

New Texting Ban - continued

Despite my occasional flagrant violation of this not-yet-law, I believe it is long overdue. *The Oregonian* reports that as many as 147 car crashes that were directly attributable to texting while driving occurred in the tri-county area in 2007. My guess is that number is low. The accidents involving drivers who were texting - and didn't admit it - is probably much higher.

The passage of this bill is a victory to all who have been affected by texting-related accidents and fatalities. It is an especially welcome win for Peggy Tucker of Canby, Oregon, whose 30-

year-old daughter Angela was killed by a driver talking on his cell phone in 2007. Peggy watched as the bill passed with a 38-22 vote in April.

Opponents of the bill claim that this is an example of "nanny state" legislation. We at Shulman DuBois disagree. In our opinion, a law against texting while driving will save lives, and it is no more "nanny state" legislation than making it illegal to drive while drunk. So here's to safe driving, smarter texting, and better parenting. ■

We care enough to send you the REAL THING!
We wrote this newsletter ourselves. Many businesses hire an out-of-state service to write 'newsletters' for them. These are our thoughts and words, and we're proud of it!

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Bill Bans Texting While Driving

I'm not setting a very good example for my children. But I'll admit - I've done it. My cell phone gives off that familiar chime. It's a text message from my wife, and instead of pulling over to respond, I somehow manage to read it, and even to respond while driving. I've got one hand on the steering wheel, the other on my phone, eyes darting from my phone to the road. It's not safe, and I know it.

Beginning January 1, 2010, though, this act will not only be a lesson in bad parenting; it will be illegal. Oregon will join six other states that have a "no texting while driving" law. House Bill 2377 will still allow hands-free devices, such as Bluetooth, but texting or talking with anything else that requires the use of your hands will be punishable by fines, generally in the \$90 range.

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Portland: Doing Something Right With Traffic

Here's some good news! In 2008, Portland had fewer traffic fatalities than in any year since 1925. There were 20 deaths from car accidents in Portland last year - 15 automobile occupants, and 5 pedestrians were killed. There have been fewer than 30 fatalities in only three of the last 83 years; and all three of those low-fatality years have been this decade: 2000, 2006, and 2007. Last year marks the high-water mark of a general upward trend in driving safety in the City of Roses.

Think driving was safer in "the good old days"? Nope. Back in the 1930s and '40s we had no traffic lights, crosswalks, or neighborhood speed limits. And sure enough, Portland's record high of 90 traffic deaths occurred in 1934. And that was with a population of about 300,000, compared with about 575,000 today.

Safety for cyclists has increased as well. 2008 marks the fifth year in recent history where not a single cyclist died in Portland traffic. Portland has been consistently voted across multiple media sources as among the safest and friendliest bike city in America, with *Bicycling* magazine awarding the city such an honor in 2001 and 2006.

In addition to bicycle-friendly streets, the city recognizes the benefits of speed bumps. Portland has at least 1,000 speed bumps; more than any other city in America. 2001 saw the introduction of red-light cameras that catch red-light-runners in the act. Speed bumps, traffic cameras, and higher sensitivity to local pedestrians, cyclists, and other cars has apparently been working to keep Portland drivers attentive, aware, and safer than ever. ■

This newsletter is intended to educate the general public about personal injuries, car accident cases, and insurance issues. It is not intended to be legal advice and does not create an attorney-client relationship. Every case is different. A result in one case does not necessarily mean a similar result will be obtained in a similar case. To discuss your individual case, or if you would like to unsubscribe or have any comments about this newsletter, call our office at (503) 222-4411.

Request a complimentary book written by Josh Shulman and Sean DuBois to help you avoid the 7 biggest mistakes you can make in your Oregon accident



THANK YOU!

FOR YOUR REFERRALS!

WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR REFERRALS
AND VALUE THE TRUST YOU PUT IN US.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.pdxInjuryLaw.com

Introducing the Shulman DuBois Newsletter

Fall is almost here! (Although Oregon seems confused as to *what* season it is.) And it's been an interesting first three-quarters of a year. We have hired two wonderful new people to our staff, which has expanded our workforce by 66 percent. Not bad in this economy. We're very fortunate, and we are happy to be able to provide jobs at a time like this. And, the more people we have, the more time and attention we can give to each one of our clients.

Our attorneys

Josh Shulman and Sean DuBois

Since you are reading this newsletter, there's a chance you already know our attorneys. Josh and Sean founded this law firm based on the principle of helping people in need, and going up against the insurance companies. So each of them started a small practice of their own. But then they met through the Oregon Trial Lawyers Association, and soon, they had formed Shulman DuBois LLC. Together, they continue to provide the legal advice so many car accident victims need but don't have easy access to. That's why, even as a small law firm that takes on very few clients, they have written *7 Common Mistakes That Can Wreck Your Oregon Accident Case* for those injured Oregonians they can't represent.

But you might not know:

Our medical specialist Lena DuBois

Lena has been a great help to this firm. She not only cares about helping people, she's pretty darn good at it. Her training as a physical therapist gives her a step up on understanding all the medical records (and deciphering doctors' handwriting!).

Our legal assistant Yen Huynh

Yen joined the firm in May, but she has been working on the plaintiffs' side as a legal assistant for 15 years. Yen does it all: She keeps the office going and has a hand in everything that goes on, from setting up depositions to following up with clients to gathering records. In fact, if you call us, she's probably the one you'll talk with.

Our media assistant, Peggy Perdue

Peggy is the new girl. She will be helping get the word out about what we do – which includes this snazzy newsletter. We would love to hear your story. If you're willing to share, please contact her at peggy@shulmandubois.com. You could be our next contributor.

Contact Us

These are the things we want you to know about. And we want to hear from you too. You can also stay informed by going to our website, www.pdxinjurylaw.com. ■

COMMUNICATION POLICY: When we are working on your case, we do not want to be interrupted by phone calls. So we have a policy: Joshua Shulman and Sean DuBois do not generally take unscheduled phone calls. This allows us time to focus and pay more attention to the individual cases we are working on. We believe this makes us better lawyers, and helps us resolve cases faster. **This is much better than the endless "phone tag" played by so many lawyers and businesses these days.** To schedule a phone call or in-person appointment with one of our attorneys, call (503) 222-4411.