

Briggs and Counsel

L a w O f f i c e s

Auto accident victims, injuries, and recovery

When you are in an auto accident, your life immediately changes.

You hurt from the collision. You miss work. You must deal with your insurance agent, claims adjusters, other drivers' insurers, hospital bills, doctors, chiropractors, the police, and others.



An experienced personal injury attorney can help victims of automobile accidents who have suffered injuries recover both physically and financially.

Some accident injuries may result from defective auto design, equipment failure, roadway design, or poor road or traffic-signal maintenance.

But most occur from faulty behavior of other drivers, such as inattentiveness, driving while impaired, negligence, recklessness, road rage, and even criminal negligence.



Inside: Learn how vehicular accident victims suffer serious injuries, and how lawsuits brought on their behalf by lawyers experienced in automobile accidents have helped them regain their physical and financial well-being.

Auto accident victims have the important right to obtain medical and financial recovery, including compensation for bodily injury, current and future medical expenses, loss of consortium, loss of wages, lost earning capacity, mental anguish, and pain and suffering.

Back page: Learn how you can protect yourself from auto accident injuries and how our firm can help you if you are in an accident.



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PERSONAL INJURY PRACTICE

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- Auto Accidents
- Wrongful Death
- Slip & Fall
- Products Liability

Attorneys helping people.

Car accident lawyers...helping serious auto acc

Every year, nearly three million Americans suffer serious injuries from car, truck, bus, and motorcycle accidents. More than 40,000 die in vehicular accidents annually.

Car accident lawyers can serve as the voice of victims physically and financially harmed in auto accidents.

Attorneys will bring experience, resources, and, most importantly, passion, and heartfelt concern to bear for clients harmed by negligent or inattentive wrongdoers to correct the harm they have suffered.

Anyone who believes that negligence has caused them or their family auto accident injury should seek legal counsel.

Bodily-impact injuries

When vehicle drivers and passengers get into car accidents, their bodies often strike parts of the vehicle's interior, including airbags. As a result, they can suffer minor to serious physical harm ranging from scratches and bruises to contusions, fractures, and other injuries, such as:

- **Head**—concussion, dental injury, dizziness, and headaches
- **Neck**—temporomandibular jaw joint and whiplash
- **Back**—cervical disk, lower back, ribs, and upper back
- **Internal organs**—heart, lungs, kidney, bowel, and spleen
- **Upper limbs**—arms, fingers, hands, and wrists
- **Lower limbs**—ankles, feet, heels, hips, knees, and legs

Accident victims may also suffer scars and disfigurement.



An injury-recovery settlement

A 71-year-old driver was making a lawful left turn when her car was rammed by a vehicle speeding through the intersection. She suffered a broken left arm, left leg, and ribs, and required the use of a walker during her recovery. She also incurred \$72,000 in medical expenses, on which Medicare placed a lien. Her attorney brought suit against the driver of the vehicle that struck her and the driver's employer, claiming the driver was intoxicated and failed to yield right-of-way at the intersection. The parties settled before trial for \$1 million. The Medicare lien was also reduced.



Brain and closed-head injuries

If a driver's or passenger's head collides with a windshield or other solid car-interior object in a vehicular accident, their heads can suffer sudden, powerful impacts that may cause the brain to strike the skull's interior. This jarring action may result in blood clots, internal bleeding, skull fracture, or twisting, tearing, or swelling of brain tissue.

Brain-injury symptoms can include anxiety, coordination challenges, headaches, nausea, paralysis, physical weakness, sensory difficulties, sleeplessness, and social-skill limitations. Nearly two million Americans suffer traumatic brain injury annually, with half of all cases resulting from motor vehicle accidents.

Brain-injury settlement mediation

When a box truck pulled out in front of him, a motorcyclist struck it and was thrown to the pavement. He suffered extensive facial and skull fractures, bleeding in spaces surrounding the brain, and traumatic brain injury.

His attorney brought suit against the truck's driver, its owner, and employer, alleging failure to yield the right-of-way and negligent hiring. The parties reached a mediated, structured, 30-year recovery settlement of \$4.5 million.

Ident victims recover physically and financially

Paralysis

Very serious spinal cord injury causes paralysis—an inability to control a muscle or muscle group, or feel sensation in the arms or legs. Some paralysis resulting from auto accidents may be temporary. If the spinal cord becomes severed below the waist, the victim suffers paraplegia—loss of use of the legs and lower extremities. Victims who suffer injury to any of the cervical vertebra above the first thoracic vertebra in the neck may suffer quadriplegia—permanent loss of feeling and function in all four limbs.

Paraplegia mediation

After a tractor-trailer rear-ended a mail carrier, the mail carrier suffered paraplegia and lost the sight in her right eye. The victim's attorney sued the owner of the tractor-trailer, its operator, and employment-contracting business, alleging failure to avoid a collision and negligent hiring and retention of an operator with an extensive criminal record. The parties settled during mediation for \$5.5 million, which included life-care planning and costs.

Structured settlement for quadriplegia

As workers stopped a driver in a highway construction zone, a truck crashed into his car from behind. As his vehicle was crushed into another car, the driver suffered a severe spinal fracture, rendering him quadriplegic and fully disabled. He suffered multiple spinal surgeries and survived on a ventilator for several months. The former computer analyst incurred about \$600,000 in past medical expenses, and anticipates an estimated \$2 million in future medical costs. He claimed about \$100,000 in past lost income and \$1.7 million in future lost earnings.

His trial lawyer sued the truck's driver, its lessor, and lessee, alleging that the driver failed to keep a proper lookout and to stop properly. His attorney also brought a claim against his no-fault and health-care insurers when they disagreed over responsibility for medical-care costs. The parties reached a \$16 million structured settlement, which included life-care planning and vocational rehabilitation, prior to trial.



Wrongful death

For spouses, children, parents, relatives, and friends of a loved one, no loss exceeds the pain of an accidental death. When an individual in an auto accident dies of injuries due to another person's or business's careless, criminal, intentional, malicious, negligent, or reckless behavior, the deceased's family or estate may be able to sue for damages. This compensation may include funeral expenses, lost earnings, medical costs, pain and suffering, and other expenses experienced by the decedent and family prior to the victim's passing away. Depending on individual situations, some survivors may also be able to file damages claims based on the decedent's passing for emotional distress or loss of consortium.

A wrongful-death jury verdict

The driver of an SUV failed to stop at a red light, broadsiding a car and killing its teenage driver. His parents' attorney filed a lawsuit for wrongful death, alleging the SUV driver was speeding and failed to stop at a red light. A jury awarded an \$8.75 million verdict, including damages.



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Ways to protect yourself and your family

- Always drive safely.
- Purchase sufficient automobile liability and collision insurance, including uninsured- and underinsured-driver coverages.
- Select crash-resistant autos with safety features such as airbags, antilock braking systems, head restraints, auto-locking seat belts, tire-pressure monitors, and others.
- Summon law enforcement to an accident scene.
- Obtain immediate medical care.
- Record all accident information and take photos.
- Make no statements at the accident scene.
- Notify your insurer about the accident.
- Seek legal counsel.

How a car accident attorney can help auto accident victims

We can help victims negotiate terms and seek verdicts or settlements from responsible individuals or other parties for:

- Compensation for bodily injury
- Loss of consortium
- Loss of wages
- Lost earning capacity
- Medical expenses, current and future
- Mental anguish
- Pain and suffering
- Property damage
- Therapy and rehabilitation costs
- Wrongful death



If you or someone you know has been seriously injured in a truck or car accident, contact an auto accident attorney for an evaluation of your case.