



# LEGAL CONNECTIONS

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## ***W.A. Botting Company Sued for Wrongful Death of 41 year-old Mother of Four***

### ***Employee Falls Asleep At The Wheel & Kills Beloved Mother***

**PRESS RELEASE:** Christopher M. Davis of Davis Law Group, P.S., the attorney representing the family of Sandra K. Johnson, age 41, who died in a car accident on May 25, 2007, announces today that he has filed a wrongful death action against WA Botting Company of Woodinville. The suit was filed in King County Superior Court (case# 07-2-26904-5KNT) on behalf of Ms. Johnson's estate and her four children. Ms. Johnson's mother, Beverly Hein, 65, also joined the lawsuit.

Johnson was killed while stopped in her car waiting for traffic to clear on Auburn Way South. A W.A. Botting employee, John M. Starr, was driving a company vehicle on Auburn Way South. Starr drove his vehicle off the roadway and crashed into Johnson's vehicle at a high rate of speed. The lawsuit alleges that Ms. Johnson was stopped in her car and had no opportunity to avoid the collision. Johnson, a mother of four, died at the scene.

The Auburn Police Depart-

ment investigated the accident. Starr reportedly told police that he had previously pulled a double-shift for Botting and then fell asleep at the wheel while driving home. The investigation has been turned over to the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office for review of possible criminal charges.

Johnson worked as a caregiver for Catholic Community Services in Tacoma. She is survived by her children, Dustin (age 5), Zachary (age 6), Shyla (age 14) and Crystal Peterson (age 20).

"The whole family has been devastated by the loss. The children are distraught as you can imagine. They miss their mother terribly," said Mr. Davis. "What is also upsetting is that the children may have to be split up to live with different caretakers," says

Davis.

The lawsuit claims unspecified damages for future lost income and services, as well as damages on behalf of the children for the loss of their mother. Any funds recovered on behalf of the children will be placed in trust and administered through a court-appointed guardian. ■



*Johnson accident scene photo.*

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**I've been in an accident and the insurance adjustor is calling. What do I do?**

This is the most frequently asked question new clients ask. Here's the answer: Politely decline to sign any forms or give a recorded statement until you have read my book, [The Ten Biggest Mistakes That Can Wreck Your Washington Accident Case.](#)



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*“IF IT WASN’T FOR  
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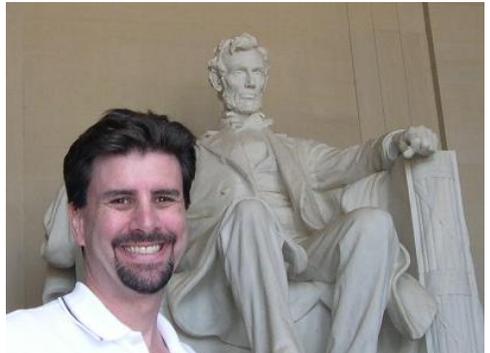
## **Mr. Davis Goes To Washington**

**Can you imagine that a 40 year-old U.S. citizen had never visited his country’s capital city Washington D.C.??**

I couldn’t, which is why my trip to Virginia to attend a legal conference was purposely extended so my family and I could spend a few days in our nation’s capital,

and over the July 4 holiday to boot!

I was struck by the architecture and the sheer size of the buildings. The history of the city is awe-inspiring. We didn’t have time to visit every place we wanted to see, but



*Chris Davis at the Lincoln Memorial. July 2007.*

some of my favorites: The Holocaust Museum, Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, Museum of National History, and of course, the open

double-decker bus tour (this was my son Jackson’s favorite, going on the bus with Daddy and Mommy!). If any of you have not visited Washington D.C., I urge you to do so. Every US citizen should visit at least once in his or her lifetime. ■

## **Davis Honored As “Super Lawyer”**

I had the honorable distinction of being named a **“Super Lawyer”** by *Washington Law & Politics Magazine* in their 2007 Super Lawyer Edition. A **“Super Lawyer”** distinction is given to the top 5% of lawyers

in each specialty in the State of Washington as voted upon by other lawyers in the state.

Of course, I cannot accept this honor without stating that I owe it all to the clients that we have served over the years. If

it wasn’t for you and your trust in me and my staff, we could not have accomplished many of the successful results we have achieved. **Thank you!** ■



## **Approve Referendum 67 this November!**

More than 4,100 consumers in Washington file complaints with the Office of the Insurance Commissioner against insurance companies every year because legitimate claims have been unfairly denied or delayed. Under our current law, there is no penalty for insurance companies that do not deal honestly with consumers.

ment of legitimate claims.

If an insurance company unfairly denies a legitimate claim, your only recourse is to sue. But if you win, the only thing they have to pay is the amount of the original claim. Referendum 67 creates an incentive to treat legitimate claims fairly by allowing the court to assess penalties if an insurance company illegally denies or delays payment of a legitimate claim.

Referendum 67 would help to ensure that the insurance industry honor their commitments to treat all policyholders honestly by making it against the law to unreasonably delay or deny legitimate claims.

Referendum 67 covers claims related to homeowner’s insurance, auto insurance, long-term care insurance, property insurance and small business insurance. ■



[www.Approve67.org](http://www.Approve67.org)

Unfortunately, some bad companies abuse the system by intentionally delaying or denying pay-

## *The Ten Biggest Mistakes That Can Wreck Your Case*

I am very pleased to announce that I have recently published a new book entitled, “**The Ten Biggest Mistakes That Can Wreck Your Washington Accident Case.**” The book is intended to help accident victims who have been injured in Washington State. The book addresses various aspects of the insurance claims and civil litigation processes that are common in personal injury cases.

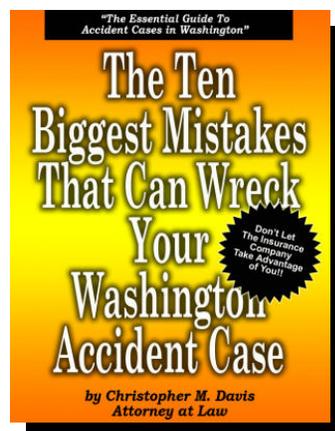
The book covers a wide array of accident claims topics such as, “What is a Personal Injury or Accident Case?”, “How Do You Determine the Value of a Personal Injury Case?”, and “Do you really need an attorney?” The book also details how to work

with a claims adjustor, medical treatment considerations, and the different avenues of the legal process such as mandatory arbitration. The book includes fifteen chapters spanning some 91 pages.

I’ve encountered too many situations where a person injured in an accident was taken advantage of by the insurance company. Many times the accident victim will make some serious mistakes before they seek legal counsel that can often damage the claim down the road.

I also wrote the book to provide accident victims with accurate information about the claims and legal process. For instance, the

book addresses common myths associated with accident claims and it offers an inside look at claims adjustor negotiation tactics.■



“LEARN WHY THE CAR INSURANCE COMPANIES HATE THIS BOOK.”

“A GREAT RESOURCE FOR ANY TYPE OF CLAIM.”

To request a **FREE** copy of the book go to:  
[www.WashingtonAccidentBook.com](http://www.WashingtonAccidentBook.com)

## *Davis Law Group Recent Settlements & Verdicts*

**\$5,000,000 Settlement.** 39 year-old woman receives spine fractures and traumatic brain injury after being T-boned and forced off roadway where she struck a tree head-on.

**\$500,000 Verdict.** 35 year-old woman receives non-surgical neck and back injuries after being rear-ended on Interstate 405 in Renton. Last offer before trial was \$50,000.

**\$487,550 Verdict.** 38 year old woman sustains non-surgical neck injury after being sideswiped by another vehicle on Interstate 90 near Cle Elum. Last offer before trial was \$25,000.

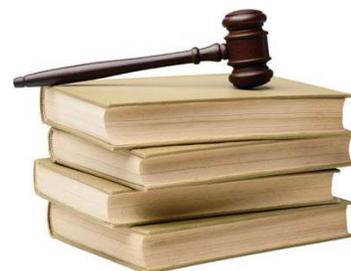
**\$471,440 Verdict.** A 24 year-old woman receives neck and back injuries when a truck cuts her off, causing her car to lose control and crash. Last offer before trial was \$125,000.

**\$454,000 Verdict.** 24 year-old woman receives non-surgical neck and back injuries in two automobile collisions occurring just three months apart. Allstate's last offer before trial is \$20,000.

**\$420,000 Settlement.** A seven (7) year old girl rides her bike directly in front of a moving vehicle going 20 mph. She sustains a traumatic brain injury

with hearing loss. The insurance companies argue that the young child was at fault and deny the claim. The settlement was for all of the insurance proceeds available under three separate policies.

**\$410,000 Verdict.** 38 year-old woman received non-surgical neck and back injuries after being rear-ended by a moving truck on Interstate 5 in Seattle. Last offer before lawsuit filed was \$38,000.■



To see other recent settlements and jury verdicts visit our website at [www.InjuryTrialLawyer.com](http://www.InjuryTrialLawyer.com)



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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



*Chris Davis and son, Jackson, at the US Capitol on July 4th 2007.*

### ***Did you know?***

There were nearly 6,420,000 auto accidents in the United States in 2005. The financial cost of these crashes is more than 230 Billion dollars. 2.9 million people were injured and 42,636 people killed. About 115 people die every day in vehicle crashes in the United States -- one death every 13 minutes.

## ***Expanding Into Seattle—And Moving In Bellevue***

**The Davis Law Group, P.S. is opening a new office in Seattle on October 1, 2007.**

Our new principal address will be: Davis Law Group, P.S., 2101 Fourth Ave., Ste. 630, Seattle, WA 98121 (corner of Fourth and

Blanchard just north of downtown Seattle). The main number is 206-727-4000.

We will still maintain an office in Bellevue. Our Bellevue office location will be: 10900 NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 900, Bellevue, WA

98004 425-451-1704.

Having an office in Seattle will allow us to better serve the needs of our clients and those cases that are in litigation. We will be 12 blocks away from the Seattle courthouse. ■

## ***Davis Interviewed on KIRO TV: Dog Mauling Case***

I was recently interviewed by KIRO TV concerning the recent dog mauling attack in Pierce County. Sue Ann Gorman was recently attacked by two pit bulls that broke into her home. The dogs were owned by neighbors. Gorman was viciously attacked after the dogs broke into her home through a sliding glass door while she was sleeping. Gorman believes the pit bulls were after her pet dogs. Gorman

was severely injured and described the attack as dogs "ripping off her skin." She must now undergo wound care and possible plastic surgery in the future.

KIRO TV contacted me as a legal expert on dog bite cases. I was asked about what happens to most dog bite cases. "Most of these cases are settled out of court by the insurance compa-

nies," I said. "Only rarely is a dog owner ever criminally prosecuted for an attack committed by the owner's dog." "Often times these cases, particularly those involving children as victims, can settle for amounts well into the six figures. The insurance companies usually do not like to see these cases go to trial." ■



*The site of DLG's new Seattle office—the Fourth & Blanchard Building.*



*Chris Davis interviewed on KIRO 7 News*