

MAXPOWER LAW

ROAD & RUBBER



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Year in Review for Max Meyers Law



It's been nice to feel like most everything has returned to "normal" after the pandemic. A friend of mine who is an economist believes it takes about 5 years for the economic consequences of the pandemic to play out and for us to get back to normalcy. We aren't there yet as we all see when we go to the grocery store or pay our bills. We are entering year five so let's hope prices start to ease soon and we feel less strain on our budgets.

We also have a new republican sweep of the branches of the federal government. For Republicans it's time to show what they can do for the country. Many on the West side of Washington state are worried Trump may end the U.S. While many on the East side of the state feel Trump may finally be able to make significant changes to improve our lives. Only time will tell. However, I am confident whatever happens the USA will endure and continue on well into the future despite whomever sits in the Presidency.

For us at MML the process of handling vehicle collision claims has returned to normal. The courts are fully back open and operating normally again. Zoom video conferencing is the norm for many Court related proceedings. Jury trials are mostly back in person, but Zoom has added flexibility that has been needed for a long time.

Insurance companies are back to normal, doing everything they can to not pay reasonable amounts to injury victims. I have seen a bit of an uptick in early quick settlement offers that kill cases that should have never been settled. Please call me before accepting any settlement offer. The call is free and I'm happy to give you options before signing away all your legal rights.

As usual our amazing readers have recommended us to their friends and family. **THANK YOU for your continued faith in us.** Your trust in recommending your friends and family to us is a source of great pride for our Team!

I wish you all the best in this Holiday Season and in the coming New Year!

-Max

MML Team's Favorite Christmas Time Charities

The Holidays are a great time to think about those less fortunate than yourself. All of us here at Max Meyers Law have been truly blessed, where all our needs are met and we don't have to worry about putting food on the table, let alone making the holidays special for our family.

Here are a few of our MML Team's favorite charities:

FORGOTTEN CHILDREN'S FUND

The Forgotten Children's Fund serves families with children who would not receive gifts on Christmas. There's nothing worse than a child with no present to open on Christmas! FCF selects families who are generally not receiving anything from any other charities. Each child receives a winter coat and at least three presents - some lucky kids get a bicycle, while the family also receives food staples and warm blankets. There are no paid staff at FCF, it is a volunteer run organization. You can donate or volunteer to wrap presents.

www.forgottenchildrensfund.org

TOYS FOR TOTS

Toys for Tots is a well-known charity run by the U.S. Marine Corps. New toy gifts are provided to children ages 0-14 based on family income need. In years past, Toys for Tots have provided gifts and stocking stuffers to over 29,000 kids in King County alone. There are many ways to help. You can volunteer, donate a new toy, or even host a toy collection event.

www.toysfortots.org

UNION GOSPEL MISSION

Seattle's Union Gospel Mission helps the homeless in Seattle with meals, hosting a shelter, and warm blankets. Every time any of us go to Seattle, the challenges the homeless population face are there to be seen by anyone who takes the time to look. The Union Gospel Mission is one of the places that provide warm meals daily.

www.ugm.org

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

Ronald McDonald House helps families with sick children find comfort and support when they need it the most. There are several programs offered including programs like the Ronald McDonald Houses, Ronald McDonald Family Rooms, and Ronald McDonald Care Mobiles. These programs provide housing that is near a hospitalized child, the expense of a family staying together in another city, and even provide access to basic medical and dental care.

www.rmhc.org

There are so many other great charities, probably right in your own neighborhood, who would love for you to reach out and help. Giving to others is truly the way to embrace the Holiday season.

All of us here at Max Meyers Law wish everyone a

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!!

December Events

Dec 1 - Jan 19 Zoo Lights

WildLanterns features "large-scale animal and nature scape lanterns representing wild places from around the globe" including bugs, lions, pandas, parrots, and dragons. Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle.

Visit <https://www.zoo.org/wildlanterns> for details.

Dec 5 - 8 Victorian Christmas Market

A Victorian Country Christmas has 420 booths with vendors in Victorian costumes selling art, jewelry, decorations, clothing, and toys at Washington State Fair Events Center in Puyallup. Free parking, and free for children age 11 and younger.

Visit www.avictoriancountrychristmas.com/information for details.

Dec 8 Jingle Bell Run - 8am

Wear a costume or tie on bells for the morning Jingle Bell Run 12K, 5K, 1 mile, or kids' run at Gas Works Park in Seattle. Walkers may bring dogs or strollers.

Visit <https://events.arthritis.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=1686> for details.

Dec 20 - 21 Winter Beer Fest

A ticket to Winter Beer Fest includes a glass and 8 four-ounce samples from your choice of 40 Washington breweries, with entertainment and food for sale at Victory Hall at The Boxyard in Seattle. Ages 21+ event. No pets.

Visit <https://www.washingtonbrewersguild.org/2024winterbeerfest/> for details.



Should I Accept a Quick Offer Right After An Accident?

If the insurance company for the negligent driver immediately offers you an injury settlement, you may be tempted to accept it. After all, you're most likely going through financial distress, especially if you have expensive medical bills for injuries and aren't receiving a paycheck because you're off work recovering. However, if you say yes to this initial offer, you're likely making a HUGE mistake.

WHAT ARE THE DANGERS OF ACCEPTING THE FIRST OFFER?

Understanding the intent behind an insurer's initial settlement helps you to not be taken advantage of and lose your rights to a full accident investigation and complete negotiations. Here are the reasons we recommend you wait.

1. A QUICK SETTLEMENT BENEFITS THE INSURANCE COMPANY

The insurance company is a business with a goal to make a profit. One way it achieves this is to extend a settlement soon after the collision. It's almost always far less than what you might be entitled to under Washington law.

An insurance adjuster may try to settle your claim quickly—maybe even before you get out of the hospital—because they recognize you have a strong claim. The adjuster may offer you a lowball offer before you have a chance to consult with our legal team in hopes you'll believe they're treating you fairly. However, if you want to receive the full value

of your claim, consult with us before agreeing to any insurer requests or settling your case.



2. YOU DON'T KNOW THE FULL EXTENT OF YOUR INJURIES

Immediately after your accident, there's no way of determining exactly how severe your injuries are and whether you'll make a full recovery. **Don't settle your case until you reach your maximum medical improvement (MMI).** This is the stage of your medical treatment where you have fully recovered, or the doctor can give you a final prognosis of your condition and the medical treatments you could need throughout your life. In addition, you won't know if you can return to work until you reach this stage of your recovery.

Why is waiting for an MMI determination important to your settlement? You may be entitled to future damages. Our legal team can't determine the future compensation you

should receive until we know your final prognosis.

3. YOUR SETTLEMENT WILL BE FINAL

Once you reach a settlement with the insurance company, that's it. You won't be able to reopen your claim to renegotiate it if you discover your injuries are more serious than you thought, or if you suffered additional medical issues related to the crash.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO SETTLE YOUR CLAIM?

Generally, accident injury cases last several months to a year or more. Unfortunately, no lawyer can give you an exact answer on how long before you receive compensation because every case is unique. Many factors - such as disputes raised by the insurer, when you reach MMI, or if your case has to proceed to litigation—all impact how quickly we can reach a fair settlement.

5 WAYS TO INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF GETTING THE COMPENSATION YOU DESERVE AFTER A WASHINGTON ACCIDENT

You must have strong evidence to prove your case and present a compelling argument to convince the insurance company to settle your claim for what it's worth. Here are five steps we recommend you take to strengthen your claim:

1. Get the medical care you need. A physician should examine you within 72 hours even if

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Shelly's RECIPE CORNER

Roasted Autumn Veggies with Bacon and Feta

Looking for a side dish for your holiday party? Give this one a try. Simply Delicious!

Ingredients:

For the Roasted Vegetables:

1 lb Brussels sprouts, halved
1 small butternut squash, peeled and cubed
4 slices bacon, chopped
2 tablespoons olive oil
Salt and pepper, to taste

1 teaspoon garlic powder
1 teaspoon dried thyme

For the Toppings:

1/2 cup dried cranberries
1/2 cup feta cheese, crumbled
1 tablespoon balsamic glaze (optional, for drizzling)



Directions:

Preheat your oven to 400°F (200°C).

In a large mixing bowl, combine the halved Brussels sprouts and cubed butternut squash. Add the chopped bacon, olive oil, salt, pepper, garlic powder, and dried thyme. Toss everything together until the vegetables are well-coated.

Spread the vegetable and bacon mixture evenly on a large baking sheet. Roast in the preheated oven for 25-30 minutes, stirring

halfway through, until the Brussels sprouts are crispy and the butternut squash is tender.

Once the vegetables are roasted, remove the baking sheet from the oven and sprinkle the dried cranberries and crumbled feta cheese over the roasted vegetables. Toss gently to combine.

Drizzle with balsamic glaze if desired and serve warm as a delicious side dish or a light main course.



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Should I Accept a Quick Offer Right After An Accident?

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you don't believe you were hurt. Follow up with all your doctor's recommendations for treating your injuries and attend every appointment. Maintain detailed files regarding all treatments, related expenses, specialist visits, and other vital information about your injuries.

2. Report the accident. Then, after the police have assessed the scene, order a copy of their report. It often includes valuable information that helps our team prove elements of wrongdoing and negligence for the truck crash.

3. Gather evidence. While you're not always able to do this, every bit helps. This includes photos and videos of the collision scene, your injuries, vehicle damage, weather and road conditions, skid marks, and so on. Also, save all medical bills and records, vehicle repair estimates, and pay stubs.

4. Talk to witnesses. Again, if you can, speak to bystanders and obtain their contact information so our legal team can interview them and ask for a written statement while the crash is fresh in their minds.



5. Hire an attorney. At Max Meyers Law, we take action as soon as you agree to work

with us. We take over all communications with the insurance company, help gather essential evidence to prove your claim, fully evaluate your economic and non-economic damages, and power through negotiations so the first offer isn't the only one on the table.

When it comes to negotiating a settlement for your injuries after an accident, not just any law firm will do. Our entire team takes pride in pursuing the results you deserve. We're your partner through the whole process, giving you valuable insight and keeping you informed so you never have to worry about how the case is progressing.

So when the insurance company calls you, tell them to call us instead. Call us today at **425.276.7804**.



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