



October 2010

College Football and Injury Claims: Believe it or not, they are similar

To me, fall means college football. This year, living in Fort Worth, it's hard not to root for TCU's football team. Interestingly, there is a direct parallel between the journey in college football and the process of personal injury cases.

The Right Players

TCU's success starts with their recruiting. Similar to how Coach Patterson has to search for the right players, personal injury victims have to search for the right lawyer. Trying to find the right attorney for you can be a very stressful and frustrating experience. There are a lot of attorneys out there—and all of them tell you they are the best. But for injury victims, it is important to not just choose the closest attorney to you (mistake!), but choose one who best fits you and your particular legal matter. It makes sense to choose a Board Certified Lawyer.

The Work Must Be Done

So TCU has its new, star recruits and it's looking towards an undefeated season, what now? Now it's time for practice and the hard work. While my work, fortunately, does not occur in the blistering summer heat, developing a case usually involves a lot of hard work. After I am hired, I immediately begin to research the facts involved. A thorough accident investigation is very important. While the accident investigation and litigation process can take a long time, similar to two-a-days, doing the hard work always pays off in the end.

Defeating the Opponent

While the Horned Frogs have begun their season with a great start, they still have many tough opponents to face in the future. Just as TCU will always have an opponent, a personal injury case will always have a worthy adversary: the insurance company. The problem (or one of the problems) with insurance companies is that they try to make their profit by paying the absolute least amount of money out on every single claim, regardless of the claim's merit. We guarantee the at fault party's insurance company will 1) try and pay our clients as little money as possible and 2) delay the claim out for as long as it can. But if worked properly, the insurance companies can be defeated.

The Final Results

So after the long grueling season, TCU hopes it will end up in the BCS championship game (or at least a BCS bowl game). While not nearly as exciting as a Bowl Game, an injury lawsuit will either be settled to the client's satisfaction or tried before a jury. The process can be long, frustrating and demanding, but finally in the end, with the right lawyer, your personal injury case should resolve with positive results. Just like the TCU football team will not reap the benefits if it has a bad season, injury attorneys do not get paid if a case ends poorly. That's motivation!

So if you ever find yourself in an accident and don't know what to do, think about the TCU Horned Frogs. If your personal injury case turns out anything like their season, I'm projecting a big win!



My daughter, Turner, her friend, and one of our Interns, Ashley Iovine, at the TCU opener in the Cowboys Stadium. Ashley is the co-captain of TCU's Showgirls.

TADD Update:

Anderson Law Firm Sponsors Another High School Contest to End Teen Distracted Driving

Each week, it seems, a new study comes out that supports what we all know: Texting and driving is a very dangerous phenomenon. Here at my firm, we see the results of distracted driving firsthand. Back in February, I announced start of the **Teens Against Distracted Driving (TADD)** campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of texting while driving. In exchange for signing a pledge to not text and drive, we gave local high school students an orange bracelet with **1 PLDG 2 NT TXT N DRV** on it. The bracelet was meant to serve as a reminder to never use cell phones while driving. Haltom High School won by obtaining pledges to not text and drive from 89.3% of their student body.

We are proud to announce another version of our contest, which will run during the month of October. Similar to our last contest, the Student Council that obtains pledges from the high-

est percentage of their student body during October will be given a \$500 donation from me to use at their discretion.

The participating schools this time are: Haltom, North Side, Keller Central, South Hills, Colleyville Heritage, and Richland. While only one school will be declared an official winner, I believe everyone is a winner who participates—as any attention to this dangerous but growing phenomenon is worth the effort. It only takes a second of looking at your phone while driving to cause a potentially fatal wreck.

You can follow the contest at TADDpledgecount.com.



From My Case Files:

Bicycle Rider Protects Self by Purchasing Proper Coverage

In September, I resolved a very serious injury case which serves as a great example of what EVERYONE needs to do to protect themselves by purchasing the right kind of insurance. My client is a small business owner that carried a large uninsured motorist policy. He knew that if an accident caused by someone else occurred and he was seriously injured, he would need compensation to pay his hospital bills as he would have no other source of income. **He was aware that many people on the road have no liability insurance whatsoever.**

So here's the story: My client is an athlete. He competes in triathlons and spends a lot of time training on the road, either running or riding his bike. One day in 2009, he was riding his bicycle in preparation for an upcoming triathlon. A pickup truck was turning across the road and ran right into him. My client, who did absolutely nothing wrong, ended up with a broken wrist, two fractured ribs and fracture in one of his vertebrae in his spine. He was out of work for several months as he tried to recover from his two surgeries. As a small business owner, no work meant no income. Ultimately, he recovered and was able to return to work and is now even back competing in triathlons.

After months of hard work, we were able to successfully resolve his case and he received compensation for his medical bills, lost



wages and extreme pain and suffering for the time period that it took him to recover from his serious injuries. In the end, my client was very happy with the settlement. **Thankfully, he thought ahead to protect his family and bought the right kind of insurance.** He was sure glad he did so in the end.

Halloween Alert:

Here are a few important safety tips to remember this Halloween:

- ◆ NO open flames on your porch (i.e., in a jack-o-lantern). Costumes worn by trick-or-treaters can catch fire. Also, don't use long, draping, billowy fabrics in children's costumes. This creates a tripping hazard as well.
- ◆ Don't forget to use reflective tape to trim or decorate costumes so cars will see your trick-or-treater.
- ◆ Carry flashlights so you can see where you're going. Make sure costumes don't restrict visibility either.
- ◆ If you're going to give out candy, make sure there are no obstacles on your walkway or in your yard that could trip up a child.
- ◆ Check any decorative lighting for damage, and don't overload extension cords.

Avoid a Ticket: Display Front License Plates

I recently discovered that there is a state law that you must display a license plate on the front bumper of your car.

Despite this law, some cars are sold in the state of Texas without a front license plate holder. Unfortunately, I bought one of those cars this year. When I received my plates in the mail, I then realized that there was no place to put a front license plate. Being a lawyer, I should have looked into the law, but I just assumed that the car dealership would not have sold me a car that was not in compliance with state law. Anyway, I set the front license plate aside and continued driving my car.

A police officer in Chico, Texas apparently was well aware of the law and was very happy to stop me as I was driving through his town. Fortunately, I only received a warning after answering several questions of what I was doing in his town (I was driving through after I had gone to meet a victim of drunk driving in Brownwood earlier in the day). Upon request, the dealership where I bought my car immediately installed a bracket on the

front bumper and I then put a license plate on to comply with the law.

Recently, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals upheld the law as it related to a 2006 drug arrest in Lubbock. In that case, a drug dealer was pulled over for his lack of front license plate on his Chevy Impala.

The stop resulted in the police finding a half-pound of cocaine in his van. He is now serving a 60-year prison sentence. I bet he regrets not putting a license plate on the front bumper!



HERE'S WHAT WE DO

The Anderson Law Firm represents those seriously injured as a result of another person's negligence. It's all we do. If you, a family member or a friend have questions on an injury claim, just give us a call.

Car, Truck and Motorcycle Wrecks * Daycare Injuries * Construction Accidents * On the Job Injuries * Dog Attacks * Uninsured Motorist Claims * Drunk Driving Victims * Dangerous Drugs * Unsafe Products * Distracted Driving

Questions? Give us a call or visit maafirm.com

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1310 W. El Paso
Fort Worth, TX 76102

3102 Maple Avenue, Suite 400
Dallas, TX 75201

Fort Worth: 817-294-1900
Dallas: 214-327-8000
Toll Free: 877-294-1115

Visit our website:
www.maafirm.com

ACCIDENT
INJURY LAW

INSIDE this month's newsletter:

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Warning Signs: Here Is What YOU Sent In

Thanks for sending me your favorite humorous warning signs. Here are a few of my personal favorites out of the ones I received!

