

**MARCH
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PERSONAL INJURY

- Too hurt to travel?
We'll come to your home
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TEN REASONS to consult a workers' compensation attorney

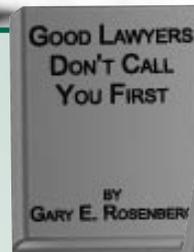
1. You were injured on the job but not at your workplace, and may be eligible for workers' compensation.
2. You are injured, cannot work, and are not being paid.
3. You are suspicious about the workers' compensation insurer's motives in handling your claim.
4. You are unsure of your employer's role in resolving your case.
5. Your employer warned you not to file a workers' compensation claim.
6. You are seriously injured, but your employer's doctor says it is just a minor problem.
7. You don't know if you can see your own doctor to evaluate your injury.
8. You are not sure you may be eligible for job reeducation or retraining.
9. Your pharmacy refuses to fill a prescription for a workers' compensation medication.
10. You fear you can no longer do the job you did before your injury, but you don't know if you will be eligible for long-term or lump-sum benefits.



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School VIOLENCE

What can parents do to protect children?

Schools and communities initiate violence-prevention and justice programs to foster safe and productive learning environments. Many schools use metal detectors and employ security personnel to keep order.

Parents' roles

Educators, parents, and students suggest that parents have responsibility to prevent school violence by taking important steps:

- Spend time becoming involved in children's lives.
- Communicate with children affectionately and respectfully.
- Help your child build a positive social network of friends.
- Watch for signals such as isolation, change in appearance, and others that might reflect bullying or other unacceptable behavior.
- Set rules and boundaries and stick to them.
- Reduce exposure to violence in movies, television, video games, and online.
- Set a good example.
- Hold schools accountable for providing meaningful educational opportunities.
- Support participation in athletics, clubs, and nonschool activities.
- In the event of an incident, involve administrators, teachers, and law enforcement, if necessary.
- Obtain legal counsel, if needed.



Serious injury

A student who had behavioral and learning disabilities and a history of violent incidents brutally attacked another student. After being repeatedly struck on the head, the victim suffered vertigo, ear pain, and occasional bleeding. Her parents sued the school district, substitute teacher, and assailant. Their attorney alleged the district was liable because it failed to implement the assailant's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) requirements. The IEP mandated that teachers receive special training for dealing with the violent student, who was to be placed in a more restrictive setting than a mainstream high school, and an aide was to be present at all times. A jury recommended a substantial award finding the school district and the teacher negligent and the assailant liable.

Americans and diabetes

CONCUSSIONS

What causes concussions? Auto accidents, falls, fights, workplace accidents, and sports injuries.

A concussion is the result of a victim's brain bouncing forcefully against the skull's hard interior upon receiving a blow to the head. Impact force and length of unconsciousness following a blow determine severity.

Common concussion symptoms may include unequally sized eye pupils, mental confusion, recurring vomiting, one-side body weakness, seizures, and coma. Concussions can be serious when patients, who do not connect them to head-injury accidents, fail to report symptoms to their doctors. Physicians sometimes overlook concussions as injuries since MRIs or x-rays do not show them.

Injuries can range from temporary memory loss to persistent difficulty completing tasks, depression, fatigue, memory loss, and personality changes.

If you know accident victims or others who have concussion symptoms, suggest they obtain immediate medical attention. If injury resulted from another's negligence, an attorney familiar with concussion injuries can help hold responsible parties accountable for medical expenses, lost wages, and other harm linked with the concussion.

Head trauma

According to the American Dental Association, within a year of experiencing whiplash trauma, one in three victims will develop temporomandibular joint disorder.

Our paralegals are dedicated to professionalism and high ethical standards

Medical researchers and family physicians believe that the rapid expansion of the nation's diabetes problem comes from improper nutrition, excessive weight, and lack of exercise.

According to the American Diabetes Association, nearly 21 million Americans suffer from diabetes—about 7 percent of the population. Physicians have diagnosed just under 15 million cases, but it is estimated that another 6 million people do not know they have the disease.

Left uncontrolled, diabetes can lead to serious heart and vascular disease, blindness, nerve damage, and kidney failure.

Assess your diabetes risk

Surf to the American Diabetes Association Web site's Diabetes Risk Test—diabetes.org/risk-test.jsp—to assess your risk.

Medical negligence

Diabetics must obtain prompt treatment when their health is threatened. Although a diabetic patient's personal physician recommended surgery to treat the patient's ulcerated foot, a hospital physician chose antibiotic therapy. After several days, the swollen foot required amputation. The patient sued the hospital and the treating physician's practice group for negligence. The parties reached a pretrial settlement.



Our paralegal staff

Our firm's paralegals are highly trained legal aides who perform valuable services for both lawyers and clients. Since their duties include significant and substantive legal work, they help lawyers provide legal services efficiently and economically.

Dedicated to professionalism and high ethical standards, paralegals...

- assume responsibility and accountability for their work
- communicate with clients
- conduct legal and other research
- coordinate with other attorneys, staff, and support services
- draft documents
- exercise good judgment
- display initiative in legal matters
- have a thorough knowledge of substantive and procedural law
- perform legal work under close attorney supervision
- prepare for and attend depositions
- and much more.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Referrals

Our practice continues to grow through referrals from our clients and friends. If you know someone who has been seriously injured or is buying or selling a house, co-op, condo, or commercial building, we hope you will recommend us.

Thank you.

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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.



**Gary
says:**

Trial lawyers... ...do good things for clients and society

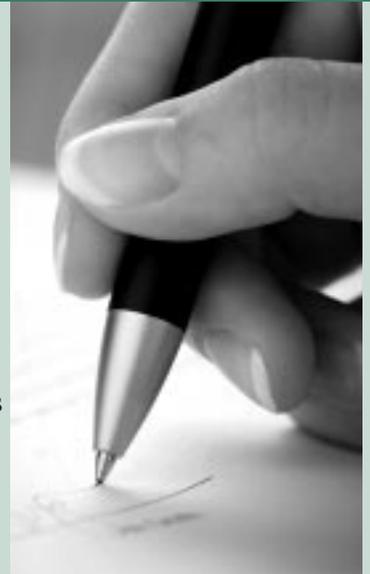
“So, who are trial lawyers really? They are lawyers whose cases range from small auto accidents to sophisticated product liability suits. Some of them barely eke out a living, and others, like John Edwards, do or have done quite well. They typically work hard and take few vacations because they do not have the support staff to do otherwise. They often litigate against well-funded, well-staffed law firms representing corporate clients. Today, most of the dollars that go to purchasing legal services pay for the representation of corporations, not individuals.”

—From July 18, 2004, *Hartford Courant*,
“Who Gave Trial Lawyers a Bad Name?”

Disability claims assistance

Here are some discouraging facts about Social Security Administration (SSA) disability claims:

- About 2.5 million disabled individuals file claims annually.
- SSA state offices turn down about two-thirds of all disability claims.
- The average SSA claim may take more than 500 days to wrap up.
- Disabled claimants lose homes and jobs, get sicker, and some even pass away while awaiting SSA benefit resolution.
- Nationwide, SSA has nearly 800,000 backlogged cases, and the backlog increases annually.
- A White House/congressional budget standoff bottlenecks funding for additional judges to hear appeals.



Good news

- Two-thirds of SSA disability claimants who appeal their initial rejections ultimately succeed in winning their cases.
- When initially applying or appealing a denial, claimants can seek an attorney's assistance to clearly and effectively present appropriate records, documentation, and evidence of disability.

If you have questions about Social Security Disability law, please call our office for assistance.