The STRAIGHTTALK

The Newsletter

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Riding Safe in the Summer

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Calendar

- President Barack Obama's Birthday 8/04
- Seafair Weekend 8/05-8/07
- US Navy Blue Angels Performance 8/06
- Evergreen State Fair 8/25-9/05

It's Getting Hot!!!
Who wants some free Jamba Juice?!

See Back for Details

Motorcycle safety is something that we all need to be aware of, even if you have never sat on a bike before, it is essential that we all follow the rules of the road and keep an eye out for motorcyclists because we may not always see them. Ever since the sun came out motorcycle accidents and fatalities have increased drastically. This is something that happens every single year in Washington State because we have such a small amount of time with the sun and once it comes out we try to spend as much time as we can doing our favorite outdoor activities; and for a lot of us this includes dusting off the motorcycle and taking it out for a spin. And though we all know there is nothing better than that feeling of freedom and the wind in your face on a beautiful day, there are far too many deaths amongst the motorcycle community in the summertime, so this month I have included a few key safety tips that I think are important to riders, drivers and bicyclists alike.

1 Always wear a helmet – This point cannot be stressed enough and absolutely nothing can be more important than wearing a helmet when you ride. A helmet can mean the difference between life an death in an accident for you and your passenger. But not all helmets are made the same. Make sure that your helmet meets all safety requirements put in place by the Department of Transportation. Click here for full DOT regulations.

2 Follow posted speed limits – Speed limits are posted for a reason. A lot of motorcycle fatalities happen because a rider lost control due to excessive speeding. But no matter how much experience you have or how exhilarating it can be to go extremely fast the risk just isn't worth it.

3 Wear appropriate clothing – Make sure that you have all the right equipment. Things like the right jacket and gloves can prevent you from getting severe road rash if you are ever in an accident or have to set down your bike for any reason.

4 Be aware of your surroundings – Many drivers are completely unaware of motorcyclists until it is too late. As a rider you must always assume that you are invisible to other motorists; position yourself to be seen, avoid a car's blind spot and use your headlights day and night.

5 Be courteous – A handful of motorcyclists ride as if they own the road, weaving in and out of traffic and riding on the shoulder, but other motorists on the road find these practices offensive creating a negative image for all riders.

6 Never Drink and Ride – This rule speaks for itself. Riding a motorcycle requires coordination, balance and constant focus and riding drunk will negatively affect all of those things and can lead to a fatal accident.

Protective Motorcycle Gear

Motorcycle gear is not just about looking cool while you ride your bike, it actually keeps you safe and can prevent certain injuries if you are ever in an accident. Here is an illustrated guide of everything you need to look good and stay safe while you cruise the streets this summer.

As we said earlier, helmets can be the difference between life and death in a motorcycle accident. According to the DOT your helmet should:

- Have an inner liner 1-inch think made of polystyrene.
- Not have any attachments or protrusions.
- Have a DOT sticker on the back

In the event that you take a spill or are in an accident your jacket and pants will help to protect you from abrasions and road rash. Jackets should be made of durable material, like leather or special synthetic material. Pants should not be baggy or flared and like your jacket, made out of durable material.

Gloves need to be durable and non-slip so that you can maintain a firm grip at all times. Leather gloves are an excellent option. Look for gloves that are weather appropriate, especially if you ride through winter.

Proper footwear will help protect your feet in all situations. Things like sandals or light sneakers do not provide enough protection to keep your feet safe from abrasions or a crushing impact. Leather boots should be your first choice and if you don't have boots wear a durable pair of athletic shoes that cover past your ankle. Also, avoid dangling laces.

Protective eyewear can either be goggles, glasses or a face shield on your helmet. Whatever you choose should be scratch-free, shatterproof and well ventilated to stop fog buildup. Do not use tinted shields at night because they will make it more difficult to see.

Hot Coffee The Movie

One of the most well known lawsuits in recent American history is the McDonalds hot coffee spill case. The main reason for this is because the case has been portrayed over time as a prime example of frivolous lawsuits. Many people heard about the case and wondered how it was possible for a woman to get $2.7 million for spilling coffee on herself. Obviously when phrased as simply as that, the lawsuit does sound a bit ludicrous, but as is the case with nearly every civil lawsuit that is called "frivolous," there were many facts that were never really known to the general public due to propaganda by big business interests.

What many people do not know is that the coffee victim, Stella Liebeck, suffered third degree burns on 6% of her body, and lesser burns on 16% of her body because the coffee was served at 190 degrees – a temperature that causes third degree burns in 2-7 seconds. Ms. Liebeck initially asked McDonalds for $20,000 to cover her medical expenses from the injuries she sustained, but McDonalds refused. Ultimately, a jury found that Ms. Liebeck deserved $2.7 million, which was reduced by a judge to $640,000, and reduced even further in an out of court settlement with McDonalds. Facts like these are unknown to the general public, and would likely change many opinions on this case.

Hot Coffee the Movie is a documentary that examines cases such as the McDonalds coffee lawsuit and shows how insurance companies and large corporations have been able to skew public perception of very legitimate cases. The documentary premiered on HBO on June 27th, and can be found On Demand, and rerun on HBO for the next few months.

Here at Premier Law Group, we cannot stress how spot-on this documentary is, and believe it will change the mind of anyone that believes there are too many frivolous civil cases and that Tort reform must be enacted to help curb them. Look for it whenever you have some free time, and please let us know what you think!

Premier Law Group Welcomes a New Member to the PLG Team

Premier Law Group is happy to welcome **Sean Robinson** to the team as our new file clerk. Sean just graduated from the University of Washington in June and has slowly been studying for the LSAT while he looks at potential law schools. In his spare time Sean enjoys biking, snowboarding and jogging. If given the time, Sean also enjoys traveling and would be happy to go backpacking through Europe or even on a road trip to Oregon.

So the next time you call the office remember to say hi to Sean and make him feel like part of the family!

You Have Questions—We Have Answers!

Question...

How can I best prepare myself for an accident?

Answer...

You can never be too prepared, especially for a car accident. Here is a list of things to keep in your car in case you are ever involved in an accident.

- Pen
- Notepad
- Disposable camera
- Measuring tape
- Flashlight

The information that you collect will be essential, so make sure that you take down adequate descriptions such as street names, vehicle make, model and color etc.

Get your free copy of Jason's book:
The Truth About Washington Auto Accidents

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FREE Legal Resource Guides

- *The Truth About Washington Auto Accidents*
- *The Truth About Washington Motorcycle Accidents*
- *The Truth About Buying*
- *Washington Auto Insurance*
- *In Case of Death: Straight Talk on Washington Wrongful Death*

Contact: Dlee@plg-pllc.com

0028 Thanks For Your Referrals!

Readers of this newsletter have referred 28 clients to our firm since the start of 2010. Thank you so much, and please let us know if we can help you in the future!

Trivia Question of

Where did each of the four lawyers of Premier Law Group go to law school.

First person to email the correct answer to **Dlee@plg-pllc.com** will wi a Jamba Juice gift card!!

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We Want to Feature YOU in Our Newsletter!

That's right, we want to recognize those of you that are doing amazing things in our next newsletter in a new feature called "Community Member Spotlight!"

If you, or someone you know deserves recognition for something they do, please let us know!

Email Danielle at Dlee@plg-pllc.com with some background information and contact info to follow up on, and we'll write a feature article on this community hero for our next newsletter!

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