



The Husband & Wife Law Team MOTORCYCLE NEWS

SHINY SIDE UP

Watch Out for Fridays

Distracted driving poses a large risk to riders, causing 12,026 accidents throughout Arizona in 2010 as reported by the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). There are three forms of distraction; manual, in which hands may be taken off the wheel, visual, when eyes may be taken off the road, and cognitive, when the mind is elsewhere while driving.

It is only natural that at the end of the workday or at the beginning of a weekend that drivers' cognitive distraction would peak—but this could spell disaster for bikers also on the road during that same rush hour drive home.

The peak hours for motorcycle collisions happens to be that same window. In 2010, there were 269 motorcycle accidents between 4 to 5 pm, and another 244 from 5 to 6 pm, according to the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT).

During these same hours on Fridays alone, there were 88 motorcycle collisions—a whopping 462 total accidents on Fridays in 2010. Every Friday sees nearly 9 accidents, and at least one motorcycle accident happens every day during rush hour.

If you can't avoid the roads during these peak hours, try to give yourself extra time, and even more extra space, to make sure you can see all around you to avoid potential threats and to help yourself be more seen to the drivers around you, who most likely have their minds elsewhere.

LEGAL RUMBLES

Mistake # 8

Failure to Say NO to a Request to Give A Recorded Statement

After an accident, insurance companies will almost always ask the injured party for a recorded statement to "find out what happened." Finding out the details of an accident is important for an insurance claim, but the fact that it is recorded should automatically raise a red flag; why does it have to be recorded?

Recorded statements can be used by insurance companies to twist what was simply a generic question, for example, "How are you doing today?" with a generic answer, "Fine," into something that can be used in negotiations to make it seem like the injured party is not as badly injured as they truly are—just because they said they were feeling "fine."

Many times, clients may come to us after they have already provided a recorded statement. This can be overcome because we anticipate the twisting of words that the insurance company may claim; but it is much more favorable to a case if there was no recorded statement.

If you've been in an accident and the insurance company keeps calling you for a recorded statement, try to avoid speaking to them until after consulting with an attorney. You want to make sure you protect yourself from saying something casually that could hurt your case later on.

Table of Contents

July 2012

PAGE 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FEATURED BIKER FRIENDLY BUSINESS OF THE MONTH LEGAL RUMBLES SHINY SIDE UP BIKER EVENTS AROUND AZ
PAGE 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FEATURED BIKER FRIENDLY BUSINESS OF THE MONTH KIDS DO THE DARDEST THINGS LIGHTS ON... THE TOP 10 LIST FOR THIS MONTH AT THE HUSBAND AND WIFE LAW TEAM

FEATURED BIKER FRIENDLY BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

Name: Mick Degen-Chairman

Business: Arizona Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Foundation (AMSAF), a Non Profit (501c3) Foundation with its goal aimed at reaching out to the entire Motorcycle riding community and Arizona Citizen, to promote and improve the well-being of motorcycle riders.

Ride: I ride a 2003 Harley Davidson Ultra Classic (100 year anniversary)

How long have you been in business?

AMSAF was established in 2011.

How long have you been riding motorcycles?

I've been riding for about 30 years on motorcycle and before that on dirt bikes.

How has your passion for riding affected your involvement in the motorcycle community?

In my years of riding, you can't but help get involved in the Motorcycle community. Motorcycling is a sport, way of transportation and a passion. As a rider, you have to be more cautious of your surroundings and I think in some cases you learn to be a better driver. In my years of riding, I've believed in taking motorcycle training courses. It's interesting the bad habits you can pick up in a short time and by taking a refresher course you find out real quick what you need to correct. I've found myself also involved in the Legislative process to help on Motorcycle Bills and other avenues that helped in Motorcycle Safety and Awareness.

What was your favorite part of our Arizona Motorcycle Accident Guide?

It is hard to say what I like best about the Arizona Motorcycle Accident Guide. There are so many great tips in there on accidents, underinsured insurance, and the hidden part of the helmet issue. This is a book that should be in the hand of all Motorcyclists. Insurance is something that can be taken for granted and over the years I've heard so many horror stories on accidents and lack of insurance. This book has so many great tips.

BIKER EVENTS AROUND AZ



Mark visiting the AMSAF table at Skunk Motorsports' Open House in Mesa

Have a question about an injury claim or any other legal matter?

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15715 S 46th Street, Suite 100

Phoenix, AZ 85048



- Car Accidents
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MORE ABOUT AMSAF

What would you say to someone that has been injured in a motorcycle accident?

If you're involved in an accident, the first thing you should do is contact an attorney. There are way too many factors to consider. According to the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, Arizona has averaged more than 3000 motorcycle accidents each year and those figures are increasing. Clearly, there are more reasons than ever to promote motorcycle safety and awareness.

Anything you'd like to share about your business?

In 2011, we established Arizona Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Foundation (AMSAF) with the whole purpose of helping the Motorcycle Community on a daily basis. Our goal is to get Safety and Awareness out there all the time with tips that will help the rider and those around them. We will also do this with billboards around the state, Look out for Motorcycle signs in cities around the state, PSA's, produce educational materials emphasizing the importance of riding responsible and the perils of impairment.

We need your help, in the form of a tax-deductible contribution, to achieve our goals.

You can visit us on www.amsaf.org and on Facebook under Amsaf.

KIDS DO THE DARNDDEST THINGS

We went to Amazing Jake's recently for Talia's birthday. The kids decided that they all wanted to play video games and went right for the one that is named after and works just like the TV show, "Deal or No Deal." Eventually, they had enough of that video game and decided to play laser tag. You may be wondering, "What was Mark doing?" Mark was very busy...busy playing laser tag with the kids. I think during the Deal or No Deal video game Mark might have been strategizing on how he was going to beat all the kids at laser tag.

Mark always plays to win even when it is playing against the kids in a simple game. (Editor's Note from Mark: The entire laser tag facility was basically a game of Breyer vs. Breyer. I owed it to my kids to get in there for their protection and safety. Of course, I also had to beat them when possible.)



LIGHTS ON...

**Joshua C. from
Casa Grande, AZ**

Never get too comfortable
on your bike. When you
relax too much, your
reflexes will be slower to
react when you need them
most.

Joshua won **\$250** for
sharing this great tip with us!

To find out how you can win visit:

**MotocycleAccidentLawyers
Arizona.com/LightsOn**

The Top 10 List for This Month at The Husband and Wife Law Team

10. One of our motorcycle clients told us what he thought his bike was worth and we were able to get him thousands more than he asked for.
9. We were approached by a client who had more than \$100,000 in medical bills but far less insurance coverage. We were able to reach a settlement with the at-fault driver that got everyone paid and money for our client.
8. We had a car accident case where we uncovered three different insurance policies. The third policy likely would not have been found by attorneys with less expertise in this area of law.
7. We welcomed a new top paralegal to our firm after months of interviewing applicants that wanted to join our growing team.
6. We had our annual client appreciation dinners with well over 150 people in attendance.
5. Newsweek Magazine (yes, THAT Newsweek Magazine) contacted Breyer Law for inclusion into their section "The National 2012 Leading Personal Injury Law Firms." (Stay tuned ...)
4. We were able to win a six figure, full insurance policy limit settlement for a client after another lawyer rejected the case, presumably thinking nobody could win the case. We won it!
3. Alexis and Mark were interviewed by Fox 10 Phoenix TV station. (Stay tuned for more details ...)
2. When an insurance company refused to make an acceptable offer to our client, we told them we'd see them at trial. After showing them we were serious about going to court, they TRIPLED their previous offer and the case settled.
1. Super Lawyers – a prestigious organization that names the top 5% of all lawyers in each state granted Mark the honor of being named a Super Lawyer!