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A t t o r n e y s A t L a w

SPRING 2008

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PERSONAL INJURY PRACTICE

- Free consultation
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on important
legal news.

Firm publishes new book on Michigan injury cases

Firm attorney **Lawrence J. Buckfire** recently authored *The Ultimate Guide To Injury Cases in Michigan*. The book contains important information on personal injury cases in Michigan and explains the process and intricacies of these cases in easy-to-understand language.

As a bonus, it included a section called "The Biggest Mistakes That Can Ruin Your Injury Case," which reveals the innocent mistakes that seriously injured people make that ultimately destroy their cases. For obvious reasons, the insurance companies do not like this book.

The book sells for \$14.95 plus postage, but we will gladly send anyone receiving our newsletter **a free copy**. If you have a family member, friend, or coworker who was injured and would benefit from reading the book, we'll also send them a free copy. Just call our firm to request the book, or order it online at www.MichiganAccidentBook.com.



AUTO ACCIDENT investigation

Careless drivers injure hundreds of thousands of others and inflict enormous property damage annually. An experienced auto-accident attorney can help injured parties obtain fair compensation for medical expenses, property damage, lost wages and earning capacity, enjoyment of life, and pain and suffering. A lawyer's investigation can determine the cause and liability of an auto accident by examining the accident scene, the automobiles, and questioning witnesses.



Evidence that investigators may obtain includes:

- Victims' injuries
- Scene photographs
- Car-damage photos
- Accident debris
- Skid marks
- Traffic-control signage
- Roadway design
- Police or other surveillance video
- Eyewitness reports
- Angles of vision and other relevant indicators of cause

Contact an experienced auto-accident attorney to conduct your case review.

Michigan's Best Injury Lawyers



FOR YOUR SAFETY

Recalled product roundup

Here are some recently recalled products you may have in your home or at work:

- ✓ **Simplicity Inc.** has recalled about one million cribs whose drop-side may detach and entrap and suffocate infants.
- ✓ **Back to Basics Products, LLC**, voluntarily called back 10,000 IT400 Iced Tea Makers. Components can fail and burn users.
- ✓ **Wal-Mart, Inc.**, asks buyers to return 138,000 Ceramic Oil Torch Lamps with ceramic torch heads that can loosen or dislodge and lacerate or burn consumers.
- ✓ **Robert Bosch Tool Corporation** has recalled 811,000 Skil® circular saws. Users may turn the power tools on without a safety lockout, causing unexpected operation of the saw and injury.
- ✓ **Keystone Manufacturing Co., Inc.**, and **QVC** called back 32,000 Cook's Essentials Convection Ovens with Pull-Out Rotisserie and Deni Convection Ovens with Rotisserie. The control panel can overheat and pose fire and electric-shock hazards.

Auto seatback failure INJURIES

National safety standards fail to require sufficiently strong seatback construction in some cars and SUVs.

Vehicle makers tend to design, construct, and install less expensive seatbacks, recliner apparatus, and seat tracks in lower-end models. As a result, drivers and passengers may be injured when seatbacks collapse rearward during rear-end collisions and while accelerating, as seat-mountings or floors buckle and deform. When a car's seats collapse, the driver and passengers may not be able to get out of the vehicle quickly or safely.

Passengers involved in seatback failures may suffer serious injuries, including head trauma, spinal cord injury, broken bones, organ damage, disfigurement, and scarring.

Defectively designed SUV seats

A front-seat SUV passenger was rendered paraplegic when her seatback collapsed in a rear-end collision, throwing her into the back seat and breaking her neck. When her attorney demonstrated that the SUV's design and manufacture, different from higher-end models, were defective and unreasonably dangerous, a jury awarded significant damages.

Anyone involved in an accident in which seats collapsed should contact an attorney. No one should suffer because of an automobile manufacturer's negligence.



Child day care

When both parents must work, they want their young children to enjoy safe, educational, and productive experiences at day care.

Parents should investigate children's day-care centers to be certain that providers understand child learning and growth, administer discipline consistently and positively, recognize when a child is ill, and maintain a clean and safe operation.

On occasion, a parent may drop in on day care to feel assured that the center has sufficient and well-trained and motivated caregivers, to observe activities and programs, and to examine books, toys, and facilities.

When there's a problem

When day care fails to meet expectations, parents can usually work out problems by speaking with operators or caregivers, writing letters, or filing complaints. When his child was injured after being pushed from a slide by another child, a father had to sue a day-care center for resolution. His attorney demonstrated that caregivers failed to provide adequate supervision and discipline for an aggressive child who had previously pushed other children during activities. The parties settled on the day of trial.





Words we live by

The late U.S. Supreme Court Justice William H. Rehnquist had immense respect for each American's right to trial by a jury of peers. Here are some of his words we can all live by:

★ The right to trial is *“so fundamental and sacred to citizens, where guaranteed by the Constitution or provided by statute, [it] should be jealously guarded.”*

★ *“Those who oppose the use of juries in civil trials seem to ignore [that] the founders of our nation considered the right of trial by jury in civil cases an important bulwark against tyranny and corruption, a safeguard too precious to be left to the whim of the sovereign, or, it might be added, to that of the judiciary.”*

★ *“The guarantees of the Seventh Amendment [right to civil jury trial] will prove burdensome in some instances...but as with other provisions of the Bill of Rights, the onerous nature of the protections is no license for contracting the rights secured by the Amendment.”*

In short, our firm is committed to preserving the right to a jury trial for each of our clients, just as we are dedicated to battling large corporations, which, every day, try to whittle away rights protected by our Constitution. If you are a victim of personal injury from another's negligence, please call us.

Assisted-living RESIDENCES

When concerned family members search for a care residence for a beloved grandparent or parent, they need to look past pleasant decor.

They should investigate resident-care assessment and planning, medication treatment, dressing and bathing assistance, nutrition needs and dining experiences, discomfort assessment, and social engagement and activity plans.

Bed side rails

A 66-year-old nursing home resident suffering from Parkinson's disease fell from her bed and was asphyxiated after becoming wedged between the bed and a wall. Her two children, individually and on behalf of their mother's estate, sued the nursing home, alleging the facility failed to provide their mother with a bed equipped with side rails, in contravention of her care plan. A jury awarded damages and court costs.



Recreation product LIABILITY

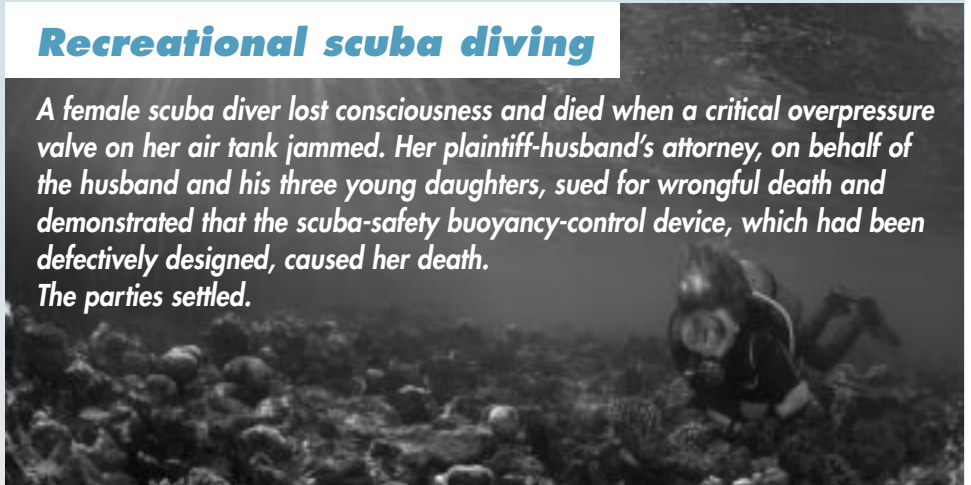
Our nation's civil justice system can hold manufacturers of defective products liable for harming users. Consumers injured by products with serious defects in design, manufacture, or improper or incomplete explanation of dangers or proper use can hold manufacturers and marketers accountable.

The long list of recreational products that have harmed consumers include all-terrain vehicles, bicycles, boats, campers, helmets, playground equipment, pools, snowmobiles, swing sets, trampolines, and many more. Children, who may assume products are always safe and who may impulsively take risks, are in particular jeopardy.

Recreational scuba diving

A female scuba diver lost consciousness and died when a critical overpressure valve on her air tank jammed. Her plaintiff-husband's attorney, on behalf of the husband and his three young daughters, sued for wrongful death and demonstrated that the scuba-safety buoyancy-control device, which had been defectively designed, caused her death.

The parties settled.



OR CURRENT RESIDENT

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The information included in this newsletter is not intended as a substitute for professional legal advice. For your specific situation, please consult the appropriate legal professional.

Our recent settlements

We work hard to achieve the best results for our injured clients.

Here some recent examples:

Motorcycle accident: \$1,100,000 for a biker injured when a semi-truck pulled into his lane and forced him into oncoming traffic. He suffered serious orthopedic injuries and a traumatic brain injury.

Wrongful death: \$1,600,000 for the family of a man who was struck by a corporate vehicle as he was helping a friend push his car out of a snow bank off the shoulder of the road. Our firm represented his widow and children.

Lead poisoning: \$600,000 for a child lead poisoned at a rental property. The landlord failed to maintain the paint at the home, and the child ingested paint chips from several windowsills. The child has learning and behavioral problems.

Slip and fall: \$125,000 for a nurse who slipped and fell on a wet hospital floor and suffered serious injuries, including a neck injury and fractured elbow.



Bev's 2007 tax-filing tips

It's that time of year again...time to file your taxes. Many of you probably have done so already. Our good friend **Beverly Beard** of Raida's and Bev's Tax Service let us in on a few tips that many tax filers often miss. These are:

- The **Earned Income Credit (EIC)** for low-income taxpayers keeps growing. For tax year 2007, the maximum credit for a household with two or more children is \$4,716. That can be money in your pocket! The IRS has reported that an estimated 4.3 million taxpayers are leaving about \$3 billion unclaimed. So don't forget to claim this credit if you are eligible.

- The **Child Tax Credit** is a partially refundable credit worth up to \$1,000 for each child up to age 17.

- The **Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit** is offered by both the state and federal governments.

It is worth only a portion of your total child-care costs, and there are caps. But the state credit is "refundable," meaning you can claim it (up to \$500) even if you pay little or no tax.

Bev and her staff will literally prepare thousands of tax returns this spring for her loyal customers. She always welcomes new clients to her business. You can call her at **(248) 557-3803** to schedule an appointment.