

# Electronic Newsletter

May 2013

## [The Law Firm of Stephen M. Reck, LLC](#)

P.O. Box 431  
391 Norwich Westerly Road  
Holly Green, Suite 2C-B  
North Stonington, CT 06359  
phone (860) 535-4040  
fax (860) 535-3434

email [attorneyreck@yahoo.com](mailto:attorneyreck@yahoo.com)

[www.stephenreck.com](http://www.stephenreck.com) / [www.scottcamassar.com](http://www.scottcamassar.com)

Find us on [Facebook](#); Follow our [Blog](#)

**Proud Founder of [KidsAgainstDistractedDriving.com](#)**



Happy Memorial Day from The Law Firm of Stephen M. Reck!

### In This Issue

The Law Firm of Stephen M. Reck Wins Appeal in Death Case; New Trial Ordered

The Law Firm of Stephen M. Reck Settles Defective Product Case for \$110,000

Second Suit Filed Challenging Connecticut's New Gun Law

Op-ed: Medical Malpractice Lawsuits Improve Patient Safety

Study: Hands-Free Texting Still Dangerous

Returning Troops Have Higher Risk of Fatal Driving Accidents

Study: Distracted Driving Deaths Under-reported

Highway Deaths Increase

Recall Central

Don't Drive Distracted!

## The Law Firm of Stephen M. Reck Wins Appeal in Death Case; New Trial Ordered

In a tough appellate victory for [Attorney Stephen M. Reck](#), the Connecticut Appellate Court recently upheld the decision of the trial court that had set aside a defense verdict in a medical malpractice wrongful death case. The trial court granted Atty. Reck's motion to set aside the verdict based on flagrant misconduct by the defense lawyer during the trial, when counsel for the defendant doctor deliberately asked questions about the medical peer review process that were prohibited by statute. The Appellate Court agreed, concluding that the defense lawyer's improper questions resulted in unfair prejudice to the plaintiffs and prevented a fair trial. You can read the decision [here](#).

**If you like our Newsletter, please forward to a friend who could also benefit from it!**

 [Join Our Mailing List](#)

## The Law Firm of Stephen M. Reck Settles Defective Product Case for \$110,000

[Attorney Scott D. Camassar](#) recently settled, on the first day of jury selection, a case against Sears arising out of a serious injury caused by a Craftsman Model 320 power saw. He alleged that the circular saw was defective because the blade guard did not close properly. An engineering expert examined the saw and concluded that the blade guard failed to meet the UL 45 standard, which requires the lower guard to close in not more than 0.3 seconds, and that this failure was due to a design defect. As a result of the guard not closing properly, the plaintiff suffered a severe 10" laceration of his lower leg, which required surgical repair of his tendon and resulted in permanent injury and scarring.

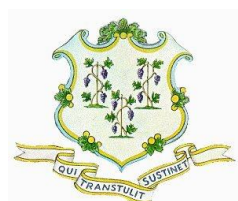
### Newsletter Archive

New to our mailing list? To read our prior newsletters, click [here](#).

## Study: Distracted Driving Deaths Under-reported

The [AP](#) reported that "Crash deaths in cases where drivers were on the phone are seriously underreported, according to a recent analysis of state and federal data by the [National Safety Council](#)." Underreporting "makes the problem of distracted driving appear less significant than it actually is." Read [more](#).

## Second Suit Filed Challenging Connecticut's New Gun Law



Following Atty. Camassar's state court challenge to P.A. 13-3 (the "Act Concerning Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety"), a second suit has been filed in federal court against Connecticut's new gun law. The latest suit is brought by a broad coalition of individuals, companies and groups, all claiming the new law violates the Second Amendment and other provisions of the federal Constitution. Read [more](#).

Amendment and other provisions of the federal Constitution. Read [more](#).

## Highway Deaths Increase

## Op-ed: Medical Malpractice Lawsuits

## Improve Patient Safety



In a [New York Times op-ed](#), Joanna C. Schwartz, assistant professor of law at the University of California, Los Angeles, described how accountability in the courts improves patient safety. She wrote: "My study also shows that malpractice suits are playing an unexpected role in patient safety efforts, as a source of valuable information about medical error. Over 95 percent of the hospitals in my study integrate information from lawsuits into patient safety efforts. And risk managers and patient-safety personnel overwhelmingly report that lawsuit data have proved useful in efforts to identify and address error." Her research is another reason to oppose "tort reform" efforts that restrict or eliminate access to the courts by injured patients.

## Study: Hands-Free Texting Still Dangerous

[USA Today](#) reported that a new study by the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) indicates it is just as unsafe to use a voice-to-text mobile app while driving as it is to text manually. TTI said their study was the first research on whether there are driving safety advantages in using voice-to-text apps. Participants in the study each drove four times for about 10 minutes at 30 mph: while not texting at all, while texting manually, while texting with the voice-to-text app on the iPhone, and while doing so with the Android smartphone voice-to-text app. The study found that driver response times were slower no matter which method of texting was used.

## Returning Troops Have Higher Risk of Fatal Driving Accidents

For men and women who have fought in the country's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, death behind the wheel is becoming another lethal after-effect of combat. After they leave military service, veterans of the two wars have a 75% higher rate of fatal motor vehicle crashes than do civilians. Troops still in uniform have a higher risk of crashing their cars in the months immediately after returning from deployment than in the months immediately before. People who have had multiple tours in combat zones are at highest risk for traffic crashes. The most common explanation is that troops bring back driving habits that were lifesaving in war zones but are dangerous on America's roads. They include racing through intersections, straddling lanes, swerving on bridges and, for some, not wearing seat belts because they hinder a rapid escape. Read [more](#).

## 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](http://www.stephenreck.com).

### The Law Firm of Stephen M. Reck, LLC

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

**\* Advertising Material \***

Road deaths in the U.S. rose 5.3% last year to 34,080, the first year-over-year increase in traffic fatalities since 2005, according to preliminary estimates this month from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Read [more](#).

## 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 products recall click [here](#).

## Don't Drive Distracted!

### It Kills



[KidsAgainstDistractedDriving.com](http://KidsAgainstDistractedDriving.com)

### 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**

