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Corradino & Papa, LLC

A Personal Injury Law Firm

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Your Biggest Accident Could Be Your Choice of Attorney

“100 Deadliest Days”



The stretch of time between Memorial Day and Labor Day has been called the “100 Deadliest Days” by AAA, as the number of fatal car crashes involving teen drivers spikes during this time. Over 5,000 deaths have been reported over the summer for the past five years, a rate that is 16 percent higher than other times of the year.

Teens drive more over the summer than other times of the year since school is out. They frequently drive greater distances as well, traveling to summer jobs or heading to the beach or other vacation destinations. In addition, teen drivers are generally the least experienced drivers out there and are the age group that’s most likely to drive while distracted. All these circumstances make for a volatile combination.

The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found that a whopping 60 percent of crashes involving teen drivers were due to distracted driving. The organization conducted a study from 2007-2015 in which teen drivers’ cars were equipped with a camera system that recorded video, audio, and acceleration forces. The data gathered following approximately 2,200 crashes indicated the top three forms of distracted teen driving:

- Talking to or paying attention to other passengers accounted for 15 percent of crashes. The more passengers, the higher the risk.
- Cell phone activities, including texting and talking, contributed 12 percent. Texting alone creates a crash risk 23 times greater than undistracted driving.
- Tending to something inside the vehicle, such as the radio or GPS, checked in at 11 percent.

Education and improved parent/child communication play major roles in reducing deadly teen crashes. Stricter laws on texting while driving may be beneficial as well. ●



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Motorcycles and Insurance – Don't Overlook This Key Item

With warmer spring and summer temperatures not too far away, you're undoubtedly excited about the prospect of getting your motorcycle (if you own one!) on the road again. But before you do, please take a few minutes to review your current insurance policy to make sure that you have sufficient amounts of Uninsured Motorist (UIM) coverage.

UIM coverage is insurance that protects you if you suffer injuries caused by a negligent driver who doesn't carry enough insurance to cover your claim.

It goes without saying that riding a motorcycle can be dangerous – even for the most skilled and cautious riders. And, unfortunately, you can't control what other drivers on the road are doing (or how much insurance coverage they have). If you happen to be involved in a motorcycle accident, there's a good chance that the other driver may not have sufficient insurance to cover claims of people that they injure.

Not only that, injuries from motorcycle accidents tend to be more severe than those that occur in car accidents and can lead to staggering medical bills and costs. Remember, just a single surgery or a night in the hospital can run over \$25,000. As a result, you should look into getting way more than minimum UIM coverage on your motorcycle insurance policy. It's inexpensive peace of mind.

If you have questions about your motorcycle coverage, please don't hesitate to call us. We'll be happy to review your policy to make sure you're protected. ●



July 2017 Important Dates

July 1 – Canada Day **July 4** – Independence Day
July 14 – Bastille Day (France) **July 16** – National Ice Cream Day
July 23 – Parents' Day

Did You Know?

According to aviation data companies that track such things, at any given moment during the past year there were an average of 9,728 planes in the air, carrying over 1.2 million people. The lightest day for air travel was January 1, 2017, when “just” 3,354 planes were in the air at the same time. The heaviest air travel day in the past year? That would be August 5, 2016, when nearly 13,000 planes were in the sky at the same time carrying over 1.5 million people! ●



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Wrong-way Accidents: Infrequent but Lethal

According to the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), over 350 highway deaths each year are attributable to wrong-way driving incidents, with the vast majority of them due to head-on collisions at high speeds. One percent of conventional auto accidents involve fatalities; the figure skyrockets to 22 percent for wrong-way collisions.

A 2012 report issued by the NTSB stated that over half of wrong-way incidents involved alcohol-impaired drivers, with over 60 percent of them having blood-alcohol readings of .15 or higher—nearly double the legal limit in most states. Fifteen percent of wrong-way collisions are initiated by drivers age 70 or above. Confusion and impaired vision are aggravating factors in these accidents.

Many wrong-way accidents begin with a driver mistakenly entering a highway from an exit ramp; others originate with people who realize they have missed their exit, so they make a U-turn and head the wrong way back to the exit. Nearly 80 percent of wrong-way accidents occur between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Research has shown that road configurations sometimes play a role in driver confusion. Entrance and exit ramps that are side by side sometimes compound disorientation. Exit ramps on the left-hand side of a highway seem to exacerbate these situations as well.

The NTSB is recommending that states drop the hammer on first-time DUI offenders by requiring ignition-interlock devices on their cars. Some states are enlarging warning signs and placing them closer to eye level, which is yielding positive results. If you have been the victim of a wrong-way accident, contact an experienced auto accident attorney to protect your rights. ●



Common Vehicular Injuries

Auto accident injuries are wide-ranging, but some are more common than others. They can be influenced by seatbelt usage (or lack thereof), airbags, the direction the impact came from, the speed of impact, or the position of the occupant's body when impact occurred (facing straight ahead or turned).

Soft-tissue injuries—those involving ligaments, muscle, or tendons—are the most common car accident injuries. Whiplash is a notable one. Muscles and ligaments of the neck and shoulders are unnaturally stretched due to sudden, high-energy movements caused by impact. These forces are responsible for many back injuries as well, including serious ones involving the spine.

Scrapes and lacerations can result through contact with something solid inside the car; loose, flying objects, such as a cell phone, eyeglasses, or a bag of groceries; or getting smacked in the face by an airbag.

A blow to the head can cause a concussion, as the brain is slammed against the interior of the skull. A severe impact might cause permanent brain damage. Arms and legs may be thrown against the door or get rammed into the dashboard or front seat. Cuts, scrapes, sprains, and fractures are all possible.

And don't forget about chest injuries, which can range from bruising to broken ribs and internal injuries caused by impact with the steering wheel or dashboard. Seatbelts may be responsible for severe chest bruising in high-impact crashes—but it still beats the alternative.

Some auto accident injuries aren't readily apparent. It may take days, weeks, or even months for them to become evident. Always seek medical treatment for even the slightest discomfort or early indication of injury. ●

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FREE BOOK



Get Jack Corradino and Robert Papa's **New Ultimate Guide to Accident Cases in NJ**, written by Jack and RC. It will explain "Why your biggest accident could be your choice of attorney", and what to do in the event you are injured.

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Important Safety Warning from the CPSC

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has issued an important alert urging consumers to immediately stop using LayZ Board self-balancing scooters (known as hoverboards). The CPSC has evidence that LayZ Board was the hoverboard involved in the tragic fire on March 10, 2017, in Harrisburg, PA, which took the lives of two young girls.

Numerous other fires have occurred in recent years as a result of the lithium-ion batteries in hoverboards, although this is the first fire that is believed to have directly led to fatalities.

The LayZ Board hoverboards were manufactured in Shenzhen, China, and more than 3,000 units were imported into the United States.

Due to the fire hazard posed to consumers of all ages by these hoverboards, the CPSC is urging the public to stop charging and stop using their LayZ Board. Consumers who choose to dispose of their hoverboards should take them to a local recycling center for safe handling of the lithium-ion battery.

The CPSC is also asking the public to share this warning with friends and family so that no one else is injured by them.

The LayZ Board is a two-wheeled, battery-powered, self-balancing scooter that has a pivoting platform intended for the rider's feet and does not have a handlebar. The name LayZ Board appears on the front of the product.

Note: The safety warning to stop use applies to LayZ Boards hoverboards, which is a different product from Lazyboard hoverboards. ●



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