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CHECK OUT OUR NEW VIDEOS!

Check out our website for our latest videos. We would really appreciate it if you could share your comments, too! You can find the videos at www.shannonlawgroup.com



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REFERRALS WELCOME

We thank you so much for referring clients to us over the years. We are grateful that you have entrusted us with taking care of those who need our services. For any referrals, please contact us at (312) 578-9501 or fill out our online contact form at ShannonLawGroup.com.



RIGHT TO A JURY TRIAL

On July 4, 1776, the soon-to-be-independent U.S. citizens listed several grievances against the King. Among these grievances was that the king deprived the American colonies of the benefits of trial by jury.

After we won independence from Great Britain, our Founding Fathers ratified the Sixth Amendment to our Constitution, which enshrines the right to a trial by jury for all of us. Nearly every state in the union also grants its citizens a right to a jury trial. The Illinois Constitution enshrined the right to jury trial 200 years ago in the year 1818.

The right to a jury trial is near and dear to our clients. Nothing levels the playing field more than a panel of jurors who decide a case filed by their fellow citizen. These folks decide the case on the merits of the case and not on who is more powerful.

Fast-forward to 2018. I pose the following questions to you:

Who should decide if a company is liable if they hide the dangerousness of their asbestos-containing product and expose users of the product to the cruel disease of mesothelioma?

Who should decide if it's right to put untrained or unfit drivers behind the wheel of commercial vehicles, who end up permanently injuring people?

Who should decide if it's right for the government to take our property against our will just because they want to develop a mall, and how much the government should reimburse the owner?

Each one of us is dependent on our health and ability to work to keep ourselves independent. In my book, the constitutional right to a jury trial has never been more precious.

A few of our recently filed cases bear this out:

We represent the estate of a longtime railroad worker. Our client learned he had mesothelioma. We filed the case immediately. Unfortunately, within weeks, he died from this terrible and painful illness. A jury should decide who is to blame



for this death and how much his family should be reimbursed for the horrific suffering he endured.

We represent a construction worker who was permanently injured on the job. He filed for workers' compensation, and the next day, the construction company fired him. A jury should decide if that is right.

We represent a hardworking, independent woman who had a spectacular record in her work history. She had a spotless personnel file, and her clients loved her. She notified her boss that she had become pregnant, and after a month of harassing behavior, the company terminated her. A jury should decide if that is right.

We represent a woman who was hit by a truck two years ago. After seven surgeries, she has been confined to nursing homes and long-term care facilities. Before the crash, she would regularly visit her mother, drive her car, live independently, and go about her business. A jury should decide how much she should be compensated.

The constitutional right to a jury trial allows our clients to seek justice when a company or another tortfeasor has made their ability to compete in the marketplace impossible. Without this right, these folks would become bankrupt and have to rely on our governmental aid system. Shouldn't the responsible party be the one who compensates those who they have injured?

Happy Fourth of July, everyone.

Joe Shannon



In 2016, for the very first time in the U.S., a self-driving car accident turned fatal when a Tesla Model S collided with a semi-trailer truck in Florida. At the time

of the crash, the Tesla had been switched to autopilot mode, which includes features like automatic emergency braking, collision warnings, lane holding, and active cruise control.

Despite these safety features, the Tesla crashed into the semitractor-trailer at an intersection. The driver and sole occupant of the Tesla died in the crash.

Since 2016, two more fatal self-driving car accidents have occurred in the U.S.

In March of 2018, a pedestrian died after being struck by an Uber self-driving car in Arizona. That same month, a Californian man died after his Tesla Model X SUV crashed into a concrete highway lane divider while on autopilot.

In response to these crashes, many people have wondered how the victims of self-driving car accidents and their families could obtain legal compensation.

In other words, *who* should be held liable for injuries and/or fatalities resulting from a self-driving car accident?

For residents of Illinois, the state government has answered this question with the Autonomous Vehicle Act of 2017.

WHAT ILLINOIS LAW SAYS ABOUT SELF-DRIVING CAR ACCIDENTS

Passed on April 28, 2017, the Illinois Autonomous Vehicle Act (HB2747) puts forth new laws specifically about self-driving vehicles traveling on Illinois roadways.

Essentially, the act allows vehicles with automated driving systems to be legally driven on Illinois roads. The act defines an automated driving system (ADS) as hardware or software that is able to perform all tasks that a human driver can do on a continual basis. Therefore, the ADS itself will be considered the driver or operator in the eyes of the law.

Moreover, these vehicles are not required to have a human behind the wheel, and any occupants in these vehicles do not need driver's licenses.

In an Illinois car accident, a self-driving car's ADS will be at fault, because it is considered the driver in the eyes of Illinois law. **Therefore, liability in a self-driving car accident will be determined under current product liability law or common law negligence principles in Illinois.**

For more information on Illinois car accident law, please download a free copy of our book, "Transportation Law, Rights, and Injuries: Charting Your Legal Course of Action," from our website. You can also contact Shannon Law Group, P.C. by calling us at (312) 578-9501 or by filling out our online contact form at ShannonLawGroup.com.

THE 3 MOST COMMON TYPES OF BIKE ACCIDENTS

As the weather warms up in Illinois, more and more people take their bicycles out and sometimes get in bicycle accidents during this time of year. According to the Illinois Department of Transportation, over 3,000 crashes involving pedal cyclists (or bicyclists) occurred in 2014. In most of these crashes, the bicyclist sustained severe injuries, 27 of which were fatal.

We have handled a number of cases for injured bicyclists. Due to the lack of protection for a bicyclist, bicycle accidents are particularly dangerous. One way to help prevent bicycle accidents is through education.

Here's a list of the three most common types of bike accidents:

1. THE 'RIGHT CROSS'

The right cross happens when a vehicle is either stopped at an intersection or exiting from a side street or driveway. At this point, the bicyclist has already crossed in front of the vehicle. The vehicle then pulls forward and hits the bicyclist. The car could also block the bike's path at the last minute, making it impossible for the cyclist to avoid a collision.

2. THE 'LEFT CROSS'

The left cross occurs when a vehicle turning left strikes a bicyclist traveling in the opposite direction. Upon impact, the vehicle may hit the cyclist's left side. If the driver turns into the front of the bike, the cyclist may have no choice but to collide with the right side of the vehicle.

3. THE 'RIGHT HOOK'

The right hook bicycle accident can happen in two ways:

- The first type happens when the driver fails to see a bicyclist crossing the street on which they're turning right. The vehicle then completes the turn, hitting the biker in the process.
- The second variation occurs when a driver passes a bike rider, and then quickly makes a right turn with insufficient space, causing the bicyclist to run into them.

5 BIKE RIDING SAFETY TIPS JUST FOR YOU!

1. Wear bright, reflective clothing when possible to be more visible to drivers.
2. Equip your bike with a headlight and turn it on whenever you go for a ride.
3. Try to make eye contact with drivers before crossing streets.
4. Ride about six inches from the curb, inside the white line at the edge of the road.
5. Ride your bike on the side of the road, not on the sidewalk.



4 FASCINATING FACTS I NEVER KNEW ABOUT THE 4TH OF JULY

Like most Americans, I've been thinking a lot about the Fourth of July this month. Most of all, I've been fixated on how, over 240 years ago, our Founding Fathers set the foundation for our rights to flourish.

Growing up, I had a very limited understanding of what happened on July 4, 1776. I thought the whole story involved the Continental Congress signing the Declaration of Independence on July 4, as it was depicted in that John Trumbull painting. Boy, was I wrong!

So I took Joe's advice and educated myself on the most important day in American history. Without further ado, here are four facts I never knew about the Fourth of July until now:

1. The Declaration of Independence was signed on August 2, 1776, not on July 4. The Declaration of Independence wasn't officially signed until August 2 by most of the 56 delegates in the Continental Congress. The Congress only dated the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

2. On July 9, 1776 General George Washington ordered the Declaration of Independence to be read in front of thousands of soldiers in New York. Before soldiers heard the Declaration

of Independence, they listened to a statement from Washington himself. He explained that Congress had "dissolved the connection" between "this country" and Great Britain and declared the "United Colonies of North America" to be "free and independent states."

3. John Adams shaped and inspired future Fourth of July celebrations. In a letter to his wife, Abigail, on July 3, 1776, John Adams wrote that the future Independence Day celebrations will include parades, games, bells, bonfires, and "illuminations" — or fireworks. Just a year later in 1777, the people of Philadelphia threw a celebration similar to Adams' vision.

4. Three presidents have died on the Fourth of July. On July 4, 1826, both former Presidents John Adams and Thomas Jefferson died — exactly 50 years after the United States was founded. James Monroe, our fifth president, died five years later in 1831.

Email me at bpeterson@shannonlawgroup.com with your favorite Fourth of July fact! I would love to hear your thoughts.

-Brittany Peterson



CHARRED CHILI-CHEESE CORN

You'll find all of the flavors of elote, Mexican street corn, in this dish, without any of the mess. It's the rare side that can outshine any main course.

Ingredients

- 4 ears of corn, husked
- 4 tablespoons high-smoke-point oil, such as canola or vegetable
- 1 large shallot, thinly sliced
- 1/2 red chili (such as Fresno) or jalapeño, thinly sliced
- 1/4 cup fresh lime juice
- 2 ounces fresh cotija cheese (or feta), crumbled
- 1/4 cup cilantro
- Salt and pepper, to taste

Directions

1. Heat grill to medium.
2. Brush corn with 2 tablespoons oil and grill until visibly charred, 10-12 minutes.
3. Cut kernels off cob and combine with shallots, chilis, lime juice, cheese, and remaining oil.
4. Season with salt and pepper, garnish with cilantro, and serve.

Inspired by Bon Appetit magazine

JULY 2018 DATES OF CONSEQUENCE

- July 4** Independence Day
- July 15** World Cup Final
- July 25** Feast of St. James the Apostle
- July 27** Birthday of Mary Jo Shannon
- July 31** Feast of St. Ignatius Loyola, Founder of the Jesuits

