



# SCOTT J CORWIN

A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION

PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEYS



JUNE 2013

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## A MESSAGE FROM SCOTT J CORWIN

Welcome to the second issue of our law firm newsletter. We are proud to announce that as of this month we have exceeded \$70,000,000 in recoveries for our clients since opening our doors in 1992.

This month's newsletter features two informative articles. The first addresses how California Courts have determined that using smart phone apps while driving is illegal. The second concerns how even a moderate concussion can lead to serious health problems.

In this month's "Corwin's Corner – Hot Legal Tips" we provide useful information concerning insurance coverage for your automobile. In our "Current News" column we showcase recent \$2,100,000 and \$500,000 settlements we obtained for two of our clients, and my service on the Los Angeles Trial Lawyers' Charities (LATLC), Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles (CAALA) and Consumer Attorneys Of California (CAOC) Boards of Governors for 2013. I was honored to receive my fifth CAALA Presidential Award, for outstanding service to the Association.

We were honored to support to the Alzheimer's Association at the 2013 Hilarity for Charity fundraiser in Hollywood, hosted by actor and comedian, Seth Rogen, as well as the

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## CURRENT NEWS

SCOTT J CORWIN A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION

### 2013 HILARITY FOR CHARITY FUNDRAISER TO SUPPORT THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

Scott was thrilled to support the Hilarity for Charity fundraiser, hosted by actor and comedian, Seth Rogen, on April 25, 2013 in Hollywood. Hilarity for Charity



raises money for the National Alzheimer's Association, the world's leading global voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, and the largest private nonprofit funder of Alzheimer's research. Hilarity for Charity brings awareness of Alzheimer's to the younger generation and to engage them in action. The event included appearances by the Backstreet Boys, Kevin Hart, Samuel Jackson, Ken Marino, Nick Kroll, and Sadie and the Blue Eyed Devils.

### \$2,100,000 SETTLEMENT FOR OUR MOTORCYCLE CLIENT INJURED AT INTERSECTION

On May 15, 2012 our client, a 34 year old shipping clerk, was struck by a car at the intersection of Central Avenue & San Fernando in Los Angeles, while driving his 2008 Suzuki motorcycle. The Defendant ran the red light and struck our client. Our client sustained a moderate traumatic brain injury, multiple facial fractures, right AC shoulder

joint separation, and a left wrist fracture. He made a good recovery from his fracture and brain injuries, though he has some continuing problems with memory and emotional irritability. We settled the claim for the full \$2,100,000 insurance policy limits without filing a lawsuit.



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updated phone number,  
mailing and email addresses.

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## CALIFORNIA COURT HOLDS SMARTPHONE MAP APP ILLEGAL FOR DRIVERS SAME AS TEXTING

Under California law, all drivers are prohibited from talking on a handheld cell phone. California also bans texting behind the wheel for all motorists. But, in this day and age, handheld electronic devices have capabilities that extend far beyond the simple talk and text features of cell phones of the past. Can California drivers legally use apps, access content and perform other actions on their phones as long as they stay away from talking and texting?

A new California appeals court ruling makes it inescapably clear that the state's ban on mobile phone use behind the wheel is not just for talking and texting; any driver who uses a handheld mobile device is asking for a ticket, and whether in violation of the law or not, could be held liable by victims if his or her distraction causes an accident.

Intent of legislature was to limit handheld phone use, regardless of form it takes.

The recent case came out of an incident in which 58-year-old Steven Spriggs was using his phone's GPS map to look for a way to avoid a traffic jam. Spriggs was pulled over and issued a \$160 ticket for distracted driving.

California's electronic distraction law prohibits drivers from "using a wireless telephone unless that telephone is specifically designed and configured to allow hands-free listening and talking, and is used in that manner while driving." Spriggs was neither listening nor talking, but was using a map application; he argued that the statute was aimed only at communicative behavior like texting or talking, and thus did not apply to his conduct.

The Appellate Division Superior Court took a different view. "Our review of the statute's plain language leads us to conclude that the primary evil sought to be avoided is the distraction the driver faces when using his or her hands to operate the

phone," wrote Judge W. Kent Hamlin, author of the opinion. "That distraction would be present whether the wireless telephone was being used as a telephone, a GPS navigator, a clock or a device for sending and receiving text messages and emails."

What matters, according to the court, is that legislative intent and "common sense" indicate that any use of a wireless device by drivers that is not hands free is meant to be illegal. Legal authorities have

great impact on distracted driving enforcement in California.

The new ruling coincidentally dovetails with national distracted driving awareness month, which is held every April. In observance of distracted driving awareness month, the California Highway Patrol holds an annual crackdown on behind the wheel cellphone use. According to the California Highway Patrol, 57,000 tickets were written during last April's sweep.

## NEW STUDY SUGGESTS THAT EVEN ONE CONCUSSION CAN BE LIFE-CHANGING

Though it is crucial that medical professionals and the professional sports world focus on the dangers of concussions, the rate at which the matter is discussed these days can make concussions seem like every day, nothing injuries, injuries that only happen to NFL players.

Most men and women aren't professional athletes, so how do they fit into this public health matter?

Research regarding concussions applies to lives beyond the sports field. People sustain head injuries in various sorts of incidents, not necessarily in sports. A person can slip and fall, hitting his head and suffering from a concussion. Also, motor vehicle accidents commonly lead to minor or severe head injuries. But, based on the findings of new medical study, a so-called "minor" head injury might not be so minor.

Radiology, an online medical journal, published a study indicating that even a single concussion can lead to long-lasting, significant health effects. Researchers followed a group of subjects who had sustained first-time concussions. They found that the damage caused

by the concussions led to damage in the brain that's connected to life-altering health conditions such as depression, memory problems, post-traumatic stress disorder and more.

This particular study stands out compared to others because its findings are based on MRI tests rather than the more common CT scans. Medical professionals believe that MRIs provide more accurate and telling information about brain damage. It also stands out for its clear warning: one concussion is a serious health issue.

Our Los Angeles personal injury lawyers help victims who have sustained brain injuries in all types of accidents. Studies like this one support the fact that those who suffer from brain damage due to an accident have a clear reason to try to hold a careless party accountable for their injuries. Scott has more than 20 years of experience in representing motor vehicle accident victims who have sustained concussions, moderate or significant traumatic brain injuries.



## **SCOTT J CORWIN AWARDED CAALA PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR A FIFTH YEAR**

Scott was honored at the January 19, 2013 Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles (CAALA) 64th Annual Installation & Awards Dinner, where he was presented with the CAALA Presidential Award for 2012 by outgoing CAALA President, Michael Alder. This is an unprecedented fifth time CAALA has recognized Mr. Corwin for his outstanding achievements having received the CAALA Presidential Award in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2010.



## **2013 MEMBER NTLA TOP 100 LAWYERS IN CALIFORNIA FOR FOURTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR**

Mr. Corwin was again selected in 2013 as a member of the prestigious national organization, The National Trial Lawyers Association (NTLA). The NTLA is composed of the top 100 trial lawyers from each state. Membership is obtained through special invitation and is extended only to those attorneys who exemplify superior qualifications of leadership, reputation, influence, stature and profile as civil plaintiff or criminal defense trial lawyers. Mr. Corwin was previously honored in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

## **2013 MEMBER BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR CAOC AND CAALA**

Mr. Corwin was reelected to the Consumer Attorneys of California (CAOC) Board of Governors for his seventh consecutive term. He was also reelected to the Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles (CAALA) Board of Governors for his ninth consecutive term. CAOC and CAALA have a combined membership of over 6,000 attorneys who represent injured victims of negligence and intentional conduct by corporate and individual wrongdoers.

## **\$500,000 SETTLEMENT FOR OUR PEDESTRIAN CLIENT STRUCK CROSSING SUNSET BOULEVARD**

On April 11, 2013, our client, a 22 year old personal trainer, was struck while crossing Sunset Boulevard in Los Angeles, mid block between two crosswalks. The traffic collision report blamed our client for jaywalking. Two eyewitnesses said our client ran across the street; one witnesses said she had to slow down to avoid striking our client. He sustained multiple fractures of his right lower

leg requiring surgery at Cedars Sinai Medical Center. We argued successfully that the Defendant driver was speeding and failed to pay attention. Ultimately we collected the full \$500,000 policy limits for our client.

## **2013 LOS ANGELES TRIAL LAWYERS CHARITIES BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

Mr. Corwin has been named to serve as a member of the Board of Governors of The Los Angeles Trial Lawyers' Charities (LATLC) for 2013. LATLC members are committed to making positive impacts on the lives of those in need throughout the community by focusing on issues related to education, children and the homeless. LATLC is committed to making a positive difference in the quality of life for people within the greater Los Angeles.



## **A MESSAGE FROM SCOTT J CORWIN**

### **continued from page 1**

Pacific Pride Foundation at its 2013 Royal Ball in Santa Barbara, which provides service to the LGBT and HIV communities throughout Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Ventura Counties.

We have just added ten new pages to our website with information on motorcycle, bicycle and car accidents to help you stay informed. Please view the newest additions to our website Video Gallery, including our Client Testimonials, featuring four of our former clients sharing their experiences with our law firm. I would like to extend my gratitude to Cleveland, Kaitlyn, Oscar and Elizabeth for their contributions and kind words about our firm.

If I can be of service to you or a loved one regarding an injury sustained in an accident, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

*Thank for your support,*

*Scott J. Corwin*





## **INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR YOUR AUTOMOBILE**

- Liability insurance is required to drive a car in California
- California's minimum \$15,000/\$30,000 per person/accident
- However, minimum limits are not sufficient; your limits should be as high as you can reasonably afford
- Liability limits can go as high as \$1,000,000 per accident
- Even higher limits can be obtained with an umbrella policy with limits as high as \$10,000,000 per accident or more
- Cost is reasonable; cost of a \$1,000,000 umbrella policy can be as low as a few hundred dollars per year
- Rental car coverage is a must; there are different options
- To protect your car from physical damage get collision and comprehensive; there are different deductible options
- Medical payments coverage ranges from \$1,000 to \$25,000 or more and will pay your medical bills
- Uninsured/Underinsured (UM/UIM) coverage protects you if you are injured in an accident by another driver without insurance or enough to cover all your damages
- Don't forget UMPD (Uninsured Motorist Property Damage) and UMPD deductible waiver coverage
- Check with your insurance agent and review your policy



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## **CLIENT TESTIMONIALS - WHAT OUR CLIENTS ARE SAYING ABOUT US**

### **Lance Oksner, January 2013**

"Mr. Corwin handled my auto accident. He kept me in the loop every step of the way. He worked so hard, I would receive calls from him on the weekend and the evenings, to update me on my case. I have never worked with an Attorney that truly handled a case from A-Z and knew exactly what was happening at any given time.

Mr. Corwin is truly an amazing professional with outstanding tenacity and incredible skill for the law. I thank him so much for all of his hard work and dedication to me and my family. If you want an Attorney that will work and breathe your case, day and night, then Mr. Corwin is the right man. Mr. Corwin got me a settlement that made me very happy. I am forever grateful to him. I highly recommend Mr. Corwin for any personal injury case you or someone you know may have."

### **Lydia Rainier Walters, March 2013**

"I had hired a lawyer in North Carolina where my car accident took place, and they told me I had to wait a year before I could even start my settlement. When I tried to contact them, they took weeks to respond and had put a new paralegal on the case that clearly hadn't even looked at the case file yet. I was livid. So I opened up my web browser and Googled "Best auto accident lawyer in Los Angeles" and Scott Corwin popped up. I took one look at his case results and gave him a call.

Within one month, Scott had a check for \$100,000 waiting for me, and within another month he had another \$150,000 for me and had finished my case. Fast, easy, reliable, friendly, and hardworking! Fastest results I've ever heard of. I have only praises to sing about Scott! Will definitely be sending all my friends his way!"



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