

## Electronic Newsletter

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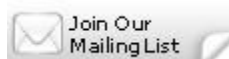
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Don't Drive Distracted!

## Attorneys Seek Greater Compensation for L.A.'s Metrolink Crash Victims

### Judge Criticizes Damages Caps as "Inadequate"

The [National Law Journal](#) reported, "The plaintiffs' bar is calling on Veolia Transportation Inc. to provide additional payouts to victims of the 2008 Los Angeles Metrolink train crash in light of a judge's estimate that total damages exceeded a \$200 million cap by as much as \$150 million." California lawmakers have issued a similar request, asking Veolia to establish a fund akin to that of BP's following the Gulf oil spill. In divvying up the award among the 124 victims, Superior Court Judge Peter Lichtman stressed the "inadequacy" of the cap considering the degree of the injuries. American Association for Justice President Gary Paul said, "The Metrolink crash is a prime example of how arbitrary caps limit the justice injured Americans can seek. ... These caps take away the incentive to improve safety and serve only to help negligent corporations avoid accountability--be it hospitals, oil companies, or rail operators."



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## NFL Retirees: League Concealed Dangers of Concussions



The [New York Times](#) reported seventy-five retired players sued the NFL last month, asserting the league concealed information about the dangers of concussions, which left the players with brain damage. The lawsuit, which seeks unspecified damages, "is the first legal action to center on how the N.F.L., while evidence steadily mounted in medical journals and elsewhere, took until 2010 to unequivocally warn players about how concussions could have effects on brain function long after they retired." According to the suit, the NFL neglected "to regulate practices, games, equipment and medical care so as to minimize the long-term risks associated with concussive brain injuries." Official NFL helmet maker Riddell was also

## Recall Central

To read about recent recalls and product safety news from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, click [here](#).

Get the latest recall information from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration [here](#).

The Dept. of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service regulate meat, poultry products and processed eggs. Check their recalls [here](#).

Click [here](#) for Food and Drug Administration recalls, market withdrawals and safety alerts.

For updates on the peanut

named as a defendant.

products recall click [here](#).

"The suit alleges the NFL knew as early as the 1920s of the harmful effects of concussions but concealed them from coaches, trainers, players and the public until June 2010." That was even after the league established the Mild Traumatic Brain Injury Committee in 1994 to asses "the risk of long-term brain injury to players." The suit claims "the committee published 'false, distorted and deceiving' findings that the risk was minimal in order to deceive Congress, players and the public." The players say the concussions "left them with problems such as dementia, headaches, memory loss, blurred vision, sleeplessness and ringing in the ears. Some claim the injuries caused depression, anxiety, 'explosive mood changes,' poor judgment and substance abuse." Read [more](#).

## Tracking Your Social Media Footprint

Concerned about internet privacy? Here are four tips to monitor your online reputation, courtesy of [Avvo](#).

## GHSA Releases Report on Distracted Driving Research

The Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) released the first comprehensive overview summarizing distracted driving research for state officials. The report considered research from more than 350 scientific papers published between 2000 and 2011. GHSA produced the new report -- *Distracted Driving: What Research Shows and What States Can Do* -- with a grant from State Farm. The report summarizes: what distracted driving is, how often drivers are distracted, how distraction impacts driver performance and crash risk, what countermeasures may be most effective and what states can do to reduce distracted driving. Read the [news release here](#) or get the [full report here](#).

## Poll: Drivers Still Using Phones Despite Knowing It's Dangerous

According to a recent survey, 91% of American drivers say they know it is dangerous to use a cellphone while driving, but 60% do it anyway. Read [more](#).

## CDC Analysis of Distracted Driving in U.S., Europe



A new analysis by the CDC examined the frequency of cell phone use and texting while

driving in the United States and several European countries within Europe. Among the findings: Overall, 25% of drivers in the United States reported that they talk on their cell phone "regularly" or "fairly often" while driving. Younger age groups had higher use, with nearly 40% of those ages 18 to 29 reporting that they talk on their cell phone "regularly" or "fairly often" while driving. The percentage of European drivers who reported using the cell phone "regularly" or "fairly often" while driving ranged from 21% in the Netherlands to 3% in the United Kingdom. Read [more](#).

## Don't Drive Distracted!

It Kills



[KidsAgainstDistractedDriving.com](#)

## About Our Firm



At [The Law Firm of Stephen M. Reck](#), justice is our mission. Our firm is well known and well respected for its ability to handle personal

injury, wrongful death, and professional malpractice cases in Connecticut and Rhode Island. Call today or visit us on the web at [www.stephenreck.com](#).

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Proud to support the [North Stonington Education Foundation](#), [Little League Baseball](#), [Children International](#), and the [Conn. Chapter of the Special Olympics](#).

**\* Advertising Material \***

### Proudly Serving Connecticut and Rhode Island

The trial attorneys at The Law Firm of Stephen M. Reck, LLC represent individuals in all types of personal injury cases throughout the state of Connecticut and the state of Rhode Island, including, in Connecticut: New London County, New Haven County, Middlesex County, Hartford County, Tolland County, and Windham County; and in Rhode Island: Bristol County, Kent County, Newport County, Providence County, and Washington County.

**Referrals Welcome**

**Remember we are here if you need a referral to an attorney in a different area of law.**

