



Davis Law Digest

June 2013

Attorney Chris Davis and the team at Davis Law Group, P.S. are proud of our long-standing record of accomplishments. We are pleased to present this snapshot highlighting just a few of the recent verdicts and settlements we have obtained for our clients along with general descriptions of some of the cases that we are currently handling.



DAVIS LAW GROUP, P.S.

WA DOC Pays \$3.4 Million Dollars to Settle Failure to Supervise Case2

\$1 Million Dollar Injury Settlement in Medical Transport Negligence Case2

\$300,000 Settlement for Wrongful Death of Kirkland Bicycle Accident Victim2

\$300,000 Settlement in Asleep-At-The-Wheel Delivery Truck Accident2

\$350,000 Settlement In SeaTac Rear-end Accident 2

\$200,000 Settlement in Island Co. Car Accident3

\$200,000 Settlement for Pedestrian Accident in Safeway Parking Lot3

\$100,000 Policy Limit Settlement for Family of Wrongful Death Victim / Pedestrian Hit By Senior Driver3

\$150,000 Settlement for Victim of Semi-Truck Accident3

\$100,000 Policy Limit Settlement for Dog Attack Victim Bitten on the Face.....3

City of Seattle Pays \$75,000 Settlement for Bicycle Accident3

\$650,000 for Kirkland Drunk Driving / Dram Shop Case3

Family Members of Pedestrian Killed In SODO Retain Davis Law Group4

Victims of Washington State Bridge Collapse Retain Davis Law Group4

Fourteen-year-old Boy Injured in Boating Accident4

Chain Reaction I-5 Car Accident4

Shoreline Pedestrian Accident.....4

Girl Injured in Crosswalk on the Way to School....4

Teacher Injured by Distracted Driver4

Father Injured by Dog as He Saved Daughter4

60mph Head-on Collision4

Gig Harbor Dog Walker Hit in Pedestrian Accident4

Overturned Dump Truck Accident.....5

Wheelchair Hit in Crosswalk by TV News Van5

Auburn Bicycle Accident Victim Suffers Serious Injuries5

Highway 20 Drunk Driver / Texting While Driving Collision5

Everett Motorcycle Accident5

5-Vehicle Accident with Semi Truck5

Head-on Drunk Driving Collision in Seattle5

Rear-ended by a Semi Truck in Lakewood5

Lynnwood Highway 99 Rear-end Accident5

T-Bone Accident in Kent5

Pierce County Motorcycle Accident5

Renton Rear-end Collision5

Federal Way Skate Board Accident5

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[By Chris Davis](#)

No representation is made that the quality of legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.

Recent Settlements & Verdicts

At **Davis Law Group**, we take pride in the results that we to deliver for each of our clients. Below is only a partial list of some of our recent case results. Due to confidentiality clauses in some settlement agreements we cannot share detailed information about many of our cases.

WA DOC Pays \$3.4 Million Dollars to Settle Failure to Supervise Case

Davis Law Group recently settled a lawsuit against the State of Washington Department of Corrections (DOC), and convicted felon Virginia Christine Ramsey (Case No. 11-2-13537-9). The lawsuit alleged that the DOC failed to adequately monitor and supervise a dangerous felon under the State's community supervision. That felon ultimately caused a high speed car crash that killed Douglas Simmons and severely injured Holly Matson.

Specifically, the DOC failed to timely issue an arrest warrant for Ramsey after she violated her community supervision several months before the collision, and then failed to perform reasonable efforts to locate her even when an informant reported her whereabouts on multiple occasions. The DOC agreed to the \$3.4 million dollar settlement on the first day of trial, and just before the attorneys were to begin jury selection. A portion of the settlement will be used to help support Mr. Simmons' two surviving children. The settlement will also be used to compensate Ms. Mattson who continues to require medical treatment and additional support as a result of her injuries.

\$1 Million Dollar Injury Settlement in Medical Transport Negligence Case

Attorney Chris Davis successfully negotiated a \$1 million settlement agreement with Northwest Transport, a Puget Sound-area transportation company, on behalf of a client who suffered a traumatic brain injury (TBI) and other injuries from a dangerous fall after one of the company's employees failed to follow proper procedures for unloading patients.

The employee failed to properly operate the mechanical lift gate that is designed to safely lower special needs passengers from the vehicle. As a result of his negligence the victim, 81-year-old Labeebah Alim, fell from the vehicle and struck her head on the concrete and the employee fell on top of her, causing further injury.

"Simply forgetting to put the wheelchair ramp up when that is your job, day in and day out, is something I believe

is inexcusable," Davis said of the employee's negligence. The physical trauma from the brain injury was so severe that a piece Alim's skull had to be removed in order to reduce the swelling. She now relies on a feeding tube for food and medication and has difficulty speaking and swallowing and is constantly monitored by caregivers.

As part of the conditions of the settlement agreement, Northwest Transport formally admitted to wrongdoing.

"Upon further investigation into the company, we found out that the driver was not that experienced and that the driver did not undergo very much training regarding the unloading of passengers," Davis added.

The combination of inexperience and a lack of training ultimately led to an unfortunate accident that changed the victim's life forever, says Davis. The settlement will allow Alim's family to provide her with the medical attention and around-the-clock care that she deserves.

\$300,000 Settlement for Wrongful Death of Kirkland Bicycle Accident Victim

Our firm was retained by the family of a bicycle accident victim who died of injuries sustained when the distracted driver of a commercial vehicle struck him from behind. Although Washington wrongful death laws limited recovery to only economic damages, we were able to negotiate a \$300,000 settlement.

\$300,000 Settlement in Asleep-At-The-Wheel Delivery Truck Accident

A delivery truck driver fell asleep at the wheel while driving on Interstate 5 overturning the truck in the middle of the freeway. Our client crashed into the delivery truck and then collided with a cement barrier resulting in severe bodily injury. We were able to obtain a \$300,000 settlement on behalf of our client.

\$350,000 Settlement In SeaTac Rear-end Accident

Our client was the victim of a rear-end accident that happened in SeaTac while traffic was paused for a red light that had just turned green. Our client was a passenger in a Mercedes SUV. The at-fault driver was cited for speeding. The force of the accident burst the gas tank and caused more than \$40,000 in damage to the SUV and totaled the at-fault driver's vehicle. Our client sustained serious injuries to her spine which required a multi-level fusion and months of chiropractic treatment. Davis Law Group was able to negotiate and settle the case for \$350,000 for past medical, wage loss, pain & suffering

and future medical, which represented all available insurance limits.

\$200,000 Settlement in Island Co. Car Accident

Our client was the passenger in a vehicle that was hit head-on when the at-fault driver failed to negotiate a right-hand 90 degree turn and crossed the centerline. Our client suffered serious injuries, emotional trauma and lost wages. Although our client was already on permanent disability through SSD, we recovered a \$200,000 settlement.

\$200,000 Settlement for Pedestrian Accident in Safeway Parking Lot

Our client is an adult female struck by a vehicle as she exited a Safeway store. She suffered a broken leg and severe injuries which required surgery and hospitalization.

\$100,000 Policy Limit Settlement for Family of Wrongful Death Victim / Pedestrian Hit By Senior Driver

Our firm was retained by the family of a pedestrian who was struck and killed by an out-of-control truck driven by an 84-year-old driver. The family has received a \$100,000 policy limit settlement from the driver's insurance company.

\$150,000 Settlement for Victim of Semi-Truck Accident

Our client was driving a Ford Escort on Interstate 90 when a semi-truck driver neglected to properly check for traffic in the other lane before changing lanes--the semi-truck driver recklessly changed lanes and caused a violent collision with our client's vehicle. As a result of the collision our client suffered injuries and damages in excess of \$31,000. Our firm was able to settle the case for \$150,000.

\$100,000 Policy Limit Settlement for Dog Attack Victim Bitten on the Face

Our client was visiting a home where her husband was a remodeling contractor. The home owner's dog, a black and white English Springer Spaniel, bit her in the face causing several facial lacerations and tissue loss—her upper lip was torn off. She suffered permanent scarring and disfigurement.

Washington's Dog Bite Law imposes strict liability on the dog's owner for injuries inflicted by the animal on another personal. The relevant statute, RCW 16.08.040, states as follows:

The owner of any dog which shall bite any person while such person is in or on a public place or lawfully in or on a private place including the property of the owner of such dog, shall be liable for such damages as may be suffered by the person bitten, regardless of the former viciousness of such dog or the owner's knowledge of such viciousness.

Our firm was able to negotiate a \$100,000 policy limit settlement—the entire homeowners policy limit.

City of Seattle Pays \$75,000 Settlement for Bicycle Accident

The Burke-Gilman Trail has an unfinished portion between the intersections of NW 45th Street and 11th Ave NW and the intersection of 32nd Ave NW and NW 54th. The City of Seattle has known that hundreds of bicycle crashes have occurred at Shilshole Avenue N.W. under the Ballard Bridge since 1999 as a result of bicyclists attempting to ride across the railroad tracks. There have been numerous accidents, injury claims, lawsuits, studies, etc. of the site over the last decade. A story appeared in the Ballard News on June 27, 2001, entitled "Bicyclists Beware: This isn't the Groove You Want to Be In," describing bicycle crashes caused by the acute angle of the railroad tracks under the Ballard Bridge. In 2010, our client passed under the Ballard Bridge, the front wheel of his bicycle became lodged in one of the railroad tracks, and caused the plaintiff to catapult off his bike and land on the ground with extreme force. As a result of the crash, our client suffered severe bodily injuries including a severe right ankle/tibia fracture and also incurred damages. Davis Law Group filed suit in the case and was able to recover at \$75,000 settlement for our client.

\$650,000 for Kirkland Drunk Driving / Dram Shop Case

Our client was hit head-on by a driver that was over-served at a local tavern. The victim had a shattered collar bone, collapsed lung, 12 broken ribs, broken leg, broken knee cap, and multiple foot fractures. Our firm was able to negotiate a \$650,000 settlement.

Current Cases / Recent New Cases

Below is a partial list of some of recent cases in which **Davis Law Group** has been hired to protect the legal interests of accident victims and/or their surviving

families. Due to the stage of the case and/or investigation specific details cannot be shared in all cases.

Family Members of Pedestrian Killed In SODO Retain Davis Law Group

Davis Law Group, P.S. has been retained by the family of 69-year-old woman who was the victim of a fatal pedestrian collision on May 14, 2013 when she was crossing First Avenue South in Seattle near the Findley Street intersection. The woman was an employee of nearby The Essential Bakery Café which is across the street from Slim's Last Chance Chili Shack on First Avenue.

Davis Law Group is actively investigating the case and consulting with experts. The Seattle Police Department has also conducted an investigation. As part of its own investigation, **Davis Law Group** is focusing on the actions and conduct of an employee of Neudorfer Engineers, Inc. who was executing a left turn onto First Avenue South, when he struck the decedent as she crossed the street. The decedent was a pedestrian who legally had the right-of-way.

Victims of Washington State Bridge Collapse Retain Davis Law Group

Davis Law Group, P.S. has been retained by two of the three victims of the May 23, 2013 Interstate 5 bridge collapse over the Skagit River in Washington State. The firm is actively investigating the case and consulting with experts. The mission of **Davis Law Group** is to obtain justice for the victims by holding all responsible parties fully accountable.

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is still conducting its own investigation along with local and state authorities. As part of its own investigation, **Davis Law Group** is focusing on the actions and conduct of Mullen Trucking L.P. of Aldersyde, Alberta, Canada; Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT); and the pilot car driving company hired by Mullen to safely guide the oversized truck to its destination.

Fourteen-year-old Boy Injured in Boating Accident

Fourteen-year-old boy injured by boat propeller when the boat driver failed to avoid him. The boy suffered serious injuries including a broken femur, broken hip, broken shin bones, and his foot and part of his leg were sliced open. The boy's medical expenses exceeded \$225,000.

Chain Reaction I-5 Car Accident

Our client was the victim of a rear end collision on Interstate 5 near Olympia, WA which caused her to crash into the car in front of her. She suffered a broken collar bone, injuries to her right arm and facial injuries that included a broken tooth.

Shoreline Pedestrian Accident

Pedestrian crossing the intersection at the corner of Meridian and 200th in Shoreline was hit by a driver who was not wearing their corrective lenses while driving. Our client's medical bills have exceeded \$100,000.

Girl Injured in Crosswalk on the Way to School

Thirteen-year-old girl what struck b y a vehicle while crossing the street in a marked crosswalk on her way to school. She suffered a broken foot as well as soft tissue injuries to her foot and let.

Teacher Injured by Distracted Driver

Our client is a school teacher who was rear-ended on Interstate 5 by a 20-year-old driver who was distracted. The accident victim suffered multiple bulging discs.

Father Injured by Dog as He Saved Daughter

Our client is a Kent man who was trying to prevent an Akita from his attacking his daughter when the dog turned on him and bit him in the hand resulting in surgery and physical therapy. The victim has severe permanent nerve damage and loss of feeling in his hand.

60mph Head-on Collision

Our client was hit head-on by another vehicle on Highway 2 by an uninsured motorist. The victim suffers headaches, radiculopathy, herniated cervical discs, blurry vision, and other injuries.

Gig Harbor Dog Walker Hit in Pedestrian Accident

Our client was hit by a mini-van while walking his dogs. He suffered a mild traumatic brain injury as well as neck and back injuries.

Overturned Dump Truck Accident

Our client struck an overturned dump truck that had no flares or other warning signs. He suffered broken bones and a head injury. Medical bills are expected to exceed \$125,000.

Wheelchair Hit in Crosswalk by TV News Van

Our client was driving a motorized wheelchair in a crosswalk when she was hit by a van owned by a local TV station. She suffered serious injury to her elbow which required surgery.

Auburn Bicycle Accident Victim Suffers Serious Injuries

Adult woman was riding her bicycle on a sidewalk when the driver of an automobile exited a driveway without looking and struck the cyclist. Victim had a severe compound fracture of the leg requiring surgery pins, plates and rods.

Highway 20 Drunk Driver / Texting While Driving Collision

Our client was stopped at a light when he was rear ended by a drunk driver who was sending a text message on her phone. Our client's car was pushed into the intersection /oncoming traffic. Victim was knocked unconscious at the scene and suffers from mild traumatic brain injury and injuries to his back and neck.

Everett Motorcycle Accident

Our client was stopped on an off-ramp at a stoplight when he was rear-ended by a car. The victim required surgery for a fractured shoulder and could not work for more than two months.

5-Vehicle Accident with Semi Truck

Our client was in a vehicle that was rear-ended and propelled into a semi-truck. The pile-up ultimately involved 5 vehicles. Our client suffered traumatic brain injury and other soft-tissue injuries.

Head-on Drunk Driving Collision in Seattle

Our client was hit head-on by a drunk driver near the intersection of 15th and Howell in Seattle. The drunk driver had a blood alcohol level of .22. The victim suffered serious injuries to his neck and hip.

Rear-ended by a Semi Truck in Lakewood

Our client was in stand-still traffic in Lakewood when she was rear-ended by a semi-truck. After a hospital stay the victim still suffers with back injuries and nerve damage.

Lynnwood Highway 99 Rear-end Accident

Our client was rear-ended on Highway 99 in Lynnwood. His SUV was propelled into the rear of another SUV. The victim suffers from post-concussive syndrome and injuries to his neck, back and shoulder.

T-Bone Accident in Kent

A driver ran a red light and t-boned our client's vehicle. The victim suffered from cracked ribs, a broken sternum and other soft-tissue injuries.

Pierce County Motorcycle Accident

Our client was driving a motorcycle when the driver of a van caused a collision. The victim required surgery for bleeding on the brain, seven broken ribs, a fractured shoulder blade, broken collarbone, fractured check-bone, and other injuries.

Renton Rear-end Collision

Our client was rear-ended in Renton and suffers from cervical disc protrusion and lumbar protrusion as a result.

Federal Way Skate Board Accident

Our client was hit by a car while skate boarding toward his home after school--he was in a school zone. He suffers from a mild traumatic brain injury, a dislocated shoulder and serious contusions.

Attorneys Associating/Referring Cases to Davis Law Group

Davis Law Group regularly receives referrals and requests to associate on cases from attorneys who are located in and outside the State of Washington. Attorney Chris Davis frequently acts as a resource for other lawyers. He regularly spends his time providing advice about legal strategy to other lawyers across the country. Mr. Davis also acts as local counsel for cases filed or pursued by out of state lawyers in Washington State. He often participates as co-counsel with other local lawyers in many different serious accident cases, including those involving wrongful death. **Davis Law Group** is obligated to comply with Washington State's ethical rule about the division of fees. Please refer to Washington's fee sharing rule RPC 1.5(e).

Attorneys, do you need case referrals?

Davis Law Group frequently receives calls from potential clients whose needs are outside our practice areas. These cases include family law, estate planning, real estate law, minor injury/ low-damage personal injury claims, criminal law, traffic tickets, property damage-only cases, contract law, business law, workers compensation, etc. If you are interested in these types of cases please contact Mischelle Weedman-Davis, Director of Operations, to let us know that you would like to be on our referral list.

Legal Consumer Education: Washington Accident Law Books



In his years as an accident attorney, Chris Davis has seen injury victims make a number of mistakes *before* hiring a lawyer that can potentially harm their case and reduce their settlement value. Chris Davis has written seven legal books (each over

100+ pages in length) that are designed to help the average person understand Washington State injury law

and how to protect their legal rights after an accident. The books also dispel many of the common myths associated with personal injury cases, insurance claims and offers detailed information on how insurance adjusters manipulate claimants. Most importantly, these books translate complex legal and insurance jargon into plain English, providing readers with the opportunity to better understand the accident claims process. As a public service to the citizens of Washington State, each year **Davis Law Group** gives away thousands of copies of Davis' books.

- [The Ten Biggest Mistakes That Can Wreck Your Washington Accident Case](#)
- [Wrongful Death: The Essential Guide To Wrongful Death Law in Washington State](#)
- [When The Dog Bites: The Essential Guide to Dog Bite Claims in Washington](#)
- [Little Kids, Big Accidents: What Every Parent Should Know About Children And Accidents](#)
- [Washington Injury Law: A Reference Guide For Accident Victims](#)
- [Right of Way: Washington State Pedestrian Law](#)
- [Wheels of Justice: Washington State Bicycle Accident Law](#)

Complimentary Report For Injury Victims/Patients: How To Be Your Own Best Advocate

Davis Law Group seeks to assist our clients in making informed, thoughtful choices regarding their medical care after they have been injured in an accident. To that end we have created a report entitled **The Importance of Medical Evidence in Personal Injury Claims: Managing Your Medical Treatment after an Accident**. We give this report to all of our clients and potential clients. And it is available as a free download on our website. Doctors and other medical professionals are welcome to share this report with their patients to encourage them to follow doctor's orders / treatment plans. The report is available at:

http://www.injurytriallawyer.com/library/The_Importance_of_Medical_Evidence_In_Personal_Injury_Cases.pdf

Personal injury law with a personal touch.™

At **Davis Law Group, P.S.**, our mission is to provide the highest level of legal representation possible to the family members and victims of personal injury and wrongful death through our skilled advocacy, diligence, accessibility, experience and superior knowledge. Our goals are (1) to develop meaningful and productive relationships with our clients based on integrity, respect and concern for their individual and legal needs and circumstances, and (2) to achieve the best possible result in each of our clients' individual and unique case.

Attorney Christopher M. Davis, the founder of **Davis Law Group**, is a successful personal injury attorney practicing in Seattle, published author and advocate for the legal rights of injured persons. Davis is a true local--born, raised, and educated in the Seattle area. He lives in Seattle with his wife and children.

Chris Davis has spent more than 20 years attempting to “level the playing field” between accident victims and insurance companies. He is passionately devoted to advancing and perfecting case strategies, trial techniques and communication approaches on behalf of injured victims.



Chris Davis has been featured in *Attorney at Law Magazine*. Click the magazine picture to the left to read the entire feature article.

In pursuit of his mission to help accident victims, Mr. Davis has won numerous and notable jury verdicts against individuals insured by big insurance companies. He is recognized by his peers, professional organizations, legal publications and the news media as being a very creative and

accomplished attorney in the field of personal injury law. He is a frequently sought-after personality known for regularly appearing on television and radio news programs as a legal analyst / commentator or to discuss his most high-profile cases.

Christopher M. Davis
Attorney at Law

