



SPRING 2008

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Congratulations to our 2008 "Arrive Alive" Scholarship winners!

The third annual **Carter Mario Injury Lawyers** "Arrive Alive" Scholarship was a giant success! This year, the firm provided eight \$500 scholarships to graduating Connecticut seniors who plan on attending a four-year college or university in the fall. The applicants were required to submit an essay in the form of a letter they would read to their classmates prior to prom, appealing to their good sense not to drink and drive. The essay, along with other information provided by the applicant, was used to award the scholarships. An additional check for \$200 was also presented to each winning applicant's high school prom committee to help with prom expenses. We were impressed and overwhelmed with the number of submitted applications, as well as the quality of the prom speeches. It was a difficult decision to pick eight winners out of the nearly 250 students who applied.

It seems that lately in Connecticut, there has been a rash of teen alcohol-related accidents that have resulted in severe injuries and death. CMIL felt prom time was the ideal time to encourage the young people in our state to think twice before they get behind the wheel themselves or with someone who is alcohol impaired. It was encouraging to hear the heartfelt messages of so many young people from across our state expressing these same concerns and imploring their friends and classmates to make smart decisions. Some schools had their entire English classes participate in the essay. Many principals and

guidance counselors have called to say they plan to have their students who submitted speeches read them over the loudspeaker prior to prom day.

Today our young people have to face many stressful issues that were not as intense as when we were graduating seniors. It was reassuring to hear their views and ideas on dealing with such a huge problem as drinking and driving. Please take the time to read the prom speeches from our eight winners on www.getcarter.com, under the "Arrive Alive" Scholarship program heading. We must do everything we can to help our young people make smart decisions!

We are pleased to announce that the eight winners of the third annual "Arrive Alive" Scholarship are **Ashantee Hyman** from Weaver High School, **Courtney Driscoll** from Bristol Central High School, **Brendan Heller** from Naugatuck High School, **Claudraya Harrison** from Central Magnet High School, **Erika Heyliger** from John F. Kennedy High School, **Christopher Arrigoni** from Haddam-Killingworth High School, **Brittany Deane** from Rocky Hill High School, and **Marilisa Anania** from West Haven High School. Congratulations to all of you; we wish you the best in college and beyond!



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Show them you Got Carter!

Back by popular demand, we are reinstating the Get Carter! car magnet program! Any client (or interested friends or family members of our clients) who agrees to become part of our marketing team by sporting a Get Carter! magnet on their vehicle will be put in our monthly drawing for a \$100 gift certificate to

the restaurant of their choice. That's right, folks, all that is required is placing a 6" magnet on the rear of your car. It could also be a safety measure...if someone decides to tailgate you, they know if they hit you, you've Got Carter! If interested, please call and speak to any of our office staff; we will put you in the monthly drawing and send your sticker right out. Thanks up front for being part of our marketing team!

Get Carter, Get it Done!



FOR YOUR SAFETY

Recalled product roundup

Here are some recently recalled products you may have in your home or at work:

- ✓ **Simplicity Inc.** has recalled about one million cribs whose drop-side may detach and entrap and suffocate infants.
- ✓ **Back to Basics Products, LLC**, voluntarily called back 10,000 IT400 Iced Tea Makers. Components can fail and burn users.
- ✓ **Wal-Mart, Inc.**, asks buyers to return 138,000 Ceramic Oil Torch Lamps with ceramic torch heads that can loosen or dislodge and lacerate or burn consumers.
- ✓ **Robert Bosch Tool Corporation** has recalled 811,000 Skil® circular saws. Users may turn the power tools on without a safety lockout, causing unexpected operation of the saw and injury.
- ✓ **Keystone Manufacturing Co., Inc.**, and **QVC** called back 32,000 Cook's Essentials Convection Ovens with Pull-Out Rotisserie and Deni Convection Ovens with Rotisserie. The control panel can overheat and pose fire and electric-shock hazards.

Child day care

When both parents must work, they want their young children to enjoy safe, educational, and productive experiences at day care.

Parents should investigate children's day-care centers to be certain that providers understand child learning and growth, administer discipline consistently and positively, recognize when a child is ill, and maintain a clean and safe operation.

On occasion, a parent may drop in on day care to feel assured that the center has sufficient and well-trained and motivated caregivers, to observe activities and programs, and to examine books, toys, and facilities.

When there's a problem

When day care fails to meet expectations, parents can usually work out problems by speaking with operators or caregivers, writing letters, or filing complaints. When his child was injured after being pushed from a slide by another child, a father had to sue a day-care center for resolution. His attorney demonstrated that caregivers failed to provide adequate supervision and discipline for an aggressive child who had previously pushed other children during activities. The parties settled on the day of trial.

Auto seatback failure INJURIES

National safety standards fail to require sufficiently strong seatback construction in some cars and SUVs.

Vehicle makers tend to design, construct, and install less expensive seatbacks, recliner apparatus, and seat tracks in lower-end models. As a result, drivers and passengers may be injured when seatbacks collapse rearward during rear-end collisions and while accelerating, as seat-mountings or floors buckle and deform. When a car's seats collapse, the driver and passengers may not be able to get out of the vehicle quickly or safely.

Passengers involved in seatback failures may suffer serious injuries, including head trauma, spinal cord injury, broken bones, organ damage, disfigurement, and scarring.

Defectively designed SUV seats

A front-seat SUV passenger was rendered paraplegic when her seatback collapsed in a rear-end collision, throwing her into the back seat and breaking her neck. When her attorney demonstrated that the SUV's design and manufacture, different from higher-end models, were defective and unreasonably dangerous, a jury awarded significant damages.

Anyone involved in an accident in which seats collapsed should contact an attorney. No one should suffer because of an automobile manufacturer's negligence.





Words we live by

The late U.S. Supreme Court Justice William H. Rehnquist had immense respect for each American's right to trial by a jury of peers. Here are some of his words we can all live by:

★ The right to trial is *“so fundamental and sacred to citizens, where guaranteed by the Constitution or provided by statute, [it] should be jealously guarded.”*

★ *“Those who oppose the use of juries in civil trials seem to ignore [that] the founders of our nation considered the right of trial by jury in civil cases an important bulwark against tyranny and corruption, a safeguard too precious to be left to the whim of the sovereign, or, it might be added, to that of the judiciary.”*

★ *“The guarantees of the Seventh Amendment [right to civil jury trial] will prove burdensome in some instances...but as with other provisions of the Bill of Rights, the onerous nature of the protections is no license for contracting the rights secured by the Amendment.”*

In short, our firm is committed to preserving the right to a jury trial for each of our clients, just as we are dedicated to battling large corporations, which, every day, try to whittle away rights protected by our Constitution. If you are a victim of personal injury from another's negligence, please call us.

Assisted-living RESIDENCES

When concerned family members search for a care residence for a beloved grandparent or parent, they need to look past pleasant decor.

They should investigate resident-care assessment and planning, medication treatment, dressing and bathing assistance, nutrition needs and dining experiences, discomfort assessment, and social engagement and activity plans.

Bed side rails

A 66-year-old nursing home resident suffering from Parkinson's disease fell from her bed and was asphyxiated after becoming wedged between the bed and a wall. Her two children, individually and on behalf of their mother's estate, sued the nursing home, alleging the facility failed to provide their mother with a bed equipped with side rails, in contravention of her care plan. A jury awarded damages and court costs.



Recreation product LIABILITY

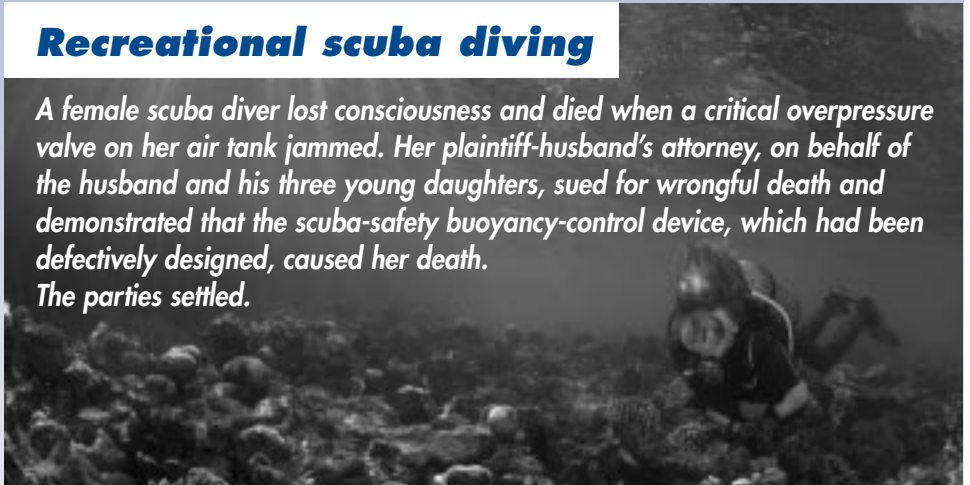
Our nation's civil justice system can hold manufacturers of defective products liable for harming users. Consumers injured by products with serious defects in design, manufacture, or improper or incomplete explanation of dangers or proper use can hold manufacturers and marketers accountable.

The long list of recreational products that have harmed consumers include all-terrain vehicles, bicycles, boats, campers, helmets, playground equipment, pools, snowmobiles, swing sets, trampolines, and many more. Children, who may assume products are always safe and who may impulsively take risks, are in particular jeopardy.

Recreational scuba diving

A female scuba diver lost consciousness and died when a critical overpressure valve on her air tank jammed. Her plaintiff-husband's attorney, on behalf of the husband and his three young daughters, sued for wrongful death and demonstrated that the scuba-safety buoyancy-control device, which had been defectively designed, caused her death.

The parties settled.





**COMING JUNE
OF 2008...**

**Our Waterbury
office is moving to
532 Wolcott Street!**

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The information included in this newsletter is not intended as a substitute for consultation with an attorney. Specific conditions always require consultation with appropriate legal professionals.

Milford has moved!

Please come visit us at our new office at **158 Cherry Street in Milford**. As of April 1, we no longer reside at 54 Broad Street. Although we will miss being on Milford's historical green, we had outgrown our downtown offices. Now we are all under one roof and have room for growth. Our new building boasts a state-of-the-art IT room, a large training room, and four conference rooms. "We are in a growth mode. As we hire more staff to better serve our clients, expand our technology department, and grow our customer service division, we need more room. Our new office is also more accessible to clients, with easy access to I-95 and the Merritt Parkway," says Carter. Please drop by anytime for a tour. We would love to show you around!



We've hit the best-seller list!

John Di Julius, the authority on world-class customer service and author of the best-selling business book, *Secret Service*, has just released a new book sure to be on the best-seller list called *What's the Secret?*

In traveling across the country visiting and working with major corporations, John met Carter at one of his seminars. Surprised that lawyers would even be interested in exceptional customer service, John questioned Carter about the firm and asked what we did to implement exceptional customer service. He was so "wowed," he e-mailed Carter the next week:

"I wanted to tell you how impressed I am with how well your leadership team has taken the Secret Service concept and adopted it to your culture. It is so rewarding to work with organizations that truly just don't talk about it, but actually implement and execute. It is a testament to the leadership team

you have put together and how committed they are to your service vision. I have been fortunate to work with several hundred organizations over the years, many that are pretty good at customer service, yet there haven't been too many I have worked with that have been as committed and focused as Carter Mario!

"I guess I will have to update the section in my bio that lists the world-class organizations I do business with to look like this: John works with companies such as The Ritz Carlton, Starbucks, Nordstrom, Lexus, The Cheesecake Factory, and Carter Mario Law Firm."

John's newest book, *What's the Secret?*, has an entire page committed to Secret Service lawyers, starring **Carter Mario** of Carter Mario Injury Lawyers! The book was just released, and we are proud to be included. We are committed to continuing to raise the bar to ensure that you, our clients, are treated the way you deserve to be.

