



JULY
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Justice Delayed but Not Denied!

After 8-Year Wait, \$5 Million Verdict Vindicates Client

In late February 2014, our client John was preparing to take a shower at his two-bedroom condominium. He turned the handle on the shower valve to its usual position, tested the water with his hand, and stepped into his shower as he had done every day for so many years. At one point, extremely hot water hit John's back causing him to recoil, slip, and fall. He struck his head and was knocked unconscious. The next memory John has is waking up in Mass General Hospital's intensive care burn unit with third-degree burns on his back, feet, and toes. What happened between February 2014 and May 2022 is the story of John's courage, perseverance, and determination to keep on smiling while in pursuit of justice.

John's condominium was one of 116 units in a complex. The hot water servicing all the condominium units was centrally controlled in a locked boiler room in the basement of the building. The only people who had access to the boiler room were the staff of a large management company hired by the condominium association. This management company was

responsible, by contract, to maintain the boiler equipment and all the common areas of the condominium complex. The water coming out of John's shower soon after his scalding was measured to be dramatically above legal limits as required by the Massachusetts Building Code. John came to us for help after being released from the hospital, and we filed a lawsuit on his behalf. The lawsuit alleged that the management company failed to maintain the hot water equipment regularly and properly. We knew that the management company would fight John vigorously, and we needed to make it a fair fight for John.

Over the next seven years, John's case moved through the legal system at a snail's pace. During this time, the burns to John's feet caused his toes to permanently constrict and curl downward, making stable walking extremely difficult and very painful. John is now required to use a cane even for the shortest of walks. To add insult to injury, John has had to endure the frustrations of a normally slow legal system, pandemic-

necessitated postponements, and a management company that vehemently denied any wrongdoing and repeatedly suggested that it was John's own fault that he was scalded. John did not budge, flinch, complain, or even consider the paltry settlement offer made to him early on in the litigation. John wanted his day in court, and he got it.

This past May, John got to tell his side of the story in court to a jury. John slowly walked to the witness stand, struggled to step up into the witness chair, looked into the eyes of the jurors, and told them just how much his life has changed due to his disfiguring and painful injuries. During the trial, the jurors also got to hear more than they wanted to about hot water plumbing, mixing valves, and the maintenance procedures that never happened. It was a battle each day! At the end of nine days of testimony, the jury took only three hours to conclude that justice would be served. The jury found the management company negligent

Continued on Pg. 3 ...

Prove You Weren't at Fault

With These 3 Tips for Motorcyclists

There is no such thing as a “fender bender” or “minor” accident for motorcycle riders. In a collision with a car or truck, there is a 98% chance of injury to the rider and a 45% chance of serious injury. In my experience, most motorcyclists are extremely safe on the road since, in many cases, their lives depend on it.



Furthermore, many non-riders are quick to blame motorcycle riders for any accident they're involved in. The police and the insurance companies are often quick to put the blame on the rider as well.

If you're a motorcycle rider and get into an accident, it's important to know what you need to do to prove that you aren't at fault for the collision. Below, you will find three tips to help prove you weren't at fault.

Get your story in the police report.

The importance of what a police officer writes in his or her crash report cannot be overstated. The police officer may not have seen the crash, but they will take statements from witnesses. Oftentimes, the police officer's own opinion or bias will slip into the report. If possible, make sure your version of the incident is reported.

See if there is surveillance video of the accident.

Many of today's roadways are within the view of a security camera. In Boston, there are very few streets where you are outside the view of either a public or private entities' surveillance video cameras. When you hire an experienced motorcycle accident lawyer, one of the first things they do is secure any video footage of the area where the accident occurred. When you have video proof, there is very little left to debate regarding who is at fault. Also, make sure you take pictures of your damaged motorcycle after the accident.

Don't apologize.

Whenever people get into an accident, they're quick to apologize, which can actually hurt your case. If you say “sorry” after an accident, the driver's insurance company might use your apology against you when assessing who was at fault for the accident. Be as polite as possible, but do not apologize.

Boston Is Committed

WITH VISION ZERO BOSTON

Through the Vision Zero Boston initiative, the city of Boston has committed to providing resources to eliminate severe and deadly traffic crashes in the city by 2030. A large part of this effort involves making Boston's streets safer for pedestrians and cyclists. As part of the initiative, the city collects and publishes data on serious and fatal crashes in Boston. There were 335 bicycle accidents on average in Boston from 2017 to 2021, with a peak of 423 bike crashes in 2018.

The city of Boston is implementing many changes to make the streets safer for cyclists. This includes a proposed statewide 3-foot passing law and the creation of better bike lanes. The default speed limit for the entire city is 25 mph unless otherwise noted. The city launched a smartphone app called Boston's Safest Driver that provides feedback on five metrics: rapid acceleration, harsh braking, sharp turns, at-risk speeding, and phone distractions.

The city also published a Street Safety Toolkit with information on common safety concerns for bikers, walkers, and

Review of the Month



“My mom and sister were in a bad car accident. Len Spada and his team were absolutely incredible. They took care of everything. All you have to do is heal and get better from your injuries. They are compassionate, understanding, and willing to go the extra mile to get their clients what they deserve. They made us feel like family. I would highly recommend Spada Law Group if you are injured in anyway. Thank you Len, Robyn, and team for helping us through this ordeal.”

-Richard B.

ed to Creating Safer Streets

drivers and information on safer turns and safer speeds. The Toolkit is extremely interesting and offers deep and innovative insight into bicyclist, pedestrian, and driver safety in Boston.

In regards to the better bike lanes, the city currently has 20 projects in the works to promote safety for cyclists in Boston. Boston's extensive network of conventional bike lanes dedicates about 5 feet of space in the street for cyclists. The addition of more bike lanes in the city has led to more people biking to work, to the T, to run errands, and for recreation. Because many people don't feel safe in traditional bike lanes, Boston is creating more bike routes with separation between drivers and bicyclists. The city is also working to calm traffic on local streets to improve safety.

As drivers, we can make the city safer for cyclists by driving within the speed limit and stopping at all yellow and red lights. If a pedestrian is hit by a driver traveling at 30 mph, there is a 47% chance they'll be seriously injured or killed. That percentage drops to 12% if the driver is traveling at 25 mph.

If you were injured in a bicycle or e-bike accident, we can work to protect your legal rights. Give us a call today to schedule a free consultation.



... continued from Cover

and the cause of John's scalding. They awarded him \$5 million in compensation. But equally important, the jury told John they believed him, which, to an honest man like John, is justice delivered.

Each morning during the trial, I would pick John up for the 45-minute ride to the courthouse. During that time, we would talk about the upcoming testimony expected that day and life in general. John never complained about the pain he was in or the difficulties he faced. He was pleasant, interested in my life and family, how I was coping, and whether we'd still be "friends" after the trial. He also exhibited none of the

animosity that I held for the management company executives involved in the case. He had a kind heart that wasn't interested in "beating the enemy." He was singularly interested in getting the truth out. John taught me a lot about staying calm through a storm and playing the hand you're dealt. He also taught me that taking a firm stand for principles does not require a cold heart or a mean spirit. It takes courage and patience. Both of which John has in spades. I am a better man for having the privilege of knowing John.

- Len Spada

Sweet and Savory Baby Back Ribs

Ribs are a great addition to any Fourth of July gathering or family cookout. Below is our recipe for the best rib rub along with directions.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup dark brown sugar
- 1/2 cup paprika
- 2 tbsp salt
- 1 tbsp black pepper
- 1 tbsp chili powder
- 1 tbsp cayenne powder
- 1 tbsp garlic powder
- 1 tbsp onion powder
- 3 lbs baby back pork ribs
- Barbecue sauce of your choice

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat grill to 300 F, with the coals or flames only under one half of the grill.
2. Combine seasoning in a small jar and mix together.
3. Carefully remove the membrane from the bone side of the ribs.
4. Rub the seasoning mixture on both sides of the ribs.
5. Place the ribs meat-side down on a baking sheet and cover with foil.
6. Place the baking sheet on the grill and let cook for up to 2 hours.
7. Once the ribs reach an internal temperature of 180 degrees, they are ready to eat.
8. Remove foil and apply barbecue sauce with a brush and cook for 5 more minutes.
9. Let the meat rest for a few minutes before cutting them apart.
10. Enjoy!

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INSIDE

Justice Delayed but Not Denied!

3 Tips for Motorcyclists to Prove No Fault

How Boston Is Making Streets Safer for Cyclists

Testimonial

This Month's Recipe: Mouthwatering Grilled Ribs

Are Household Robots Within Our Reach?



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Forget the Flying Cars

For decades, science fiction has been obsessed with the concept of a household robot that can ease the burdens of our daily lives. We now have smart speakers, televisions, and vacuums, but we're still a long way off from robots that can understand and cater to our every whim. But technology advances all the time. Could it put you closer to your own Rosie from "The Jetsons"?

Movies have given us high expectations that are currently impossible to replicate. There's a reason why almost all household robots on the market only perform one task, like mowing the lawn. Even these products require highly advanced technology to "visualize" a space and competently complete their job. It gets a lot more complicated when a robot needs the versatility to respond

to a host of commands or the dexterity to retrieve and pick up any object.

And that's before we even consider security concerns. Virtual assistants like Alexa or Siri make many people's everyday lives easier. At the same time, they allow corporations to compile our data and are at risk of being hacked. No one wants strangers listening to their private conversations, and they want a hacked robot to allow a stranger into their home even less.

Still, household robots are slowly becoming more capable. In 2000, Honda created ASIMO, a humanoid robot that can recognize faces, sounds, gestures, and objects. But crucially, it did not perform any tasks beyond interaction with humans, and it was never available for sale. Another robot,

Where Are the Robots?

Buddy, was designed to provide human companionship to isolated people. But it still won't make you dinner or wash your laundry.

In September 2021, Amazon unveiled Astro, its home-monitoring robot that retails for \$999 and is still only available by invitation. It's much smaller than a human and patrols your home for security threats. It also offers music, a digital assistant, and a touch screen, but not much else.

It will most likely be years before we see a domestic robot similar to those on television — and even longer until they are available at affordable prices. Though you'll still be doing your own dishes for some time, there is a silver lining: You won't need to worry about a robot uprising anytime soon.