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A Personal Injury Law Firm

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Your Biggest Accident Could Be Your Choice of Attorney

page 2

Wrong-way accidents:
infrequent but lethal

Auto accidents and traumatic
brain injuries

page 3

Children and motor vehicle
accidents

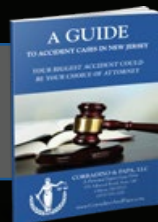
Did you hear?

page 4

Vehicular accidents and spinal
cord injuries



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surgical errors

All surgeries carry inherent risks to patients who undergo them, but doctor/nurse negligence further complicates their situations. Negligence can occur in “major” or “minor” surgeries, as well as tests/screenings, worsening patients’ health and sometimes resulting in death.



Following is a list of some surgical errors that are more common than they should be:

- **Surgery on the wrong patient.** Miscommunication between health-care professionals, lack of preoperative verification, and inadequate hospital protocol can lead to the loss of healthy organs and other consequences, not to mention that the original intended surgery still hasn’t been performed.
- **Wrong-side surgery.** Whether a patient has the wrong leg amputated or a healthy kidney removed and the diseased one left untouched, it’s a mistake that should never happen.
- **Foreign objects left in the body.** Sometimes when a patient is “closed up” after surgery, they wind up having more parts inside them than prior to surgery. Sponges, clamps, gauze, pads, and scalpels have on occasion been left behind, inside patients. Extreme pain, serious infection, and death are the obvious potential outcomes. A patient who survives initially will need another surgery to remove the left-behind item.
- **Anesthesia errors.** Too much anesthesia may lead to lack of oxygen, brain damage, and death. Too little might result in a patient waking up in the middle of surgery in excruciating pain.
- **Collateral damage.** While surgery to correct one problem may be successful, other problems are sometimes created. A punctured organ or damaged nerves may lead to lifetime disabilities, chronic pain, and serious infection.

If you’ve been a victim of a surgical error, contact an experienced medical malpractice attorney to fight for your rights for just compensation. ■

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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. ■

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AUTO ACCIDENTS AND traumatic brain injuries



Traumatic brain injuries (TBI) are responsible for the deaths of approximately 50,000 Americans each year and the hospitalizations of roughly 230,000 more. Many more victims go undiagnosed.

Auto accidents are one of the leading causes of TBI. Most TBIs are closed head injuries, which means that trauma sets the brain in motion inside the skull. The brain gets slammed against the interior surface of the skull, resulting in contusions and swelling.

Trauma can also initiate rotational forces that twist and stretch the brain, which can damage axons. Brain neurons send messages via electrical impulses; axons are the carriers of these impulses. When axons are damaged, brain function is diminished.

A condition called diffuse axonal injury (DAI) occurs on a cellular level and leaves blood vessels and major brain structures intact. This type of damage cannot be detected by MRIs or CT scans, making DAI vastly underdiagnosed and undertreated.

Brain injuries are unlike injuries to other parts of the body. They not only have a physical component, they also affect the cognitive and emotional well-being of the victim. Impairments can be temporary or permanent, subtle or catastrophic.

It's important to note that low-impact auto accidents can result in TBI (e.g., concussion due to whiplash), not just high-impact ones. In addition, a person involved in a car crash may feel perfectly normal immediately following the incident; however, TBI symptoms might only present themselves hours, days, or weeks later.

If you have been involved in a car accident caused by the negligence of another driver, schedule a medical evaluation and contact an auto accident attorney to protect your rights. ■

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\$500K verdict IN ESSEX UIM CASE TIMOTHY FONSECA

Morrison-Newkirk v. Liberty Mutual: A woman claiming she was injured in a rear-end accident was awarded \$500,000 by an Essex County jury on Dec. 6 in an action against her auto insurer, though her recovery is to be roughly half that sum.

On Nov. 3, 2014, Jade Morrison-Newkirk was stopped at a red light at the intersection of Hoover Avenue and John F. Kennedy Drive in Bloomfield when another motorist, Rayshawn Brown, failed to stop and struck her vehicle from behind at full speed, causing her in turn to strike the vehicle in front of her, said her lawyer, **Timothy Fonseca** of **Corradino & Papa** in Clifton.

Brown claimed his brakes failed and he could not stop. Morrison-Newkirk alleged that Brown negligently failed to maintain his vehicle. Brown settled for his policy limit of \$15,000, according to Fonseca.

Morrison-Newkirk claimed she sustained injuries to her cervical and lumbar spine, leading to ongoing neck pain, numbness and tingling in her left arm, and intermittent spasms in her lower back.

She lodged an under-insured motorist claim against her auto carrier, Liberty Mutual, which defended Brown's position at trial, Fonseca said, noting that she had to overcome the verbal threshold. At trial, he said, Liberty Mutual contended that Morrison-Newkirk was not injured in the accident and had pre-existing conditions, while Morrison-Newkirk sought to prove she was permanently injured in the accident.

According to Fonseca, Liberty Mutual stipulated to Brown's liability during jury selection, and offered \$7,000 to settle the UIM claim, which was declined. After an eight-day trial before Essex County Superior Court Judge **Garry Furnari**, the six-member jury unanimously found that Morrison-Newkirk had an objective permanent injury caused by the November 2014 accident, and awarded \$500,000 in total: \$485,000 for pain and suffering to Morrison-Newkirk, and \$15,000 on her husband's per quod claim.

Liberty Mutual was directed to pay \$235,000, which was the policy limit less a \$15,000 credit for the settlement already paid by Brown. The amount of the verdict also triggered the offer of judgment rule, and Liberty Mutual was ordered to pay about \$136,000 in attorney fees and \$20,000 in costs, plus \$13,000 in interest, making the total judgment \$404,802, Fonseca said.

Liberty Mutual's counsel, **Mary Chen** of **Viscomi & Lyons** in Morristown, declined to comment on the case. ■

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If you have family or friends that need our help, if you refer them to us, we promise to give them the same VIP treatment you know and expect of us. We are happy to provide the help they need. They'll thank you and so will we!

irish soda bread

INGREDIENTS

- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 – 1 1/2 cup buttermilk

DIRECTIONS

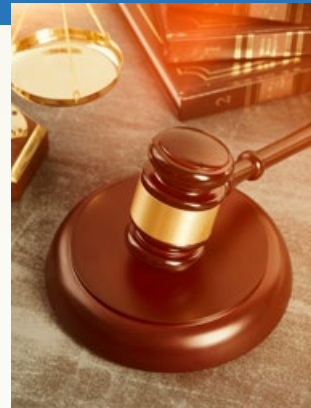
1. Heat oven to 425 degrees F. Brush a baking sheet with melted butter or spray with non-stick spray.
2. Combine dry ingredients in a deep bowl. Gradually stir in 1 cup buttermilk, beating constantly, until dough is firm enough to be gathered into a ball. If dough crumbles, add up to 1/2 cup more buttermilk, 1 tbsp at a time, until it holds together.
3. Place on a lightly floured board and pat into an 8-inch flattened round loaf.
4. Place loaf on baking sheet and slash a 1/2-inch deep "X" into the top of the dough with a small, sharp knife.
5. Bake at 425 degrees F for about 45 minutes, or until the top is golden.

Serve hot. ■

Source: www.geniuskitchen.com/recipe/traditional-irish-soda-bread-160379



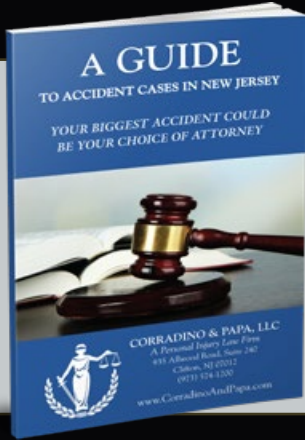
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March 2018 – Important Dates

March 11 – Daylight Savings Time Begins	March 17 – St. Patrick's Day
March 20 – First Day of Spring	March 25 – Palm Sunday
March 30 – Passover Begins / Good Friday	

935 Allwood Road, Clifton, NJ 07012



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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Work Accidents
Workers' Compensation
Medical Malpractice
Construction Accidents
Motor Vehicle Accidents
Product Liability
Wrongful Death
PIP Arbitration

Quote of the Month: "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." —Mark Twain

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VEHICULAR ACCIDENTS AND spinal cord injuries

The spinal cord is the central support for the body's muscular system and relays the messages from the brain to the rest of the body. Any injury to this vital body part can be devastating.

The number one cause of spinal cord injuries, accounting for more than 40 percent, is motor vehicle accidents. High-impact accidents can fracture, dislocate, crush, or compress one or more of the vertebrae of the spinal cord. When bits of bone tear into the tissue embedded in the spine, the nerves are damaged.

This damage may lead to full or partial paralysis, respiratory difficulty, circulation problems, muscle tone deficiency, problems with bladder or bowel control, poor sexual health, and greatly diminished skin sensation. Chronic muscle and joint pain, as well as depression, may also result.

Sadly, many of these injuries will need to be dealt with every day for the rest of a person's life. Round-the-clock care for a stretch of time – if not permanently – is necessary for some. Surgeries, rehab, and medication may disrupt one's life, too. Everyday activities prior to the accident may now be impossible or greatly complicated.

It goes without saying that immediate and long-term loss of earnings is a distinct possibility. Don't let financial worries exacerbate an already challenging situation. If you are the victim of a spinal cord injury via an auto accident that was the fault of another, contact an experienced auto accident attorney to safeguard your rights. Your attorney can file an injury claim to alleviate your financial concerns and also compensate you for mental and emotional suffering, enabling you to focus on what's most important—your health. ■