



# MAX MEYERS LAW **SPOKE & WHEEL**



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## 8 Fun Facts about Groundhog Day



Groundhog Day began as a Pennsylvanian German celebration in the 1800's in... you guessed it... Pennsylvania.

Its origins date back to ancient European weather lore, when a sacred bear or badger was the weather predictor instead of the groundhog.

According to Groundhog Day folklore, if the groundhog emerges from his burrow and sees his shadow (sunny out), winter will last another six weeks. If the groundhog does NOT see his shadow (no sun), then spring will arrive early.

Here are some FUN FACTS about Groundhog's Day you can use to impress your family and friends:

- 1 Groundhog Day is celebrated each year on February 2nd.
- 2 The largest and most famous celebration for Groundhog Day in the U.S. is held in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania.
- 3 Punxsutawney Phil has a ridiculously long official name. His full moniker is "Punxsutawney Phil, Seer of Seers, Sage of Sages, Prognosticator of Prognosticators, and Weather Prophet Extraordinary."
- 4 The groundhog is also known as a woodchuck.
- 5 Groundhogs hibernate every winter, so the fact they would leave their hideaway is a natural sign of spring to come.
- 6 New York City has a groundhog named 'Pothole Pete.'
- 7 Punxsutawney Phil's weather predictions have been accurate approximately 39% of the time since 1887. He sees his shadow about 85% of the time.
- 8 After the release of the 1993 film starring Bill Murray, attendance to the big event in Punxsutawney exploded, drawing crowds of over 30,000 people.

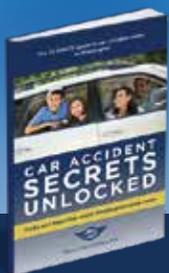
Personally, I hope that Punxsutawney Phil does NOT see his shadow this year... bring on Spring and the warm weather I say!

## 2020 IS A LEAP YEAR!

Did you know that 2020 is a leap year? That means that we have an extra day this month, making it 29 days instead of the usual 28.

Nearly every four years, we add an extra day to the calendar (February 29th), also known as Leap Day. The reason we do this is to keep the calendar year synchronized with the astronomical and seasonal year. While the modern calendar contains 365 days, the actual time it takes for Earth to orbit its star is slightly longer - roughly 365.2421 days.

The difference might seem small, but over decades and centuries that missing quarter of a day per year adds up. To ensure there is consistency with the true astronomical year, it is necessary to periodically add in an extra day to make up the lost time and get the calendar back in synch.



## FREE INSTANT DOWNLOAD

Discover the secrets insurance companies don't want you to know.

Get Max's book **The Ultimate Guide to Car Accident Cases in Washington: Car Accident Secrets Unlocked.**

Go to our website [www.WaCarAccident.com](http://www.WaCarAccident.com) to get your free download now or call **425.276.7804** to have a copy mailed to you.

# WHO IS AT FAULT?

## For A Texting While Walking Accident?

Distracted walking is a bigger problem than most people think. Many would not think twice about walking while texting, reading, listening to music, or balancing a package; however, these behaviors can lead to devastating walking accidents. While most people think the driver is at fault in a pedestrian accident, liability can be more complicated if the pedestrian was distracted.

### WHO IS LIABLE IF A CAR HITS A DISTRACTED PEDESTRIAN?

Liability will be different in every distracted pedestrian accident. The actions of each party will result in one of three liability situations.

#### • A DISTRACTED PEDESTRIAN AND A FOCUSED DRIVER.

A focused driver who is driving within the limits of the law might not be liable for the accident if the pedestrian did not give the driver enough time to stop or acted suddenly or unexpectedly. The driver must be able to prove s/he was not driving impaired, distracted, or dangerously.

#### • A DISTRACTED PEDESTRIAN AND A DISTRACTED DRIVER.

When distractions affect the pedestrian and driver, both parties might share the liability. Sharing liability does not mean you cannot recover compensation. To recover the most damages in this situation, you must prove the driver was more distracted than you were.



#### • A DISTRACTED PEDESTRIAN AND A RECKLESS, AGGRESSIVE, OR DRUNK DRIVER.

Even though the pedestrian in this example was distracted, the insurance company could find the driver more at fault because s/he willingly engaged in dangerous behavior.

The pedestrian will need to prove the driver was aware of the danger s/he posed. To hold the driver completely liable, the pedestrian would have to prove the accident would have happened even if s/he were not distracted.

For example, if the driver ran a red light and hit a distracted pedestrian while crossing at an intersection (when the pedestrian had the right-of-way), the insurer or court might find the driver totally liable.

### WHY ARE DISTRACTED PEDESTRIANS A PROBLEM?

When a pedestrian is distracted, s/he is unaware of their surroundings, which can lead to dangerous actions and decisions. For example, a pedestrian with loud music playing through his/her headphones might not be able to hear approaching traffic or sirens and step into the road without noticing a nearby vehicle.

Even though pedestrians can maneuver easier than vehicles, if they step too closely into the path of a vehicle, the vehicle might not have time to stop. The faster a vehicle goes, the longer it takes the vehicle to stop. Additionally, a fast-moving vehicle will hit a pedestrian with more force and cause more serious damages.

### HOW CAN I PROTECT MY RIGHT TO RECOVERY IF I WAS INJURED WHILE WALKING WHILE DISTRACTED?

You are entitled to compensation for your injuries as long as you are not totally at-fault for the accident. Washington State's pure comparative negligence laws allow each driver to be majorly at fault and still recover compensation.

Therefore, even if your distraction was the main cause of the accident, as long as the insurance company finds you 99 percent at fault or less, you will still be able to collect the remaining percentage as a settlement.

For example, if the insurance company finds you to be 75 percent at fault and your insurance settlement is for \$100,000 you would still be able to collect the remainder – 25 percent or \$25,000 – as your compensation.

While \$25,000 seems like a lot of money, pedestrian accident injuries can quickly top that. For this reason, you will want the insurer to find you played as little role in causing the accident as possible.

The insurance adjuster will assess your degree of fault based on the evidence you provide to support your claim for damages. In a pedestrian accident, your evidence might include:

- Police reports
- Photographs or video of the accident
- Eyewitness or expert witness statements
- Medical records

When you work with a Washington pedestrian accident lawyer, you have the advantage of working with a professional who knows the ins and outs of the injury claims process. Max Meyers Law provides free, no-obligation consultations to injured pedestrians seeking information about their rights to recovery.

Call us at **425-276-7804** to learn about how we can help your claim.

# MML VIP holiday gift



We have received a lot of compliments from our VIPs regarding our 2019 holiday gifts! Heck, we even have people sending in pictures (like the one below) of their new SWAG being put to good use.



There were some questions about what that "white tube" was attached to the lunch bag, so we thought we would clarify that here.

If you open that cute little "white tube", you will find a collapsible and reusable straw (with a cleaner inside). The MML team is all about going "green" and we do what we can to support the movement. There are some big coffee drinkers here at MML and we sure do miss those straws from Starbucks, so we decided to make our own straw!

Do you want to receive cool gifts like this from the MML team? If the answer is yes, visit **MaxMeyersLawVIP.com** to become a VIP member today! It is quick and easy to do.

#### Other member benefits include:

- Free Notary services
- Free Insurance Policy Review
- Free Consumer Contract Review
- and more!

Email Dawn at **dawn@maxmeyerslaw.com** today to become a member.



## Max Meyers Law VIP Program

# FEBRUARY

## RV SHOW FEB 6 - 9

See new recreational vehicles and accessories at the Seattle RV Show, which also has seminars, a children's treasure hunt, and a beer & wine area at CenturyLink Field Event Center.

Visit [www.seattlervshow.com](http://www.seattlervshow.com) for more details.

## CHINESE NEW YEAR FEB 8

Join the Lunar New Year Celebration in the International District, which includes lion and dragon dances, drumming, Hawaiian & Thai dancing, a children's parade, a costume contest, arts & crafts, and \$3 food items. Free.

Visit <http://cidbia.org/events/lunar-new-year/> for more details.

## COWBOY GATHERING FEB 14 - 16

The Spirit of the West Cowboy Gathering celebrates traditional cowboy music, poetry, art, gear, and chow in Ellensburg.

Visit [www.ellensburgcowboygathering.com](http://www.ellensburgcowboygathering.com) for details.

## FLY FISHING SHOW FEB 15 - 16

The Fly Fishing Show has casting demonstrations, seminars, celebrity speakers, fly-tying materials, rods, and reels at Lynnwood Convention Center. The International Fly Fishing Film Festival (IF4) on Saturday evening requires a separate ticket.

For details visit [www.flyfishingshow.com/lynnwood-wa](http://www.flyfishingshow.com/lynnwood-wa).

## CAKE CONVENTION FEB 16 - 17

Seattle Cake Con is a new event featuring Seattle's "best and most unique dessert makers for a day of fun, food, and education" with competitions and samples at Fremont Foundry. Free for children age 12 and younger.

Visit [www.seattlecakecon.com](http://www.seattlecakecon.com) for details.

## BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL FEB 20 - 23

Wintergrass has dozens of acts on multiple stages, plus workshops and impromptu jams in Bellevue.

Details can be found at [www.wintergrass.com](http://www.wintergrass.com).

## BAINBRIDGE BIKE RIDE FEB 23

Bicycling Magazine called Chilly Hilly one of four classic American rides. Take your bike on the ferry, hit the hills of Bainbridge Island, and then buy a hot meal at the finish line.

Details can be found at [www.cascade.org/rides-and-events-major-rides/chilly-hilly](http://www.cascade.org/rides-and-events-major-rides/chilly-hilly).

## VINTAGE GLASS FEB 29

Browse 20th century glass, jewelry, china, pottery, and collectibles displayed on 200 tables at the Green River Glass Show & Sale at Kent Commons for \$3.

Details at [www.washingtonprospectors.org/wpma\\_gold\\_show.html](http://www.washingtonprospectors.org/wpma_gold_show.html).

## Shelly's RECIPE CORNER

# JEFF'S BREAKFAST CASSEROLE

This recipe comes courtesy of Dawn's brother-in-law, Jeff. This is his family's breakfast casserole recipe and it turns out delicious every time. Make it the night before and pop in the oven to bake the next morning. Surprise your sweetie with breakfast in bed this Valentine's Day!

### Ingredients:

¼ cup margarine	3 cups milk
12 slices white bread	½ tsp. salt
1 cup cubed ham (or cooked sausage)	¼ tsp. onion powder
4 cups shredded cheddar cheese	Dash of pepper
6 eggs	½ tsp. prepared mustard

### Directions:

Melt margarine in a 9x13 pan. Layer ½ of the bread slices, ½ of the ham and ½ of the cheese; repeat layers. Beat eggs, milk and seasonings together; pour over layered ingredients. Allow to stand in fridge overnight. Cook uncovered at 350 degrees for 60 minutes... Enjoy!



photo courtesy of wineandglue.com



## Follow us on Facebook!

Check out our Facebook page for current news and important updates to laws and regulations concerning Washington state drivers.



MAX MEYERS LAW<sup>PLC</sup>

Where Accident Victims Get Help



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# Birthdays

## AT MAX MEYERS LAW THIS MONTH!!



February is a big birthday month at MML. Shelly's birthday is February 1st, Max's is February 15th and Richard's is February 21st. Happy Birthday to Max, Shelly and Richard!



**You can now find Max Meyers Law on Nextdoor.com!**  
 Thank you for recommending us to your neighbors, friends, and family.

