

Electronic Newsletter

January-February 2014

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CDC: Nine Die, 1,060 Injured Every Day from Distracted Driving

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says that every day, nine people die and 1,060 people are hurt in crashes linked to driver distraction.



"That's a death every 2.6 hours, and 44 injuries an hour. And that toll of carnage is just from crashes that police investigators link to distracted driving. Nobody knows what percentage of the other crashes were caused by distraction." Read [more](#).

Court Denies State's Motion to Dismiss Disabled Man's Challenge to CT's Expanded "Assault Weapons" Ban

But Court Rules His Group Lacks Standing



Above: Scott Ennis of New London

Not long after Gov. Malloy signed last year's expansion of the state's "assault weapons" ban, New London resident Scott Ennis and his group, Disabled Americans for Firearms Rights (DAFR) filed a constitutional challenge to the new law, arguing that the ban on certain weapons violated the rights of disabled individuals to bear arms needed to protect themselves from crime.

The suit claims violations of Connecticut constitutional and statutory provisions, including (a) Art. I § 15 of the State constitution, which guarantees that all citizens have a right to bear arms in defense of themselves and the State; (b) Conn. Gen. Stat. § 27-2, which affirms the rights of all citizens to bear arms as members of the unorganized militia of the State; (c) Art. I §1 of the State constitution, which guarantees

Shocking News on Preventable Deaths in Hospitals

According to a new study by the prestigious *Journal of Patient Safety*, as many as 440,000 people a year die from preventable medical errors in hospitals. These numbers mean avoidable medical errors are the third leading cause of death for Americans. Read more [here](#) and get the study [here](#).

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Will Internet-Connected Cars Increase Driver Safety?

[Forbes](#) reports that the Internet "could actually protect you" while driving. NHTSA says cars that are connected "integrate Wi-Fi-enabled dashboard monitors, hands-free phone use and allow drivers to tap into weather reports and traffic patterns, potentially preventing about 80 percent of crashes involving non-impaired drivers." Also, "the market for driving apps is exploding."

equality of rights of all citizens of the State; (d) Article I § 20 of the State constitution, as amended by amendment XXI, which guarantees equal protection of the law, and prohibits discrimination in the exercise or enjoyment of civil or political rights based on physical disability; and (e) Conn. Gen. Stat. §46a-58(a), which prohibits the deprivation of civil rights on the basis of physical disability.

The State filed a motion to dismiss the case, which was granted in part and denied in part. The Court granted the motion as to DAFR but denied it as to Mr. Ennis. This means that Ennis as an individual can pursue a claim for violation of his State constitutional rights, but DAFR cannot assert those claims on behalf of all aggrieved members of the organization. However, other individual members of DAFR can be cited in to the case as additional named plaintiffs.

This ruling represents only the first hurdle for Ennis. As the Court noted, "Whether or not the plaintiff can succeed on his claims ... is a question for another day. The fact that the plaintiff faces a difficult burden of proof in his case does not strip this court of jurisdiction to permit him to attempt to carry that burden." The Court's ruling is available [here](#).

Google Opposes Distracted Driving Restrictions Aimed at 'Google Glass'

"Google is lobbying officials in at least three U.S. states to stop proposed restrictions on driving with headsets such as Google Glass, marking some of the first clashes over the nascent wearable technology.

Some eight U.S. states are considering regulation of Google Glass, a tiny computer screen mounted in the corner of an eyeglass frame. Law enforcement and other groups are concerned that drivers wearing the devices will pay more attention to their email than the road, causing serious accidents." Read [more](#).

DOT Chief to Focus on Pedestrian Safety

Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx says he plans to make fixing the nation's crumbling infrastructure and improving pedestrian safety two of his top priorities. Fatalities among pedestrians increased for the third consecutive year in 2012 - up 6.4% - or twice as much as the overall increase in traffic deaths. Government data shows the large majority of pedestrian deaths occurred in urban areas, at non-intersections, at night and many involved alcohol. More than 4,700 pedestrians were killed in 2012 - or 14% of all people killed in car crashes. The number of pedestrians injured by cars rose 10% last year to 76,000. Read [more](#).

CDC: Buckling Up Kids Saves Lives

According to the CDC, motor vehicle deaths decreased 43% for children age 12 and younger over the last 10 years. But--still more than 9,000 children died in crashes during that period. Using age- and size-appropriate child restraints (car seats, booster seats, and seat belts) is the best way to save lives and reduce injuries in a crash, yet thousands of children are at risk because they are not buckled up. Read more [here](#).

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.

The Law Firm of Stephen M. Reck, LLC

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Want More Distracted Driving News?



Check out the [Distracted Driving News from Safe Roads Alliance and the Distraction Advocate Network](#).

Don't Drive Distracted! It Kills



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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

Have You Tried the Wired Bean Cafe Yet?

North Stonington's Coolest Gathering Spot



The [Wired Bean Cafe](#), located in the front of our building next to the Wellness Center, serves coffee, tea, espresso, cappuccino, muffins, cookies, pies, soups, sandwiches, and more. Free wifi, comfortable seating, and a friendly staff. If you haven't tried them yet, go soon!

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

