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Look inside  
for a chance  
to win a free  
giftcard!

## Annual Car Maintenance Checklist

New Year's means late-night fun, fireworks and resolutions! This year, resolve to drive safe by keeping your car in tip-top shape. Here are some things to look for when doing a start of year check:

- 1) **Change Your Oil:** These days, engine design and synthetic oils can make it tempting to go a long time without an oil change. But if it's been 3,000-5,000 miles since your last oil change, it is time to get that taken care of.
- 2) **Check Your Tires:** Improperly inflated tires can cost you money at the gas pump. Check the tread for wear and the air levels. Also, if you've had those tires for more than 6-7 years, you should consider getting a new set.
- 3) **Replace Your Windshield Wiper Blades:** It's been a pretty dry season this year, but you might have noticed that it occasionally rains here in Washington. That means that your windshield wipers are getting more wear and tear, and it might be time for a change. (Danielle!)
- 4) **Don't Ignore Your Brakes:** If your brakes have been feeling, sounding, or responding differently lately, you need to see a mechanic NOW. Car trips are much more enjoyable when you can stop without running into something.
- 5) **Respond to that Check Engine Light:** If your new year started off with that little light blinking on, you might want to check your gas cap: if it's loose, that could set off your engine's diagnostic system. If that's not the problem, don't just wait until it burns out, see a mechanic right away.

I know what you're thinking: didn't we just welcome two new people to PLG? Well, it turns out that we get to welcome two more: Joe and Eve just joined our team.



Eve is a Legal Assistant at Premier Law Group. She graduated with a BA from Pacific Lutheran University and is currently in her last year of the WSBA Rule 6 Law Clerk Program. Eve was born in Poland and speaks Polish; and has knowledge and understanding of the Russian and Ukrainian languages as well. She enjoys spending time by the water and many other outdoor activities. Her favorite part of living in Washington is the rain.



Joe is the filing clerk at Premier Law Group and although he's relatively new to the job he is picking things up very quickly. He hails from Puyallup and is a huge Seattle sports fan. He enjoys spending his time outside on a sunny day and staying in to watch a movie when the rain comes into town. Hiking, playing sports, and going on trips are some of his favorite things. There's not too many things that can bring this guy down, his positive attitude and upbeat spirit keeps everyone happy.



Get brewing! January is National Hot Tea Month!

Go to the back page for a chance to celebrate with a **FREE STARBUCKS GIFTCARD!**



## Washington State Gets a 3/5 on Drunk Driving Prevention!

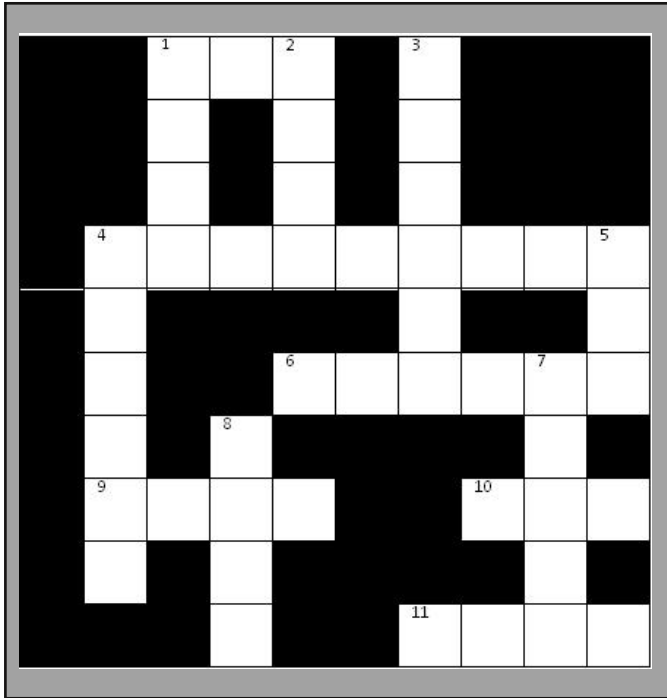
MADD recently released its 2011 national report card, scoring each of the fifty states according to their commitment to keeping drunk drivers off the road. The five stars are each based on a different aspect of DUI control: ignition interlock for first time offenders, sobriety checkpoints, administrative license revocation, child endangerment laws and no refusal. Washington employs three of these methods: ignition interlock (breathalyzers attached to ignitions on vehicles), administrative license revocation (an arresting officer can take the license of the offender) and child endangerment laws (the penalties for a DUI increase if there is a child in the vehicle.) The two methods that Washington does not participate in are sobriety checkpoints (random checkpoints where officers will check vehicles to make sure drivers are not intoxicated) and no-refusal events (when offenders refuse to submit to a blood alcohol content test during the event, there will be a judge on call who can issue an immediate warrant for a blood draw.)

Whether or not these tactics would drastically reduce drunk driving in Washington State is difficult to say without implementation. It is certain that drunk driving is a problem, as Washington has the fourth highest DUI fatality rate in the nation. Though MADD praised the state for our comprehensive ignition interlock system, they suggested adding the other two tactics to further reduce DUI rates. Sobriety checkpoints are a proven method of reducing DUI rates, and even better it is an extremely cheap method of prevention. It saves the state money on processing and implementing penalties for drunk driving. As effective as ignition interlock might be, it is also very expensive to maintain. In these tough economic times, it seems like a simple and cost-effective way to save lives in our state. Of course, the cheapest way to prevent drunk driving is to simply not get behind the wheel if you have been drinking. Boost the economy by calling a cab, or call a friend and save some money on gas and you could save a life!



### Did You Know?

- The average drunk driver has driven drunk 80 times before arrest.
- Car crashes are the leading cause of death for teens, and 1 in 3 of those is alcohol related.
- Drunk driving costs each American adult \$500 a year.
- One in three people will be involved in an alcohol related crash in their lifetime.



Solve our New Year's Crossword for a chance to win a Starbucks gift card! (Stumped? Check the word list at the bottom of this page.)

- Across**
- 1 Big NYE celebration every year in this metropolis
  - 4 Oft mislabeled wine imbibed on New Year's
  - 6 Americans often resolve to lose this on New Year's
  - 9 \_\_\_\_ Lang Syne
  - 10 The night before, or a new member of PLG Staff
  - 11 Black eyed \_\_\_\_, a common Southern New Year's meal
- Down**
- 1 Appetizers at a party, maybe
  - 2 Keep \_\_\_\_, reminder to Seattleites from seafood shiller
  - 3 Hindu New Year celebration
  - 4 First person to celebrate New Year's on January 1st
  - 5 Oak octogenarian featured in this January birthday boy's fantasy epic
  - 7 I \_\_\_\_ Dream, Famous Speech by MLK, Jr.
  - 8 Some of the above resolution makers might cheat and start seeing this



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0031

Email [dlee@plg-llc.com](mailto:dlee@plg-llc.com) with the solution to win!

### Thanks for the referrals!

Readers of this newsletter have referred 31 clients since the start of 2010. Thank you so much, and please let us know if we can help you in the future!

**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

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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-llc.com](mailto:Dlee@plg-llc.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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