



WINTER 2012

Brought to you by
Renda & Voynick

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

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REND & VOYNICK

Personal Injury Attorneys

REND & VOYNICK
Celebrating

25 YEARS

of service to the community

This year, the law firm of **Renda & Voynick**, personal injury attorneys, is celebrating its 25th anniversary in Cedar Grove. **Andy Renda**, a former resident of Cedar Grove who now lives in Roseland, and **Jack Voynick**, a resident of Upper Montclair, formed their partnership in 1986. They met in high school at St. Benedict's Prep in Newark, where they played basketball together. After law school, they worked for separate law firms, defending major insurance companies and Fortune 500 companies, which gave them invaluable knowledge as to how personal injury cases are evaluated and defended by the other side. It also instilled their desire to represent the "Davids" against the corporate "Goliaths" of the world. "Representing the 'little guy' is extremely satisfying," Renda said.

Renda & Voynick has achieved numerous seven-figure verdicts and settlements on behalf of injured clients, including a \$5 million settlement, a \$3 million recovery, a \$2.85 million settlement, a \$1.84 million recovery, and a \$1.5 million jury verdict. The pair tried a wrongful death case together in May in which they obtained a jury verdict of \$593,750 on behalf of the estate of a young man who was killed in an automobile accident.

"At a big firm, your case gets handed off to a paralegal or associate," Voynick said. "At our firm, your case will be handled by a certified civil trial attorney with 30 years of experience."

Both attorneys have been included on the list of personal injury "Super Lawyers" for six consecutive years since the list's inception in 2005 in *New Jersey Monthly* magazine, the selection criteria having been set forth at www.superlawyers.com.

Each attorney has been certified by the New Jersey Supreme Court as a civil trial attorney for more than 25 years. Additionally, Renda and Voynick are members of the invitation-only



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We take pride in the quality of our legal work.

Know the signs of elder abuse

Elder abuse comes in many forms and happens regardless of gender, income level, or ethnicity. 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."

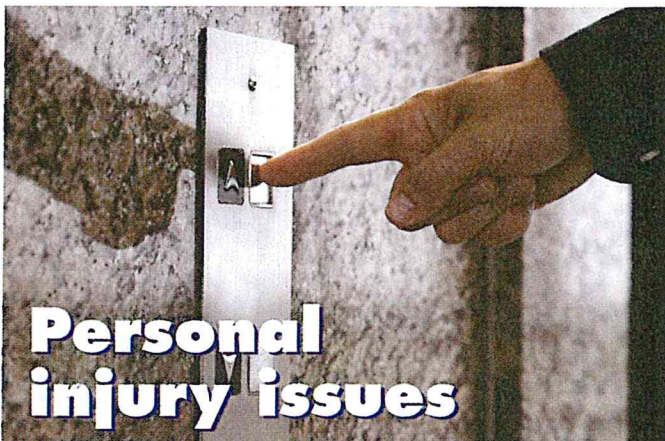
It takes the form of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse and includes exploitation, neglect, and abandonment. Abuse can come from family members, trusted professionals, or complete strangers who seek out vulnerable targets to exploit. It is not clear how widespread elder abuse is, because many seniors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



If you are a senior in an abusive situation or suspect someone else is being abused at home or in a care facility, call our office.

Signs of elder abuse:

- ◆ 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, dehydration, and weight loss may result from neglect.
- ◆ Sudden change in financial situation, including changes in legal documents and large gifts, could be a result of exploitation.
- ◆ Withdrawal from normal activities, changes in behavior or alertness, depression, and strained caregiver relations can be caused by emotional abuse.



Personal injury issues

Our practice can help referral clients obtain justice after personal injuries.

When innocent persons suffer serious injury from property owners' negligence, attorneys familiar with premises liability can help victims obtain compensation for medical bills, lost wages, pain and suffering, and other damages.

An experienced lawyer can evaluate an incident, communicate with property owners, negotiate with insurers, locate experts to testify on a plaintiff's behalf, if necessary, and present the case at trial.

An elevator attack

An apartment-building tenant entering an elevator was shot by a mugger four times. He sustained one wound to his head. When he sued, his attorney claimed the building's owner was aware that locks on doors were constantly broken. Although the owner claimed broken locks were irrelevant since the assailant followed the plaintiff into the building, the parties settled on the trial's third day.

Make safe memories

Getting a bike as a holiday gift is a memory that many share. When it comes time to purchase a bike, keep safety in mind by choosing a bike that fits a child—not a bike that they will grow into. Before going shopping, measure a child's inseam to help determine what size bike they will need. Unlike adult bikes, children's bike sizes are measured in wheel diameter.

Here are a few tips for choosing a safe bike:

Fit: A child should be able to straddle a bike flat-footed and boost themselves onto the seat with only a slight lean. A 12-inch wheel diameter is common for 2- to 4-year-olds, and a 16-inch wheel diameter is common for 5- to 8-year-olds.

Brakes: A child's hands are not strong or large enough for hand breaks. Just because an older child may fit a frame doesn't mean their hands are strong enough to safely use the brakes. For younger riders, coaster brakes are a better choice.

Style: From mountain bikes to good old banana seats, bike style is important, but don't let it be a determining factor. The bike needs to fit well and be easy to operate, especially for those learning to balance, steer, and stop.

Training wheels: Smaller bikes are usually equipped with training wheels, but you may have to buy some. Confidence is an important element when learning to ride a bike, and training wheels are good confidence builders.

Safety: Don't forget a bike helmet and elbow and knee pads!

Distracted teen drivers? *There's an app for that!*

Inexperience and overconfidence behind the wheel are common worries among parents of new drivers. Recently, distracted driving—namely through texting—has joined the list. Rightfully so. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, about 15 people die every day in the United States because of accidents caused by texting while driving.

Here are a few apps and devices to put the brakes on distracted driving:

Drivesafe.ly Pro

Reads texts and e-mails aloud in real time and is hands-free. Compatible with most smartphone platforms.

Key2SafeDriving

This device works with single or multiple phones and restricts phone use when the car is running, reroutes calls to voicemail, and sends automated replies to incoming texts. It also sends an alert to parents if a teen tries to bypass the system. Compatible with most smartphone platforms.

PhoneGuard 360

Blocks texting when the phone is in motion and prevents the driver from surfing the web or reading e-mails. Parents can also set a maximum speed limit and are notified if the phone goes over the limit. Works with Android and Blackberry platforms.

TextArrest

Disables texting and e-mail on smartphones that are traveling more than 5 mph. A passenger override button is available, and emergency override can be selected, allowing the device full functionality, but it will be reported on the account dashboard. Compatible with Android.



When is it safe to turn the car seat to a forward- facing position?

Six months, one year, two years.... The rules change quickly when it comes to child safety. It wasn't that long ago that the American Association of Pediatrics (AAP) advised that children remain in the rear-facing position for one year.

In March 2011, the AAP extended its recommendation to two years or until the child is no longer in the safe height and weight range for the seat. The Highway Traffic Safety Administration is similarly recommending that children remain rear facing until they reach the top height or weight limit allowed by the car seat's manufacturer.

CON GAMES AND SCAMS

Con artists are rarely violent. Once the con artist has gained your "confidence," he/she will use it to get your money.

Some of the consumer con games to be aware of are:

Home repair—Offers of free estimates and inspections.

Debt consolidation—Offers with high interest rates.

Medical fraud—Never buy "miracle cures."

If you feel uneasy about an offer or someone, trust your instincts. Check out the company or person by asking for references and ask to see their state licenses. Check with your local Better Business Bureau.



If the offer seems like it is "too good to be true," it probably is.

SIGNS OF FRAUD

- Must pay to win or must pay now
- Must decide now
- Pressure you for a credit card number
- They instruct you not to tell anyone
- Tell you that the initial investment will be well worth it

JURY DUTY SCAM ALERT!

The phone rings, you pick it up, and the caller identifies himself as an officer of the court. He tells you that you have failed to report for jury duty and that a warrant is out for your arrest. You say you never received a notice. To clear it up, the caller then says he'll need some information for "verification purposes"—your birth date, social security number, maybe even a credit card number. This is when you should hang up the phone. It's a scam.

The judicial system does not contact people by telephone and ask for personal information such as your date of birth, social security number, or credit card numbers. If you receive one of these phone calls, do not provide any personal or confidential information to these individuals.

To read more about this scam, visit www.fbi.gov and type "jury scam" in the search box.

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**CALL US. YOU'RE GOING
TO FEEL A WHOLE LOT
BETTER ABOUT THINGS.**

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The information included in this newsletter is not intended as a substitute for professional legal advice. For your specific situation, please consult the appropriate legal professional.

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American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA), of which Voynick is an officer. Renda is a trustee of the Essex County Bar Association, of which Voynick is a former trustee. Voynick was named the 2010 Civil Trial Attorney of the Year in Essex County. Renda is a member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum for achieving a trial verdict in excess of \$1 million.

In addition to his many professional associations, Voynick volunteers his time and serves as vice-chair of Wynona's House, a center that serves abused children in Essex County. He has been involved with the organization for many years.

Renda has also volunteered his time to various community and civic organizations. He recently served as the honorary chairman of the West Essex Foundation for Education golf outing, which raised money to enhance educational programs in the West Essex Regional School District.

Renda and Voynick welcome any inquiries or questions in the area of personal injury. Initial consultations always are free. There is no fee without recovery.

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

PRODUCT RECALL UPDATE

Check Toro snowblower model number

Before you break out the snowblower this season, make sure that it wasn't a part of April's Toro recall. If you bought a Toro snowblower between September 2009 and March 2011, you may have a defective unit.

Recall: Toro Power Clear Snowblowers in the U.S. and Canada

Model Number 38588 with Serial Numbers 310000001 to 310999999 and 311000001 to 311003576, or Model Number 38589 with Serial Numbers 310000001 to 310999999 and 311000001 to 311999999

Reason: Carburetor leak that could catch fire if exposed to ignition source, causing fire or burns.

Action: Consumers with a defective snowblower should stop using the product and call Toro at 877-738-4440 for a free repair.

Circo Child Booster Seats

Recall reason: The booster seat's restraint buckle can open unexpectedly, allowing a child to fall from the chair and be injured. An initial recall was made in August of 2009 of 43,000 products but was recently extended to 375,000 units. These seats are sold exclusively at Target stores.

Products recalled: All Circo Child Booster Seats manufactured between January 2005 and June 2009.

Action: Stop using immediately and return to Target for a full refund. For additional information, contact Target at (800) 440-0680, Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. CT, or visit the firm's Web site at www.target.com.