

V&B ATTORNEYS

Board Certified Injury & Accident Lawyers

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The Ultimate Secret to Success?

*"I find it fascinating that most people plan their vacations with better care than they plan their lives."
Jim Rohn - American entrepreneur, author, and motivational speaker*

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If you knew there was one thing that would virtually guarantee you success in your personal and professional life, would you do it?

What if I told you there is one thing above all others you could do immediately, would cost you nothing, and would significantly improve your chances of success?

It is something that virtually ALL truly successful people do. It is required before you will truly be successful. It will cost you nothing.

What is it? Setting specific, measurable goals and **writing down those goals.**

There are some good scientific studies that tend to prove that people who make specific goals and write them down are more successful than those who don't.

For example, one study looked at Harvard MBAs. Harvard is very competitive, and only admits about 15% of applicants. Students who get in are typically standouts academically and in their industry. The study found that the average Harvard MBA made about \$135,000.00 in starting salary, but that some made much more than the others in the long run.

In fact, 3% of the Harvard graduates made TEN TIMES as much as the other 97% combined. Why?

Those 3% had clear, written goals and plans to accomplish them.

With the new year beginning, what better time is there to really think through your short term, mid-term, and long-term life goals, to think about your plan to accomplish them, and to write them down.

I wish you the best of luck in 2010 and look forward to working with our many clients to successfully conclude their legal matters

Sincerely,

Brian

"I'd like to thank the staff at Vujasinovic & Beckcom for the professionalism and courtesy they displayed on my case. I highly recommend this law office. The way Vuk presented my case was iron clad and the result was better than I could have ever hoped for. V&B are amazing. Thank you all."

Kurt R., Houston, Texas

Breaking News

We want to let everyone know that we've upgraded our various consumer websites to better serve our clients, colleagues, and friends.

Please take a moment to visit the **newest version of our websites:**

www.VBAttorneys.com

www.MaritimeAccidentAttorney.com

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Our hope is that this new format will provide the

latest, best, and most up-to-date information to the thousands of people who visit the websites every month.

Also, if you have any comments, or suggestions, please email me at Brian@vbattorneys.com.

Free Book Giveaway

We had so many people request the free book Talent is Overrated that I ordered more copies.

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First come, first served!

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We Get Questions

Q: I have been injured in a car wreck - how soon should I hire an attorney?

A: If you or a loved one have been injured in a car wreck, you most likely need to contact an attorney as soon as possible. After the accident, insurance companies are already working on the claim so you most likely need to have someone looking out for you.

If you were involved in a more serious accident with significant injuries, you are probably more concerned about the injuries and hospital visits than making sure that evidence in a wreck is not destroyed or removed. Attorneys who have experience with these type of cases know what to do and what needs to be done to make sure that crucial evidence does not disappear or get destroyed.

If you are not sure if you need an attorney or not, it will not hurt to go ahead and call an attorney and ask some questions.

Remember: The insurance company has several attorneys looking out for the insurance company - why not find out if you need an attorney looking out for YOU!

Creative New Year's Resolution Ideas for 2010

It's that time of year again to make your New Year's resolutions! The most common New Year's resolutions involve getting out of debt and losing weight. While these are great goals for the upcoming year, the list of possible resolutions is endless. Below are some 2010 New Year's resolution ideas for you and your family.

- **Learn something new** You are never too old or too young to learn a new skill. Consider learning a new language or becoming a computer expert. If you like taking pictures, take a photography class.
- **Eat healthier** The good news is that small changes can lead to a healthier diet. For example, forgo the soda and choose water or 100% juice drinks. Limit your fast food meals and choose foods made with whole grain.
- **Establish a family ritual** Eating dinner together regularly is a great habit to get into. Having "family day" once a week or month is also a nice ritual.
- **Reconnect with old friends** With today's hectic schedules, it is easy to fall out of touch with friends. Make a point to call, email, text or write your friends on a regular basis. Just a note to say "hello" helps you stay connected.
- **Volunteer for a good cause** Volunteering is a tremendous way to help your community and feel like you have contributed to something meaningful. Look into becoming a volunteer at a local church, charity, nursing home, children's organization or animal shelter.

Be realistic when setting your New Year's resolutions, but also challenge yourself. Let 2010 be a year of new beginnings!



One Million Maclaren Strollers Recalled

If you own a Maclaren stroller, you need to be aware of a massive recall that affects about one million strollers nationwide. According to a press release by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), there have been twelve reports of fingertip amputations caused by these strollers.

There are a total of fifteen reports of children placing their fingers in the stroller's hinge mechanism, which is what led to the fingertip amputations. The problem occurred when the stroller was being unfolded or opened.

All of the Maclaren single and double umbrella strollers are affected by this voluntary recall. The models that are included are the Volo, Triumph, Quest Sport, Quest Mod, Techno XT, TechnoXLR, Twin Triumph, Twin Techno and Easy Traveller. These strollers were sold at Babies "R" Us, Target and other retail locations throughout the country from 1999 through November 2009.



Maclaren USA states on its website that it is "providing free of charge to all affected consumers and retailers a kit to cover the stroller's hinge mechanism." The CPSC has urged consumers to stop using these recalled strollers and to contact Maclaren for this free repair kit.

For more information about the recall, visit <http://recall.maclaren.us/> or call 877-688-2326 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM eastern standard time.

Five Ways to Avoid Becoming a Victim of Bad Faith Insurance Tactics



It is no secret that insurance companies commonly employ tactics to deny and delay claims. The question is – how can you avoid being taken advantage of by the insurance company?

The American Association of Justice published a report that looked into the insurance industry's bad faith practices. These tactics included delaying payments, discriminating by credit score and confusing consumers, to name a few.

If you are thinking about filing a claim with your insurance company, there are some things you can do to avoid becoming a victim of insurance bad faith tactics. These actions include:

1. **Know what is covered** Read your policy thoroughly so that you understand what exactly is covered. Your policy will also go over how to appeal a denied claim.
2. **Avoid making mistakes when filling out forms** Be careful when you complete insurance forms because the insurance company may use a simple error as a reason to deny your coverage.
3. **Hold off on cashing your premium refund check** If the insurer decides to rescind your coverage, you will receive a refund check for the premiums that you paid. Cashing the check shows that you have accepted the insurance company's decision.
4. **Keep records of all bills and correspondence with the insurance company** You should put everything down in writing and keep copies.
5. **Consult a lawyer** Sometimes insurance companies just won't budge. You may want to talk with an attorney who will be able to help you.

By being prepared and taking appropriate action steps, you can avoid becoming a victim of insurance bad faith tactics.

Three Head-on Collisions

Who have you bumped into today?

USA Today's Craig Wilson reports that he recently had three head-on crashes, as in body-to-body contact, while he was walking down the street.

He's talking about people who were literally running while looking down to check their cell phones, BlackBerry's or whatever they were holding in the palms of their hands. All were oblivious to the fact that people were walking toward them.

First, Wilson excused himself even though it wasn't his fault. The other guy just kept going. After that, he said nothing as did the people who ran into him.

Safety experts say you can get hurt if you don't watch where you are going.

New Safety Gear for Your Car

You can have sophisticated pieces of safety equipment installed in your car that are like those in luxury cars like Infiniti and Mercedes-Benz, according to a report in Money.

Rear- and Side-View Cameras. In the Infiniti EX35, they show video of areas outside the vehicle that may be hard to see. It's on a screen in the dash or a cutout on the rear view mirror. Very useful on SUVs and trucks: \$500.

Blind-Spot Warning. In the Audi Q7, it warns you with a light in or near the side mirrors. Some flash if you activate a turn signal while a car is there. Widely available on luxury cars: \$500.

Lane Departure Warning. As on the BMW 750, it lets you know with a light or sound if you are about to cross a lane marker without using a turn signal. The Infiniti EX35 crossover also brakes slightly on one side to nudge the car back into line. It comes on many luxury models: \$500.

Driver Alertness Monitoring. On Volvo and Mercedes-Benz cars, it watches steering habits for signs of fatigue. If driving is erratic, the feature alerts you, with an alarm and a light, that you should take a break. This system is not available for other cars.

With all these, safety depends on the driver's response to the signals.

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iPhone App Unlocks Car Door, Starts the Car

A new iPhone application will enable users to lock, unlock and remotely start their cars with the phone rather than the car's key fob. The application includes a receiver that is installed in the car.

In order to use the app, the car just has to have electric windows and locks. It doesn't require previous installation of a remote start feature. One big advantage: If you lock yourself out of the car with the keys inside, or if you lose your keys, you can still get into the car and start it.



The Viper SmartStart is the latest example of automotive electronics functions migrating into Apple iPhone and other smartphones.

Firm Communication Policy

Our goal when we are working on our clients' cases is obtain the best possible result as quickly as possible. When we are working on your case, our lawyers do not accept unscheduled phone calls or respond to emails. We believe this allows our lawyers to be much more productive and provide fast and effective legal services to our clients. Remember, if you are a client of the firm, you can always call our firm and schedule an appointment to talk with a lawyer at any time about your legal matter. We will call you back within 24-48 hours unless it is not possible to do so. We also will respond to your emails in the same time frame. We have found that focusing on our clients' cases helps us to provide the best services possible.