



SCOTT J CORWIN

A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION

PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEYS



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A MESSAGE FROM SCOTT J CORWIN

Welcome to our law firm's third newsletter. Inside you'll read about how sleeping medications are affecting drivers, and how California's new distracted driving laws are making a positive impact.

In our "Corwin's Corner - Hot Legal Tips" we inform you on why it's vital to have Uninsured and Underinsured motorist coverage. And our "Current News" proudly showcases two recent settlements at \$200,000 and \$225,000.

This fall, we were honored to support Imagine LA, a local nonprofit charity that helps families transition from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

Please take a look at our recently launched second website, emphasizing motorcycle and bicycle accidents, with cutting edge information and advice about these types of claims. Our new website will serve as a valuable resource for persons injured in motorcycle and bicycle accidents.

Take care and best wishes to you and your family for a happy and healthy holiday season and a wonderful new year.

*Thank you for your support,
Scott J. Corwin*

CURRENT FIRM NEWS

HILLARY CLINTON RECEIVES WARREN CHRISTOPHER PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Scott attended the 2013 Pacific Council on International Policy Chairman's Gala honoring Hillary Clinton. Secretary Clinton received the inaugural Warren Christopher Public Service Award, on May 8, 2013, at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel. Secretary Clinton was honored for her service as the 67th Secretary of State of the United States, and her nearly four decades in public service as an advocate, attorney, First Lady and United States Senator. Scott has been a longtime supporter of



Secretary Clinton, serving first as a National Finance Committee Co-Chair of her 2006 Senate Campaign and then serving as a National Finance Committee Co-Chair of her 2008 Presidential Campaign.

\$200,000 SETTLEMENT FOR OUR MOTORCYCLE CLIENT INJURED AT INTERSECTION

On July 8, 2013, our client, a 45 year old Pilates trainer, was involved in an accident while riding her motorcycle at the intersection of Century Park East and Olympic in Los Angeles. Interestingly, no contact was made between the vehicles. The defendant proceeding north on Century Park East was turning right at the same

time our client, south on Century Park East, was negotiating a left turn. The defendant turned wide into the middle lane cutting off our client, who had to lay down her motorcycle to avoid the collision. Our client sustained a torn ACL of her knee. We settled the case for \$200,000 without the filing of a lawsuit.



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DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF SLEEPING AIDS

Many individuals in America suffer from sleeping problems, including insomnia. As a result, it is no surprise that sleeping aids are frequently prescribed in the United States. Unfortunately, these helpful drugs also have some drawbacks. Known side effects of these medications include eating, walking and even driving - all while asleep.

For example, one California man began using a sleeping drug after his wife passed away from lung disease. Saddened from the death of his wife, the man had trouble sleeping at night. As a result, his primary care physician prescribed a generic sleeping aid (also known as Ambien or Zolpimist).

In May 2013, the man unknowingly left his house in the middle of his sleep and drove his vehicle seven miles away from his home. When the man met a curve in the road, he continued straight. The car crashed into a tree and burst into flames. The man lost his life in this horrific accident. A subsequent toxicology report determined that the man had taken a sleeping aid and pain reliever. In the aftermath of the tragedy, the man's daughters are informing the public of the risks associated with sleeping medication.

In addition to the hypnotic state experienced by users, those taking this drug may have severe drowsiness the morning after taking a sleeping aid. This could also lead to a car accident. In fact, the risk is so apparent that in July 2013, the Food and Drug Administration dismissed a new sleeping drug because the supplement was linked to diminished driving abilities in the day after consumption.

Several prescription drugs, including sleeping aids, warn individuals against operating a vehicle under the influence of the specific medication. Unfortunately, this risk does not faze many motorists. Nevertheless, if a driver gets behind the wheel when they are feeling tired or fatigued, this is placing the motorist and other driv-

ers at risk. When individuals are not alert, car accidents happen. In fact, one might say that operating a vehicle under groggy conditions could be deemed a form of negligence.

Medical professionals and health agencies are continuing to explore the side effects associated with sleeping medications. In time,

the goal is to reduce the chance of a serious collision - unconscious or negligent - while users are under the influence of sleeping pills. In the meantime, users should be cautious of the serious side effects and plan to prevent driving under the sedative workings of the medication.

STUDY FINDS POSITIVE EFFECT FROM CALIFORNIA'S DISTRACTED DRIVING LAWS

Ever since cellphones became a must-have item, distracted driving has increasingly become a safety issue on our nation's roadways. Unfortunately, California is not an exception. According to the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), it is estimated that some form of driver distraction causes about 80 percent of car accidents.

Although there are many forms of distraction, texting while driving or talking on a cellphone are the leading sources of driver distraction, according to the OTS. Although many drivers believe that they can effectively multitask, many studies have proved that it is actually impossible for the human brain to do this. As a result, drivers develop a sort of "attention blindness" when talking on cellphones which prevents their brains from identifying (and reacting to) objects and dangers in front of the car. Texting while driving is just as bad, if not worse than talking on a cellphone. According to distraction.gov, texting takes a driver's eyes off the road an average of 5 seconds-enough time to cover the length of a football field at freeway speeds.

As a result of the proven dangers that cellphones and other portable technology poses to other drivers, the California Legislature has passed several laws to address the problem. Under California law, it is

illegal to drive while using a handheld cellphone. In addition, the law prohibits drivers from sending, reading or writing a text message while the vehicle is in motion. Although recent studies have found that hands-free texting is just as dangerous as texting on handheld devices, it is legal in California for drivers to text using hands-free devices. However, earlier this year, a lawmaker introduced legislation that would criminalize this behavior.

According to data from OTS, the legislation has had a positive effect on driver habits. According to an observational study conducted by the OTS, the laws have reduced drivers talking on handheld devices by 33 percent. In addition, according to the study, the total number of California drivers observed actively using a cellphone fell to 7.4 percent in 2013 - a 2.4 percent decrease from 2012.

Although this data seems encouraging, it was derived from a rather small sample of drivers, so it may not accurately reflect the behavior of California drivers at large. National statistics paint a different picture. According to distraction.gov, every year since 2010, more than 660,000 drivers nationwide are using cellphones or manipulating electronic devices at any given moment, putting the drivers around them at a needless risk of serious injury.



CURRENT FIRM NEWS

2013 IMAGINE LA FUNDRAISER EMPOWERS FAMILIES



Scott with 2013 Imagine LA Honoree Lisa Maki

Scott was proud to be a Family Graduation Sponsor for the Imagine LA Fundraiser on October 13, 2013, honoring civil rights and employment attorney, Lisa Maki, for her contributions to the organization. The sold out event raised money for the organization and the honorary hosts were actors Anne Heche and her husband, James Tupper. Imagine LA's mission is to empower families to transition from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

2014 MEMBER NTLA TOP 100 LAWYERS IN CALIFORNIA FIFTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Mr. Corwin was selected in 2014 as a member of the prestigious 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. Mr. Corwin was previously honored in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013.

2014 MEMBER BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR CAOC AND CAALA

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

\$225,000 SETTLEMENT FOR OUR PEDESTRIAN CLIENT STRUCK IN CROSSWALK

On May 22, 2012, our client, a 25 year old publicist, was struck by a vehicle while in a marked cross walk on Wilshire at McClellan in West Los Angeles. She was thrown 10 feet into the air striking the ground. She sustained right foot and right knee fractures, requiring arthroscopic surgery of her right knee. The defendant refused to accept the need for surgery and a potential future knee replacement surgery, notwithstanding strong medical evidence. After aggressively advocating our client's interests, we were able to resolve her claim for approximately triple the defendant's initial offer, providing her with more than enough money to cover her in the event she requires surgery in the future.

2014 LOS ANGELES TRIAL LAWYERS CHARITIES TREASURER-ELECT

Scott was elected Treasurer and member of the Executive Board of the Los Angeles Trial Lawyers' Charities (LATLC) for 2014. LATLC is committed to making a positive difference in the quality of life for people within the greater Los Angeles area by focusing on issues related to education, children and the homeless. Mr. Corwin served last year as a member of the Board of Governors of LATLC. Scott's election to the Treasurer position this year means that he will advance through the executive officer positions each year, and will be honored to serve as the President of LATLC in 2017.



Scott with 2013 LATLC President Bob Simon and 2014 LATLC President Minh Nguyen

Please send us your updated phone, mailing and email addresses.
Please email us at scott@sjclaw.com or call us at (310) 207-4030.



Check out our updated Firm Website by scanning this QR code to connect quickly



UNINSURED & UNDERINSURED MOTORIST WHY IT IS VITAL TO HAVE COVERAGE

- Liability insurance is required to drive a car in California
- California's minimum insurance requirements are \$15,000 per person and \$30,000 per accident
- A sizeable percentage of drivers do not carry liability insurance in California
- Uninsured and Underinsured (UM and UIM) coverage protects you if you are injured in an accident by another driver without liability insurance or sufficient insurance limits to pay for all of your injuries and damages
- Agents and insurers will often suggest you waive your UM and UIM coverage to save money on premiums; do not do it; UM and UIM coverage is vital to protect you and your passengers
- UM and UIM coverage should be obtained to the highest limits you can afford; no less than \$250,000 per person and \$500,000 per accident; higher limits are available
- Many umbrella insurance policies will also provide UM and UIM coverage; be careful though, some do not, read the policy language carefully first
- Check with your insurance agent and review your policy
- Call us for a review of your insurance coverage



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CLIENT TESTIMONIALS - WHAT OUR CLIENTS ARE SAYING ABOUT US

Christina Moesel, September 2013

"I found Scott J. Corwin and selected him based on reading the actual reviews from real people. I was injured in a multi-car accident, and was dealing with the other party's minimum insurance, for sure I thought there was no hope. Scott took on my case and handled it not only personally, but with such speed, I am still in awe. His assistant Julie must get my thanks as well, she was compassionate and always kept you in the loop, and never just took a message but guaranteed Mr. Corwin to return my calls and emails. As Julie promised he did.

How he does it is beyond me but Scott isn't just your 9 to 5 attorney, there were countless times I was contacted via email even throughout the late nights. That's when I knew I wasn't just another payout. A few months ago, my world came to a halt, but now I move forward and can recover. Mr. Corwin got me more than I expected to receive in my settlement. Scott knows exactly what he is doing."

Steven Loewenthal, October 2013

"Scott J. Corwin deserves the highest possible rating for his professionalism and speed in the handling of my May 2013 auto accident. Settlement was provided within five months and included diagnostic evaluation and treatment for my injuries. Most importantly was Scott's professionalism and kindness. The treatment plan provided by the physicians gave me a great sense of comfort and was delivered by a professional team of medical staff.

The challenge was about protecting me should my medical condition get worse. The settlement Mr. Corwin obtained did just that. It provided me with a financial means to address future pain and suffering. They say it is in the details, and Scott referred medical providers, handled all of the details with great compassionate care producing excellent results. His dedication to what he does best was gratefully appreciated. My wife and I are happier than we could ever have imagined."



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