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YOU'VE BEEN INJURED.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
YOUR BACK IS KILLING YOU.

NOW
WHAT?

A PARENT'S GUIDE
Rohrstaff Law
Virginia Personal Injury

WHEN THE
BOUGH
BREAKS
WHAT EVERY PARENT SHOULD
KNOW ABOUT CHILDREN'S
INJURIES
Sandra Rohrstaff
VIRGINIA CHILD INJURY LAWYER

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The twins
are
2½
years old
and
driving!

BREASTS

Even if you only call them
by some silly name, take them seriously.

My mother, Edna, 64 y.o. - 1r979.

My friend Rose, 60 y.o.- 1990.

My Aunt Ima, 72 y.o. - 1983.

My friend and neighbor Valerie,
56 y.o. 2009.

Survivors:

My friend Martha.

My friend Marsha.

My friend Eleanor.

My friend Charlene.

Many mothers and sisters of many friends.
And more.

Different women, different ages, different geography, with different diseases -- all called breast cancer. Some have gotten the scary diagnosis only once, some twice. One faced the diagnosis 5 times in 15 years and beat it every time. Their treatments have been radiation, chemotherapy, a combination of the two; lumpectomy, modified mastectomy, radical mastectomy, radical mastectomy with reconstruction, double radical mastectomy, double radical mastectomy with reconstruction – and various combinations of all of them.

Breast cancer isn't just one disease; it's got many faces, most of which had had not heard of:

Ductal carcinoma in situ and invasive ductal carcinoma,

Lobular carcinoma in situ and invasive lobular carcinoma,

Inflammatory breast cancer,

Paget's disease of the nipple,

Phyllodes tumors of the breast, and –

one we rarely hear about –

Male breast cancer.

Rarer forms of breast cancer are:
tubular carcinoma of the breast,
medullary carcinoma of the breast,
mucinous carcinoma of the breast,
papillary carcinoma of the breast,
cribriform carcinoma of the breast.

We don't just have one way to find breast cancer. Don't just think monthly breast self-examination and "annual mammogram." Those are great beginnings, but they're not the end.

Here's a website with all kinds of information about early detection and treatment and monitoring:
www.breastcancer.org.

As I have gotten older and my awareness of breast cancer has deepened and breast cancer has touched more and more people in my life, I have come to appreciate that we can now openly talk about breasts and get information out in the open. It wasn't like that in 1974 when my mother was diagnosed.

Since my mother died, I have not gone one day without thinking about breast cancer. Breast cancer affects millions of women and their families every year. Every person with the diagnosis and every member of her family needs help coping with the enormous changes such news brings.

When a mother or sister or best friend gets a breast cancer diagnosis, her loved ones are often paralyzed and fearful. They all need support and caring – and errands run and clothes washed and kitchens cleaned up and dinners brought in and, especially, hugs and laughs.

Welcome Meghan Lau!

We are pleased to announce an addition to our firm:
Meghan B. Lau, our new bookkeeper.

Meghan received a degree in mathematics from Mary Washington College (before it was a university) where she was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Society. She started her career with the government doing cost analysis, and then worked for a large NY-based law firm in the trade and tax departments. She went back to cost analysis before taking some time off for her first and most important job, being wife and mother to two girls. When she was home she discovered bookkeeping and realized that it was the job for her. She has worked in



the non-profit arena for many years but now is grateful for the opportunity to learn a different aspect of bookkeeping.

Meghan brings analytical expertise to her work so she can solve most any problem that comes her way. She also is wonderful with customer service, a skill she learned when working as the financial administrator for a church with a staff of 20 and over 1200 congregation members.

Outside of work, Meghan enjoys theater, music and photography. She volunteers at the local high school, at her church, and with various mission organizations.

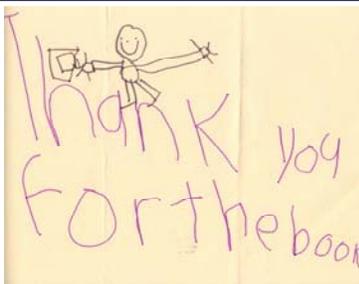
Kudos to William R. Koerner, Esq.

A friend of mine was telling me the story of the lawyer who is her daughter's conservator. It is a story of a man who has gone above and beyond for the family, and I want to share it with you.

When my daughter was 48, she was diagnosed with MS. She lived alone, was unemployed and had severe vision and neuropathy problems attributed to the MS. She had no prospects of being employed. In 2009, after several falls and apparent cognitive difficulties, doctors determined she could no longer live alone. After she was hospitalized with a bladder infection, a new place had to be found for her to live. Since I am a senior citizen and live in a retirement home, I am not in a position to manage her

affairs. I asked a hospital attorney to have a guardian or conservator be appointed. A wonderful attorney named Bill Koerner agreed to accept the appointment. My daughter is not easy to get along with, but Bill has persevered and found lodging for her in Alexandria. After two years when her funds were running low, he succeeded in getting her on Medicaid and found a suitable nursing home for her.

Mr. Koerner and his assistant, Diane Stubitch, have been outstanding, have gone way beyond what is required, and have been careful of my daughter's meager funds. I was indeed fortunate the day that team was assigned to our case.



The best kind of thank you note – from one of our injured child clients!

(We sent him a book to enjoy while he recovers from his broken arm.)

Walking Across the Street — Who has the right of way?

Virginia's contributory negligence law is challenging when it comes to pedestrians crossing streets, even in crosswalks.

If you are crossing the street in a crosswalk (without a traffic signal controlling traffic), do you have the right of way? Yes. Does that mean that you can cross while ignoring oncoming traffic or that you can cross without looking for oncoming traffic? No. Although the crosswalk is a zone of safety for pedestrians, they still have a responsibility to look before they walk. Our client was hit by car and suffered serious permanent injuries. She is just the kind of person we love to help: After her injury, she worked hard to keep her mobility, even while facing a lifetime of limitations. We were able to resolve her case in a way that would repay her for her past and future losses, including the additional surgeries she must have during her lifetime.





Janelle's Corner

Eyewitnesses can be important when dealing with the courts, attorneys, and insurance companies. Sometimes they are unreliable, but it's important that we step up and report what we've seen. We hear about auto accidents from traffic reports every day during our commute in the metro area. People are usually in a hurry or don't want to get into the whole headache of being an eyewitness. You'll have to talk to the police, traffic court, and maybe a lawyer a few years down the road. But, you never know if you're going to have the one detail that'll change the outcome for someone else.

Last year, I witnessed an auto accident. Luckily, there were no injuries. I was behind a truck driven by a man waiting for our red light to turn green. Once our light turned green, we entered the intersection. A woman ran her red light and caused an accident with the truck in front of me. To me, it seemed that she just didn't see that there was a light. She wasn't one of those red-light runners that go through the intersection seconds after the light turned from yellow to red.

I stopped behind the truck to wait for the police. The driver of the pickup got out of his truck as I got out of my car. I told him that I'd seen the whole thing and that he definitely had the green light, and she ran the red light.

A couple of months later, when I testified in traffic court, the reporting officer was glad I was there because the driver of the truck lives out of state and he couldn't make it to court. So, I was the only one to dispute the other driver's story. I was there for a couple of hours waiting for our case to be called. After court, I got calls from and made statements to both driver's insurance companies.

Sandra was also an eyewitness to an auto accident one night on the beltway. She saw the accident happen but didn't stop because it was too dangerous to do so safely. So, when she got home she called the non-emergency number of the police and told the reporting officer that she saw the accident happen and gave the details of what she saw.

She was traveling in the second lane from the left. A car on her right was almost even with her or a little in front and traveling slightly faster. A van came up quickly from the left lane, cut across to the right in front of her (evidently heading for the exit ramp). As the van cut in front of her, she saw that the car to her right was going to hit the van. Instead, that driver swerved to the right to avoid the collision, lost control and slammed into the jersey wall. The van that had caused the accident kept on speeding to the off ramp.

Several weeks later, she got a call from the insurance company of the driver of the car. Her version of the accident matched that of the car's driver, including that color of the van. She was told by the insurance investigator that no one else had come forward as a witness.

at least call 911

If you decide not to speak up, or see the aftermath of an accident, at least call 911 if it looks like someone could be injured. You'd be astonished at how many people either assume that someone else called 911, or again, just don't want to be involved.

We often hear from our clients that there was a number of people that were standing around the accident scene, but not one of them called 911 or spoke to the police.

We welcome comments from our readers!

Sandra,

I liked your article about Oscar Pistorias. I preached a series on the Olympics in July leading up to the Olympics and he was the subject of my second sermon on Perseverance. I was glad to see how much he was appreciated during the Olympics too.

- Celeste

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Sandra & Janelle
Mother & Daughter
Working to Help Other Families



Janelle joined The Reston Chorale last year and is having a blast. Go to RestonChorale.org to see their concert schedule.

What Our Clients Are Saying

I am more than grateful for the information she has provided me. The fact that she understood me, she explained to me everything that I needed to hear. If there was something I didn't understand, she explained it with great detail and asked if I needed even more information or further detailed information. I'm just extremely grateful and I would refer her for anything to anyone at any point in time. - Jennifer H.

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, or if you or someone you know would like to receive the Rohrstaff Reader in **LARGE PRINT**, please call Janelle at 703-260-6070, or e-mail her at Janelle@RohrstaffLaw.com.

Halloween JELL-O Worms

Ingredients

- 2 packs (3 oz) Raspberry JELL-O
- 1 pkg unflavored gelatin (for extra firmness)
- 3/4 cup whipping cream
- 3 cups boiling water
- 15 drops green food coloring
- 100 flexible straws (or enough to fill your container)
- Tall container (1 quart or 1 liter carton of milk)



Directions

- ◆ Combine gelatin in bowl and add boiling water.
- ◆ Let it cool to lukewarm and then add the whipping cream and 15 drops green food coloring.
- ◆ Gather your straws (don't forget to flex them out) and put them in the container. It's important that the straws have a tight fit so the JELL-O stays in the straws. For this reason, a liter carton may be better; you will probably get longer worms since there is a tighter fit. If you have a bigger container, a rubber band around the straws is helpful. Or you could just add more straws to fill the container.
- ◆ Add the gelatin mixture to the straw-filled container and let it set until firm.
- ◆ There are multiple ways you can remove the worms from the straws. You can roll a rolling pin over the straws and squeeze them out or you can hold the straws over warm water. The worms will slip right out.

We always appreciate referrals.

We hope you think of us if you, your family or friends have any legal matters that need attention. If we are not able to help you, then we will help you find someone who can. We welcome the opportunity to help you and those you care about.