



DLG News

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**Davis Law
Group, P.S.**

**Our Mission is to
Level the Playing
Field Between
Accident Victims
and Insurance
Companies.**

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Guest Article: What is Estate Planning? *And why should I care?*

In essence, Estate Planning concerns the establishment or continuation of a tradition. In old Roman law, "traditio" meant a way of transferring the ownership of private property. This tradition involves the accumulation, conservation and distribution of assets. Your "estate" is both the real and personal property which you own, and your stance toward that property.

Proper Estate Planning is much more than mass producing Wills and probating estates.

Estate Planning is a process in which professionals, including an attorney who concentrates his or her practice on Estate Planning, spends significant time with you, asking specific questions, in order to understand your needs, your concerns and the objectives for your estate.

Whether it is merely the use of Wills and community property agreements, or more sophisticated planning techniques, proper Estate Planning fulfills these basic goals:

Here is what I want to accomplish: I want to be the one in control of my estate as long as I am able. If I ever become unable to manage my estate, I want to be the one who designates the person to manage my estate for me, without court intervention. Following my death, I want things to be as easy on my loved ones as possible. I want my estate to pass to the people and organizations that I designate, in the way I want. I want to avoid conflict over the administration of my estate, and, finally, I want there to be an absolute minimum of estate taxes, delays, court costs and attorney

fees possible in the process.

A proper Estate Plan, then, is something very personal, and no two plans will be exactly the same for any two people. A proper Estate Plan should be focused on you and your goals, ambitions, hopes and circumstances.

Control is why proper estate planning is important. If you desire to control who your beneficiaries are, how they receive assets, and, if your heirs are minors, who manages property for the minors, then estate planning is important. If you wish to control the costs of settling your estate, the hassle your heirs would have to go through and the potential conflict involved in settling your estate, then estate planning is important. If you would like to have your property properly managed for your

benefit should you become incapacitated, and if you would like to designate who would make health care decisions for you if you are not able to, then estate planning is important.

Estate planning does not need to be complicated, but it is critical that you secure the right advice and assistance in creating an estate plan. You have too much at stake to leave it to chance. ■

A DLG Guest Article by attorney Mark Albertson of Albertson Law Group, P.S., which provides legal counsel in the areas of Estate Planning and Probate, Asset Protection and Privacy Planning, Special Needs Planning for families with disabled children, Elder Law and Transactional Business Law. Go to www.AlbertsonLaw.com or call 425-426-6132 for more information.



For more articles, reports, studies, videos, news, and commentary on these and other legal matters...

Visit our web site at www.DavisLawGroupSeattle.com

Behind The Wheel: Teen Driving Rules

When teens get a driver license, they must follow special rules and restrictions. These rules are in place to help protect teen drivers from accidents and help them develop and improve skills in the safest way.

If you are under 18, and have been issued an intermediate driver license you must follow these special rules:

▶ For the first 6 months, you cannot drive with passengers under the age of 20 unless they are members of your immediate family.

▶ For the next 6 months you may not carry more than 3 passengers who are under 20 years old who are not members of your immediate family.



▶ For the first 12 months, you cannot drive between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. unless you are with a licensed driver age 25 or older. The only exception to this rule is if you drive for agricultural purposes, meaning you transport farm products or supplies under the direction of a farmer (See RCW

46.20.070).

After 1 year of following these rules and driving without a collision or traffic citation, you can drive without limitations to the time of day or the age and number of your passengers.

When you turn 18, these special rules no longer apply and your intermediate driver license automatically becomes a regular license. ■

Client Satisfaction Survey

Most lawyers do not try to understand how their clients experience the services they provide. But if attorneys don't understand what is important to their clients then they have no way of knowing how to improve client satisfaction. We are different.

Over the summer we asked all current clients to complete a client satisfaction survey so we could more fully understand their experience and find ways to improve the service we provide. We are pleased to say that a large number of our current clients filed out the survey.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the survey.

And we want to recognize the **first five people** who filled out and returned the by giving them a **\$25 Cheesecake Factory gift certificate**.

Special thanks to: *Julie Solenberg, Johnny Nowlin, Rebecca Kirchner, Mary Smith, and Gary Pfeiffer*. Your gift certificate is on its way to you. ■



Client Bill Of Rights

Attorney Christopher M. Davis and the Davis Law Group are committed to the highest standard in legal representation.

We believe that as our client you have the:

- Right to attorney client privilege.
- Right to have your legal rights and options explained in plain English without legal mumbo jumbo.
- Right to talk to your attorney within a reasonable period of time.
- Right to expect competence from our firm and all who work here.
- Right to know the truth about your case.
- Right to be updated regularly and on a timely manner as to the progress of your case.
- Right to a fair written fee agreement with our firm.
- Right to make the ultimate or final decision on your case.

The Ten Biggest Mistakes That Can Wreck Your Washington Accident Case by Christopher M. Davis

It's FREE as a public service to injured WA citizens!

Get your copy today by visiting

www.WashingtonAccidentBook.com



This publication is intended to educate the general public about personal injury, car accidents cases, medical malpractice, and insurance issues. It is not intended to be legal advice and does not constitute attorney-client relationship. Every case is different.



Mordecai Goldstein

Welcome Mordecai Goldstein

We are pleased to welcome Mordecai Goldstein to our firm as our new records management clerk.

Mordecai (which rhymes with “what-a-guy”) has recently graduated from an ABA-approved paralegal program with honors. After a few

months of temping at various law firms in the area, he chose to join the team at Davis Law Group.

Mordecai has lived, worked, and studied in several different countries and is multi-lingual (although he can only manage one Freudian slip of the tongue at a time).

His professional background

includes working in medical and legal transcription, word processing, script processing, scriptural restoration of ancient Hebrew scrolls, proofreading and editing.

He loves the Pacific Northwest, enjoys reading for pleasure, and occasionally tries his hand at creative writing. ■

Allstate agrees to pay \$390,000 to settle car accident case on appeal — after refusing to pay its \$25,000 policy limits before trial.

Davis Law Group announces that it recently settled an accident case with Allstate Insurance Company. The case was originally tried to a jury by DLG founder and Seattle attorney Chris Davis back in October 2006 in King County Superior Court. The case involved a serious car accident that happened on Interstate 90 just outside of Cle Elum, WA.

Allstate was the insurance company for the other driver.

That driver's insurance policy limits were only \$25,000. Mr. Davis' client

sustained neck and back injuries, and her past medical treatment charges exceeded \$20,000. But Allstate refused to pay out the \$25,000 policy limits when asked. Instead, Allstate denied that its insured was responsible for the accident. Allstate's position contradicted the Police Traffic Collision Report where the Washington State Patrol Trooper cited Allstate's insured for unsafe driving and an illegal lane change. Two other witnesses also confirmed that Allstate's insured caused the accident and without any contributory fault by Mr. Davis' client. Yet Allstate continued to argue that its insured had no liability for the accident.

To expedite resolution of the case in the least costly way possible, the case was submitted to

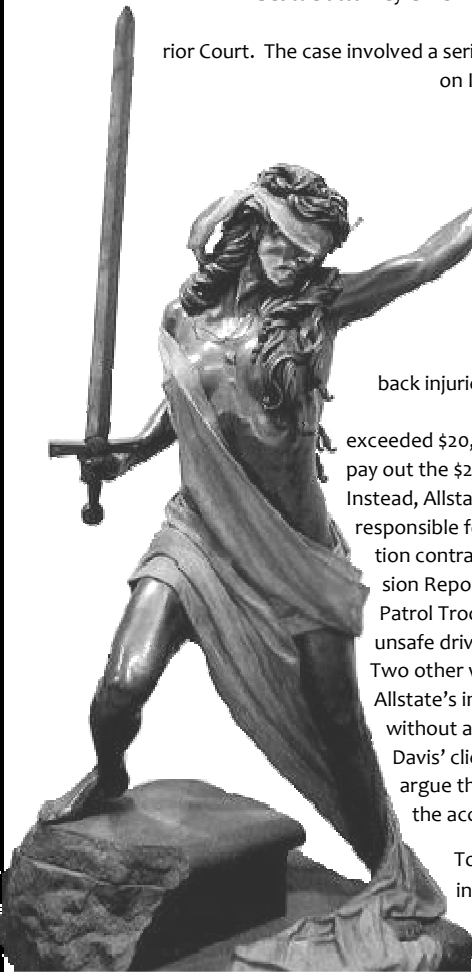
mandatory arbitration. The arbitrator awarded damages of \$50,000 (the maximum amount possible under the arbitration rules). Despite this decision, Allstate appealed the arbitration award and asked that the case be tried before a jury of 12 persons. Allstate paid the court's jury fee of \$250 to make sure it was tried in court. This decision forced Mr. Davis' client to incur more than \$15,000 in litigation expenses to prepare for the trial. The majority of these charges was to hire the client's medical doctors to appear in court and testify as is required by law. The trial lasted 6 days. Mr. Davis obtained a jury verdict of more than \$379,000.

As expected, Allstate appealed the jury's verdict to Division One of the Court of Appeals. Allstate argued that the judge made several errors during trial. Mr. Davis also handled the appeal. His client was then forced to incur more expense to respond to Allstate's appeal. The appeal lasted nearly 2 years.

Before Division One could issue its decision, Allstate offered to mediate the case. Mediation is voluntary. With the assistance of a professional mediator, Mr. Davis was able to settle the case for \$390,000. The amount represented a compromise since Mr. Davis' client did face some risk that the appeals court would overturn the verdict and order a new trial.

Mr. Davis has successfully handled many cases against Allstate Insurance Company over the last 15 years of his practice. ■

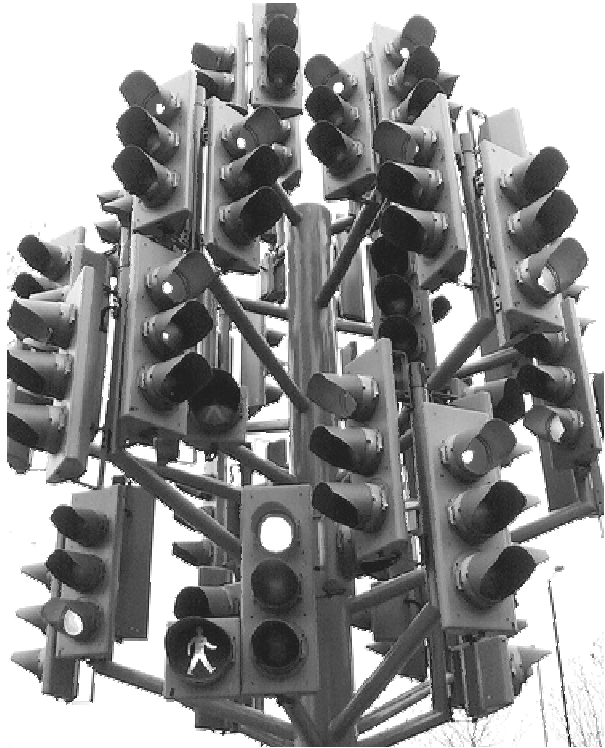
To learn more about this and other cases visit our website at www.DavisLawGroupSeattle.com.





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This traffic light sculpture in Canary Wharf in London is located in a real roundabout. How many traffic accidents has this work of art caused?

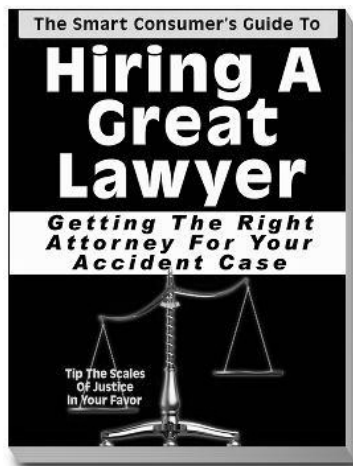
Thanks Paralegal/Legal Assistants

Paralegal Week: Sept 29th—Oct 3rd

Paralegals, legal assistants, records management clerks, and other legal support staff are key to the success of the Davis Law Group. Our clients appreciate the exceptional support that our staff provides and our attorneys appreciate their efficiency and resourcefulness.

We expect a lot from our staff and they consistently deliver. We would like to publicly thank everyone in our office for a job well done.

Governor Christine Gregoire has proclaimed September 29th thru October 3, 2008 "Paralegal Week." Please join us in thanking our paralegals, legal assistants, records management clerks, and other legal support staff!!



New FREE Booklet: Hiring A Great Lawyer

There is a new booklet designed to help consumers find the right attorney for their case.

The Smart Consumer's Guide To Hiring A Great Lawyer: Getting The Right Attorney For Your Accident Case is full of thoughtful steps and practical tips that will help you during your search for the right attorney including:

▶ The 11 evaluation criteria that you should use when

selecting an attorney.

- ▶ The truth about lawyer finder websites and directories.
- ▶ A lawyer scorecard/evaluation form that you can use when interviewing attorneys.

For your free copy of this informative booklet visit:

www.HiringAGreatLawyer.com