



RENDA & VOYNICK

Personal Injury Attorneys



ESTABLISHED 1986

CELEBRATING
30 YEARS
of service to the community

Renda & Voynick selected as Personal Injury Super Lawyers for 11th year in a row!

This year the law firm of Renda & Voynick, personal injury attorneys, is celebrating its 30th year of practice.

Renda & Voynick was founded in August 1986 and since that time has continued to represent victims injured by the wrongful acts of others. Year after year, the firm has achieved exceptional results for their clients and is widely respected by judges, lawyers, and insurance companies as a law firm that obtains multimillion-dollar recoveries for clients.

Both Mr. Voynick and Mr. Renda are specialists and have been certified by the New Jersey Supreme Court as Civil Trial Attorneys continuously since 1987. They continue to provide compassionate and aggressive representation for individuals who have suffered serious personal injuries.

Do lawsuits only benefit the people who bring them?

Most people believe that lawsuits only serve to benefit the person who brings the suit and that the only benefit is the money that the person receives for their injuries. This false, preconceived notion has been widely spread by the insurance industry as well as large corporations, both of which seek to severely restrict or bar these claims.

Lawsuits actually serve a much greater purpose than simply obtaining money for the injured party. In the area of product liability, lawsuits do much more. When a lawsuit is brought as a result of a defective and dangerous product, many times the end result is that the product is made safer, thereby avoiding further injury to thousands of others from the same dangerous product.

Our firm handled two product liability cases that resulted in making our country a safer place. In one case, an infant suffocated in her crib and was found by her mother the following morning. The crib, which was sold here in America, was made overseas and was not in compliance with the safety standards that our country requires. The lawsuit was settled, allowing the family to be able to purchase another home and thereby remove them from the scene of the tragedy. It also served to change the way in which the importers of cribs now do business. The lawsuit resulted in fewer defective cribs being sold, thereby saving the lives of many infants.

In another case, our firm filed suit when a perforated rubber bungee strap snapped, causing our client to lose an eye. The company that manufactured and distributed these straps with holes in them was sued and the case settled. Since that time, rubber bungee straps now are sold without holes. The photograph at right shows the strap that was distributed and sold to the general public before our lawsuit (top) and the strap that is now sold (bottom).

These are just two examples of how lawsuits improve our society and make it safer by preventing others from being injured or killed because of dangerous products.

We urge you to check the Consumer Product Safety Commission to determine if any products you intend to buy are dangerous prior to making the purchase. You can reach their website at www.cpsc.gov.

**The New Jersey Supreme Court has neither reviewed nor approved this article.*



**SPECIALIZING IN
PERSONAL INJURY AND
WRONGFUL DEATH CASES**

- All types of motor vehicle accidents
- Nursing home accidents
- Workplace accidents
- Medical malpractice
- Falls caused by unsafe conditions
- Unsafe products and drugs
- Scars, burns, dog bites
- Brain damage and head injuries
- Inadequate premises security
- Fires, inadequate smoke detection
- Motorcycle accidents

2016

Renda & Voynick
John S. Voynick, Jr.
Andrew J. Renda, Jr.

**Certified by the Supreme
Court of New Jersey as
Civil Trial Attorneys**
**Members of the New Jersey
and Florida Bars**

Canfield Office Park
912 Pompton Avenue, Suite B-2
Cedar Grove, NJ 07009
973-890-1040
FAX: 973-890-9030

Website:

www.injurylawyersnewjersey.com

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

24/7 contact:

973-890-1040

We take pride in the quality of our legal work.

CONSUMER WATCH: DATA BREACH

Companies collect a lot of information from consumers, from names and addresses to Social Security numbers, birthdays, and employment information. When criminals steal information from databases, consumers are at high risk for identity theft. Unfortunately, data breaches are becoming more problematic, as more transactions are online and information is stored electronically. Even in-store transactions are vulnerable to hackers. Organizations such as Target, Home Depot, and Anthem Health have all experienced data breaches that have left customers vulnerable.

Here are a few tips from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to help keep your data safe and to protect your identity:

- ➔ **Monitor accounts for unauthorized charges.** Review accounts online weekly. At the least, examine the monthly statement for suspicious charges.
- ➔ **Alert the bank or card provider immediately if fraud is suspected.** Call your bank or credit provider if you see a suspicious purchase on your debit or charge.
- ➔ **Follow up with the bank or card provider and keep records.** Consumers should write down the dates on which they make follow-up calls and keep them in a file with any written or electronic correspondence.
- ➔ **Be aware of phishing.** This is when a scammer contacts a consumer by email or phone and asks them to verify account information. Banks and credit companies never ask for account information through email. If you receive this type of email, contact your bank or card provider and report it. Don't follow a link in an email to a website; navigate to the site yourself. If you receive a call from a company you associate with asking to verify personal or account information, hang up and call the published customer service number.

The role of a personal representative in a wrongful death lawsuit

When families lose a loved one in an accident and bring a wrongful death lawsuit, a personal representative is appointed to act in the best interest of anyone who might have an interest or benefit in such action. When someone dies, anything that they owned of value becomes part of their estate. The estate will pay the decedent's debts, though it's possible that the estate is valued at less than the sum of its debts, and collect any money owed to the deceased, which includes money from a wrongful death lawsuit.

If your family is considering a wrongful death lawsuit, you will have to appoint a personal representative who will choose an attorney, communicate with the attorney and opposing counsel, handle the paperwork for the case, and make all major decisions regarding settlement or proceeding to trial. An executor, spouse, or next of kin (or someone appointed by a spouse or next of kin) is typically chosen to fulfill the role of a personal representative. It is not uncommon for overwhelmed relatives to hire an administrative professional to help with the case.

If you are considering filing a wrongful death lawsuit, contact our office to discuss your family's legal options.



Crosswalks and kids

Crossing the street as an adult and as a child is a different experience. Children can't accurately judge speed and distance, making crossing the street at a busy intersection—even one with a crosswalk—particularly dangerous. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that more than 22 percent of children between five and nine years of age who were killed in traffic crashes were pedestrians.

Summer is the time when kids are more frequently playing outside, near roads. Please take some extra time to teach your kids how to safely walk on sidewalks and cross streets, and watch out for kids at play as you drive.

Tips from Safekids.org:

- Talk to your kids about how to be safe while walking. It's always best to walk on sidewalks or paths and cross at street corners using traffic signals and crosswalks.
- Teach kids at an early age to put down their devices and then look left, right, and left again when crossing the street.
- Children under 10 should cross the street with an adult. Every child is different, but developmentally, it can be hard for kids to judge speed and distance of cars until age 10.
- Remind kids to make eye contact with drivers before crossing the street and to watch out for cars that are turning or backing up.
- When driving, be especially alert in residential neighborhoods and school zones, and be on the lookout for bikers, walkers, or runners who may be distracted or may step into the street unexpectedly.

Protect a loved one from nursing home abuse

Elder abuse comes in many forms and, regardless of reputation, can happen in any nursing or assisted-living facility. According to the National Center on Elder Abuse, "Elder abuse is a term referring to any knowing, intentional, or negligent act by a caregiver, or any other person, that causes harm or a serious risk of harm to a vulnerable adult." Medical negligence would include falls, chronic bedsores, and medication errors.

Elder abuse can be physical, emotional, or sexual and includes exploitation, neglect, and abandonment. Abuse can come from family members, professionals, or complete strangers who seek out vulnerable targets to exploit. It is not clear how widespread elder abuse is because many seniors don't report abuse.

When a parent is in a nursing home, it can be easy to assume a change in behavior, hygiene, or weight—or even an occasional fall—is to be expected. But these are also characteristics of abuse and routine negligence.

Signs of elder abuse and nursing home negligence:



- Physical signs such as bruises, broken bones, abrasions, or burns could be caused by physical abuse or neglect.
- Bruising around the breasts or genitals could indicate sexual abuse.
- Bedsores, unmet medical and hygiene needs, failure to take medicine regularly, infections, dehydration, and weight loss may result from neglectful or negligent care.
- A sudden change in financial situation, including changes in legal documents and large gifts, could be a result of exploitation. Likewise, suddenly misplacing jewelry, watches, and electronics may be indications of theft.
- Withdrawal from normal activities, changes in behavior or alertness, depression, and strained caregiver relations can be a result of emotional abuse.

Call our office to speak with an attorney immediately if you suspect that a loved one is being abused or neglected in a nursing home.

Recall on Lands' End children's pajamas and robes

The company has issued a recall, as the pajamas and robes fail to meet federal flammability standards for children's sleepwear, posing a risk of burn injuries to children. Visit the site for all styles and colors affected. Stop using the pajamas and contact the company for a refund.

Contact: (800) 300-7487, email customercare@landsend.com, online at landsend.com.



3 common birth injuries

The labor and delivery unit is a very busy and, fortunately, usually a happy place; however, there are several common birth injuries that can be the result of negligent medical care that new parents should be aware of:

1. **Brachial plexus injuries (BPI)**—The brachial plexus is a group of nerves that control movement and sensation in the shoulders, arms, and hands. During vaginal delivery, the nerves can be damaged if the baby's shoulders become lodged or impacted by the mother's pubic bone, especially when excessive force is used to deliver the baby.

2. **Fractures**—A newborn's bone structure is made to handle the stress of birth, but on occasion babies do suffer broken bones during birth. This can be a result of medical staff not acting quickly to a breech birth, allowing a labor to go on for too long without intervening, or using forceps and vacuums to extract the newborn.

3. **Cerebral palsy**—Cerebral palsy is used to describe a number of conditions that result in movement and motor skills disorders due to muscle spasms and weakness. It may also be characterized by cognitive disabilities and by epilepsy. Cerebral palsy can result from reduced oxygen to the brain during birth from trauma or umbilical cord compression.

If your child suffered a severe birth injury due to the negligence of medical professionals, please contact an attorney immediately.

RENDA & VOYNICK OBTAINS SUBSTANTIAL RECOVERIES FOR CLIENTS

Renda & Voynick has obtained additional recoveries on behalf of our clients since our last newsletter.

An insurance carrier paid \$1.035 million to settle the personal injury claims of a 45-year-old single mother who was involved in a motor vehicle accident. She sustained severe and disabling injuries to her neck and back, which necessitated cervical spinal fusion surgery and lumbar fusion surgery requiring hardware, including screws and rods. She had a significant future economic loss, which we developed through an occupational and rehabilitation expert.

In another case, Renda & Voynick recovered \$1 million for a client who was injured when a vehicle crossed over a double yellow line and struck the school bus she was operating in a head-on collision. She sustained multiple injuries, including a comminuted fracture of her right leg, which necessitated external fixation surgery of the right knee followed by open reduction and internal fixation surgery to remove the external fixator and apply hardware, including screws and a large plate; a fracture of the right ankle; multiple rib fractures; and fractures in her left hand. After recovering the \$250,000 primary policy limit of the tortfeasor, we recovered an additional \$750,000 from the tortfeasor's excess insurance carrier. *(continued below)*



Thanks for the referrals!

Thanks to all of you who have recommended our firm to your relatives, friends, and neighbors. We appreciate your vote of confidence and pledge to care for these "VIPs" as well as we care for you.

RENDA & VOYNICK

Counsellors At Law

Canfield Office Park
912 Pompton Avenue, Suite B-2
Cedar Grove, NJ 07009

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SUBSTANTIAL RECOVERIES FOR CLIENTS

(continued from above)

Renda & Voynick recovered the sum of \$650,000 on behalf of a client who was injured by a tractor-trailer, knocking him to the ground. The client sustained multiple injuries to his shoulders, neck, and back, which necessitated surgeries for each shoulder and ultimately required shoulder replacement surgery. Although the client had preexisting conditions, they were relatively asymptomatic at the time of the accident. In the opinion of the medical expert witness, the preexisting conditions were materially aggravated by the accident.

Renda & Voynick also recovered \$335,000 for a client who was injured in a rear-end chain collision accident. Following the provision of conservative care, her orthopedist initially performed shoulder surgery, which did not resolve her complaints. Thereafter, she underwent left shoulder replacement surgery. The accident resulted in the exacerbation of previously asymptomatic underlying conditions, which necessitated the two surgeries.

RENDA & VOYNICK

*provide compassionate and aggressive
representation for individuals
who have suffered serious
personal injuries.*