injuries caused the brain to age at a faster rate than those that had not sustained injuries. In addition, the study revealed that those participants who had suffered brain injuries experienced alterations in other areas, including walking and balancing.

Source: WXYZ, "University of Michigan Study says brain injuries can cause brain to age more quickly," Tyler Clifford, July 31, 2012.

Our firm handles situations in which individuals suffer a traumatic brain injury as a result of the negligence of another. If you would like to learn more about our practice, please visit our Los Angeles head and brain injury page.



SCOTT J CORWIN NAMED 2013 SUPER LAWYER (SEVENTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR)

Mr. Corwin has been named a Southern California Super Lawyer for 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 by Los Angeles Magazine. Only 5% of attorneys are selected for this honor. Super Lawyers are selected for attaining a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement in their field of expertise. Super Lawyers are nominated through a survey of Southern California lawyers and then final selections are made by a blue ribbon review panel of leading attorneys. This is the seventh year in a row that Mr. Corwin has been selected as a Super Lawyer.

2012 CAALA CONVENTION FEATURED SPEAKER

Mr. Corwin served as a panel speaker at the 2012 Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles (CAALA) 30th annual Las Vegas Convention at the Venetian Hotel on September 6th, 2012. The CAALA Convention has been attended by more attorneys than the two most recent national and state attorney conventions combined; nearly 2,000 attorneys attend the CAALA Convention. The Convention is the signature event for CAALA each year. Mr. Corwin will serve as a panelist on the "Pre-Litigation Panel" and will be speaking on the topic of "First Steps in the Pre-Litigation Phase: Initial Client Interview to Filing." Mr. Corwin is a respected and recognized expert in this area of the law.

OUR FIRM RECOVERS \$370,000 FOR ELDERLY PEDESTRIAN HIT IN PARKING LOT

On June 10, 2011, plaintiff, an 89-year-old retiree, had just exited her friend's car and was walking in the parking lot of a small strip mall and Coldwater at Magnolia Boulevard in Sherman Oaks, California. Defendant, driving a 1997 Toyota owned by his employer, while in the course and scope of his employment with defendant Tony's Mexican Grill, backed out of a parking space and knocked plaintiff to the pavement. Plaintiff alleged that defendant Garcia was negligent in the operation of his

vehicle and that all of plaintiff's claimed injuries were a direct result of said negligence. Plaintiff further contended that defendant Garcia was in the course and scope of his employment with Tony's Mexican Grill at the time of the collision. Defendants disputed liability, claiming that plaintiff negligently hopped out of her vehicle, not paying attention, and walked directly behind the defendant's vehicle while it was already in motion. Plaintiff sustained a fractured left humerus, left shoulder, cervical and lumbar strain and sprain injuries. Plaintiff was hospitalized for five days and released. No surgery was required.

OUR FIRM RECOVERS \$120,000 FOR 74 YEAR OLD WOMAN WITH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

On June 18, 2009, plaintiff, a 74-year-old retired woman who suffered from longstanding multiple sclerosis, was the passenger in a 2000 Toyota Camry stopped for a red light at an intersection of Glendale Boulevard and Monterey Road in Glendale, California. The light turned green, and plaintiff's vehicle started to pull forward, when suddenly an emergency vehicle with its sirens activated on Monterey Road approached the intersection, so plaintiff driver stopped and Defendant, who was driving a 2005 Jaguar, rear ended plaintiff's vehicle. There was no damage to defendant's vehicle and less than \$1,700 damage to plaintiff's vehicle. Plaintiff alleged that defendant was negligent in the operation of his vehicle and that all of plaintiff's claimed injuries were a direct result of said negligence. Defendant accepted liability but disputed the nature and extent of her injuries. Plaintiff sustained exacerbation of preexisting low back injuries. Plaintiff underwent extensive physical therapy and multiple epidural injections to her lumbar spine. She was told by four neurosurgeons that she required low back surgery, but because of her pre-existing multiple sclerosis, surgery was too great a risk. Defendants claimed all of Plaintiff's injuries were minor and preexisting and related to her MS. After extensive litigation and a mediation the case was successfully resolved.

NEW THERAPY FOR SPINAL CORD - continued from page 2

survived the transplantation, growing and restoring the nerve cells.

The research is in its early stages, but holds a lot of promise for those who thought they might never walk again. Individuals who found themselves paralyzed due to circumstances beyond their control, such as a car accident, just may be able to resume their life as it was before tragedy struck.

Source: ABC News, "Spinal-Cord Injury Therapy OK'd by FDA Could Lead to Cures," Susan Donaldson James, July 31, 2012.

Our firm handles situations in which individuals suffer spinal cord injuries due to someone else's negligence. If you would like to learn more about our practice, please visit our Los Angeles back and spinal cord injury page.



WHAT TO DO FOLLOWING AN ACCIDENT

- Call the paramedics so you can receive prompt medical attention
- Call the police and request they come to the scene and prepare a traffic collision report
- Ask to see the other driver's license and insurance papers personally
- Write down the other driver's information including name, address, phone, date of birth, driver's license number
- Write down the other driver's vehicle information including license plate, year, make and model
- Write down the other driver's insurance information including policy number, company name and phone number
- Write down all witness information including name, address, phone and email
- Photograph the scene of the accident, including damage to all vehicles in the accident, skid marks on the road, debris and any other visible evidence
- Do not give a statement to any insurance company until you have first talked to us. The insurance company may try to twist your words, trick you into admitting guilt or minimize your injuries
- Do not sign any papers from any insurance company until you have consulted Scott J. Corwin, A Professional Law Corporation



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WHAT OUR CLIENTS ARE SAYING ABOUT US – RECENT CLIENT REVIEWS

"There's a ton of attorneys in LA and I am blessed to have found Scott Corwin. He was truly compassionate and caring throughout my entire case. After meeting with him, I felt very confident that I made the right choice. Scott always stayed in contact with me to see how I was feeling. He was very patient and understanding. Julie is easy to talk to as well and was very knowledgeable. I received the medical care that I needed and was impressed by the doctors as well as the facilities. I was so relieved to have an attorney that I could trust. I needed to focus on my treatment and recovery and Scott made that possible. He knew exactly what to do step by step. When you are in pain, you can't possibly think straight and become very vulnerable to slick insurance companies. Scott helped me get through a very tough time and I will forever be grateful. At the end of this whole

experience, I received a settlement that I was more than happy with, even after paying all my medical bills." - Elizabeth Wainio, August 2012

My two year old daughter and I were involved in a serious car accident which resulted in a titanium rod being placed in my arm. Although the police, three witnesses and even the other driver admitted being at fault, my husband and I were overwhelmed. We found ourselves struggling with getting any money from the insurance companies. After googling for a lawyer and reading other reviews, we found Scott Corwin. He treated our case as a priority. We received all the insurance money we were due within three weeks! I think more importantly, Scott Corwin treated our little family with respect and our case with priority. For that, we are forever grateful." - Kaitlyn Musser, February 2012

"After my car was totaled and my injuries kept me hospitalized for six days, anxiety was building and medical bills were piling up. I was given Mr. Corwin's phone number and assured he'd "take care of business". He did not disappoint! From day one. Mr. Corwin went above and beyond to meticulously handle each and every aspect of my case and ensure I was treated by top notch physicians. His work ethic allowed me to focus on my rehab and recovery and guarantee I was fully compensated for my injuries, pain and suffering. Emails and phone calls were not only answered long after business hours but even during his vacation. It was clear that I was a priority. Professionalism was expected but care and compassion were also included in the package no question I would refer him to family and friends in need." - Cleveland Harvey, August 2012



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