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Winter 2014

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Reflections at the dawn of a New Year

On behalf of the law firm of Scott Baron and Associates, P.C., I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our loyal clients, friends, and neighbors, for their continued support and confidence in our firm. At Scott Baron and Associates, P.C., we are eternally thankful for the privilege of protecting each of our clients to the fullest extent of the law and assisting each of them with feeling at ease with our firm's personal approach and strategy in handling their cases. Your continued support and loyalty has helped us grow into what we are today. We will never forget "where we came from," much less "how we got here"!

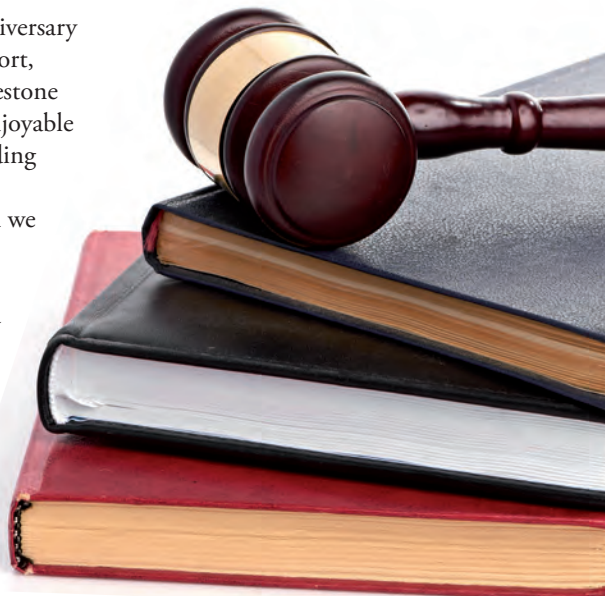
With the joy of the holidays fresh in our hearts and the New Year under way, I want to take a moment to reflect on this past year. As many of you know, like many neighbors, our office in Howard Beach, Queens suffered significant damage from Hurricane Sandy. With optimism and confidence, the law firm of Scott Baron and Associates, P.C. faced the devastation and committed itself to rebuilding. While rebuilding the entire first floor of the Howard Beach office, operations were temporarily moved to the office's second floor and to our other office, in Yonkers.

Armed with our philosophy of team effort and putting a team on every case to get the best results possible, the law firm of Scott Baron and Associates, P.C. banded together. After months of construction, the first floor of the Howard Beach office was entirely redone, with the space being more functional and filled with state-of-the-art technology. On June 24, 2013, during our re-grand opening, Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr. presented the law firm with a Proclamation in recognition of its grand re-opening following Hurricane Sandy and its continued dedication to advocating on behalf of New Yorkers.

As we look forward to celebrating our 20th Anniversary in 2014, I am thankful for your continued support, confidence, and friendship. Without it, this milestone would have been impossible to meet, and less enjoyable to keep. My team and I are committed to providing each of our clients and their cases with the close personal attention they have come to expect and we enjoy providing.

As we begin the New Year, I would like to take a moment to wish you and your family the very best. I hope that all of life's joys, successes, and contentments are with you in the New Year and for many years to come.

**Sincerely Yours,
Scott J. Baron, Esq.**



*If you need our services,
please contact us at...*

**1-866-WAS-HURT
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- Construction accidents
- Slip & fall
- Dog bites
- Job related injuries
- Lead poisoning
- Wrongful death

Hitting the slopes? Don't forget a helmet

Among the most popular of winter sports, skiing and snowboarding are also among the most dangerous. One of the most serious injuries for those hitting the slopes is Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).


TBI is caused by a blow to the head or a penetrating head injury. A TBI will disrupt the brain's normal functioning. Cases range from mild to moderate to severe and present symptoms such as being knocked unconscious, drowsiness, confusion, garbled speech, inability to walk, vomiting, or headache. Symptoms may come on right away or hours after the injury. Severe cases of TBI can result in death.

Luckily, there are two precautions that you can take to dramatically lower the chance of suffering a TBI on the slopes.

First, wear a helmet. The pros wear helmets, you should too. Wearing a helmet can decrease the risk of head injury by up to 50% and can mean the difference between a major injury and a minor one. When choosing a helmet for you or your child, please make sure it fits properly. For information on how to choose the right helmet and fit, check out www.lidsonkids.org.

Second, act as if you are not wearing a helmet. Skiing and boarding safely involves more than just equipment. Paying attention to your surroundings and others on the slopes is vitally important. Knowing your limitations and staying on slopes that you can safely handle is another part of staying safe.

We hope all you skiers and snowboarders have a fun and safe winter!



“You wouldn't play football without wearing a helmet – same rule applies for skiing. Plus helmets are way warmer than hats.”
Lindsey Vonn, Olympic Gold Medalist

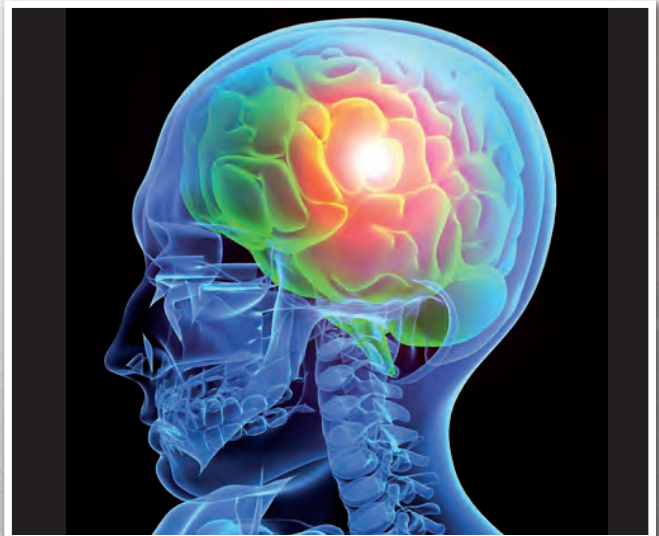
Is it a concussion?

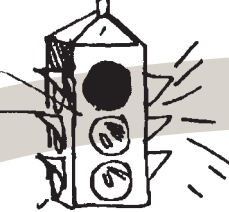
Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) is the leading cause of disability and death among those ages 1-44. While the severity of TBIs varies from mild to moderate to severe, every victim of TBI should be evaluated by a physician.

The most common type of TBI is a concussion. The most common symptoms of concussion are attention and memory problems, headaches, and fatigue. Other symptoms include dizziness, vomiting/nausea, and trouble balancing.

To find out if a patient has a concussion, a doctor will ask about these symptoms and evaluate the patient's alertness, attention, speech, memory, and reaction time. A CT Scan or MRI may also be ordered.

In most cases, the prescription is rest, both physical and cognitive. Generally, recovery times vary from a few days to a few months.





One third of fatal accidents caused by aggressive driving

This article provided by The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Are you an aggressive driver? Do you:

- Express Frustration. Taking out your frustrations on your fellow motorists can lead to violence or a crash.
- Fail to Pay Attention when Driving. Reading, eating, drinking or talking on the phone, can be a major cause of roadway crashes.
- Tailgate. This is a major cause of crashes that can result in serious deaths or injuries.
- Make Frequent Lane Changes. If you whip in and out of lanes to advance ahead, you can be a danger to other motorists.
- Run Red Lights. Do not enter an intersection on a yellow light. Remember flashing red lights should be treated as a stop sign.
- Speed. Going faster than the posted speed limit, being a "road racer" and going too fast for conditions are some examples of speeding.

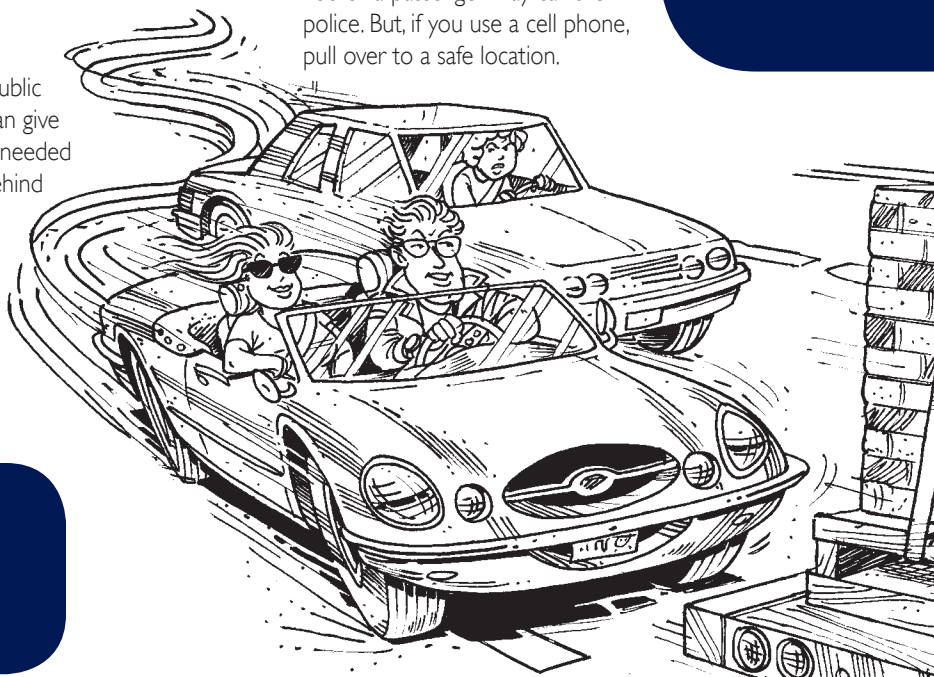
Life in the fast lane Plan ahead. Allow yourself extra time.

- Concentrate. Don't allow yourself to become distracted by talking on your cellular phone, eating, drinking or putting on makeup.
- Relax. Tune the radio to your favorite relaxing music. Music can calm your nerves and help you to enjoy your time in the car.
- Drive the posted speed limit. Fewer crashes occur when vehicles are travelling at or about the same speed.
- Identify alternate routes. Try mapping out an alternate route. Even if it looks longer on paper, you may find it is less congested.
- Use public transportation. Public transportation can give you some much-needed relief from life behind the wheel.
- Just be late. If all else fails, just be late.

When confronted with aggressive drivers ...

- Get out of the way. First and foremost make every attempt to get out of their way.
- Put your pride aside. Do not challenge them by speeding up or attempting to hold-your-own in your travel lane.
- Avoid eye contact. Eye contact can sometimes enrage an aggressive driver.
- Gestures. Ignore gestures and refuse to return them.
- Report serious aggressive driving. You or a passenger may call the police. But, if you use a cell phone, pull over to a safe location.

Aggressive driving is a serious problem on our roadways. To help you stay safe on your daily commute, The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has provided the following information.



Have you or a loved one been injured in an accident? Call our office today to set up a free consultation. A qualified attorney can help to make sure your rights are protected.



What to bring to an initial consultation

When someone comes to our office for an initial consultation, we want to do everything we can to help determine what his or her best course of action is. To do this, we need information. The items on the following list will help us determine whether or not there is a case, how strong it is, and what sort of costs will be involved in pursuing it. If you are meeting with us for an initial consultation, we like to see the following:

1. Any reports filed about the incident, from your employer, law enforcement, workers' compensation, or any other applicable source.
2. Any related medical records, medical bills, physician reports, test results, prognoses, etc.
3. Estimated future medical costs.
4. Medical leave and lost wages records from your employer.
5. Copies of any correspondence or forms received related to the case.
6. If there was property damage, photographic and video evidence of the damage.
7. Policy information and any claims information for workers' compensation or insurance.
8. A timeline of important dates including doctor's visits and treatments.
9. A written narrative about the accident, including all the details you can remember.

Remember, in most cases the initial consultation is free. Contact our office to schedule an appointment if you or a loved one has been involved in an accident.

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Stranded on the side of the road

The road can be a dangerous place. Accidents and breakdowns will happen. That's why drivers should be prepared with a roadside emergency kit.

By preparing an emergency kit and keeping it in the vehicle, a driver will make a dangerous situation (being stuck on the side of the road) much safer.

A little preparation goes a long way in an emergency.

Plan ahead now so you're ready for whatever the road throws at you.

Some things that could be included in an emergency kit are:

- Jumper cables
- Extra engine oil
- Bottled water and snacks
- Emergency flares
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Ice scraper
- Spare tire, jack, and lug wrench
- Tire inflator
- Blanket, hat, and gloves
- Basic tool kit
- Rags
- Shovel
- First aid kit