



MAX MEYERS LAW **SPOKE & WHEEL**



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WE'RE HAPPY TO SEE YOU!!

by Max Meyers

Year two of the pandemic was no picnic! Covid hangover has set in for many of us. The variants just keep coming and masks appear here to stay for quite some time. Looks like we will be dealing with much of the same in 2022. Our team at Max Meyers Law has weathered the craziness of this year well and settled into the new adjustments necessary to keep working.

Most people have returned to work. Many to office settings again. Traffic levels have returned to the craziness that we are used to in Washington. With the return for nearly normal traffic has come the return of accidents. As usual our amazing readers have recommended us to their friends and family, so we are well as can be hoped. **THANK YOU for your continued faith in us.** Your trust in recommending your friends and family to us is a source of great pride for our Team!

The court system in King County Washington has been operating on an altered basis but is open and processing cases. Most trials are via Zoom videoconferencing. This looks to continue throughout 2022. Other Washington counties have returned to live jury trials. We'll see if this continues or if a shift to Zoom trials happens there as well.

As you all know we handle vehicle related accident cases. We continue to see a lot more high-speed impact accidents. People are driving around like race car drivers and have become more aggressive in general in my experience. I expect this will continue in 2022. Distracted driving, as always, continues to be a big problem.

Please make sure you have high car insurance policy limits for Underinsured Motorist (UIM) coverage, at least 300K. We have seen more serious injuries in car accidents and lower insurance by at-fault drivers. When folks need to save money they often cut their insurance down. We have had several clients who had medical bills that exceeded all the car insurance available.

This leaves the client's case in a difficult situation and full compensation does not happen. You may wonder - why don't you sue the at-fault person for more money then? The reality is that most people who have low insurance policies don't have assets and if sued will file for bankruptcy. If this happens, they usually get off the hook because of the bankruptcy laws. To fight this, it is best to protect yourself with good and high UIM limits on your auto policy.

I wish you all the best in this New Year! *-Max*



FREE INSTANT DOWNLOAD

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

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

Go to our website WashingtonBicycleBook.com to get your free download now or call **425.276.7804** to have a copy mailed to you.



Max Meyers Law VIP Program

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Best *Spring* Vacation Getaways in Washington...

You made it through the holiday season, but you may be feeling like you need a vacation to catch your breath and regroup for the new year. If you are looking for a quick and local weekend getaway, here are some favorite winter vacation destinations in Washington that we recommend you check out!

WINTHROP

Nestled in the Methow Valley, Winthrop is a Western themed town that is always a fun time. The Methow Valley is beautiful and a must see if you have not been. However, recent forest fires have hit the valley hard and a little tourism I'm sure would be welcomed!

LONG BEACH

If you like being at the beach, check out The Inn at Discovery Coast in Long Beach. Enjoy miles of beaches, two lighthouses and the Discovery Trail (which has 8 miles of pathway for walking or biking).

WALLA WALLA

If you like to unwind from a family day with a glass of wine, Walla Walla has you all set, with more than 100 wineries in town. But there's plenty of non-vino activities to keep kids occupied, including a children's museum.

LEAVENWORTH

This is one of our personal favorites and a favorite to many Washingtonians. This is a great weekend getaway where you can street shop, catch a theater performance and have some good German food and beer.

SUNCADIA

If you are more into the resort type of experience, Suncadia is just a short drive away. Enjoy trails where you can go hiking and golf course on site. Lake Cle Elum is close by for watersports. The Summit at Snoqualmie is just a short drive away for some spring skiing!

COUPEVILLE

Located on Whidbey Island, this town is one of the prettiest and quietest getaways in Washington. It is famous for its Penn Cove mussels. Visitors enjoy the iconic wharf and little shops along Front street. Stroll the historic waterfront and check out the restaurants in town.



Long Beach

Walla Walla



Coupeville



JANUARY EVENTS

We are hoping for more in-person events this year! Before you leave, check websites to confirm events and get up-to-date information regarding Covid developments.

January 14 - 15 Monster Trucks

Big trucks with big wheels make big noise and excitement at Monster Jam in the Tacoma Dome. Visit www.monsterjam.com for details and schedule.

January 15 Ellensburg Beer Festival

WinterHop BrewFest includes a souvenir glass, five tastings from 20 microbreweries, and music in downtown Ellensburg for age 21+. Visit fb.me/e/1eNewZGrx for details.

January 20 - 23 Tacoma RV Show

Check out hundreds of recreational vehicles at the Tacoma RV Show in the Tacoma Dome. Children age 16 and younger are free. Repeats in Oct. For information, visit www.tacomarvshow.com.

January 27 - 30 Tacoma Home + Garden Show

Thinking about some home improvements either inside or outside? Then the Tacoma Home & Garden Show is for you. For information, visit www.tacomahomeandgardenshow.com.



DO I REALLY NEED AN ATTORNEY AFTER A CAR ACCIDENT?

Obviously we might be biased in answering this, but YES! Under Washington State law, you always have the right to represent yourself in civil actions, including personal injury cases. However, it's not usually wise to do so, especially if you are pursuing damages after being injured in a car crash.

Between determining fault, calculating damages, and negotiating with insurance companies, personal injury cases are complex matters that require the help of someone with extensive legal experience to obtain a fair settlement. Let's discuss some important reasons why you should consider hiring an attorney to represent you in a personal injury claim.

AN ATTORNEY CAN GET YOU A MORE GENEROUS SETTLEMENT

Washington is a comparative fault state, which means the damages you can recover are reduced by your percentage of fault. This means determining who is at fault—and by what percentage—can be very complicated and contentious. Determining how much to ask for in damages is equally complicated. If you attempt to navigate these issues on your own, chances are you'll wind up with a far lower settlement than you need or deserve. While you will have to pay the attorney to represent you, their fee comes out of the settlement—and the amount of your settlement will typically more than make up the

difference for what you would have received on your own.

AN ATTORNEY KNOWS HOW TO HANDLE THE INSURANCE COMPANIES

One of the most difficult aspects of a personal injury claim is negotiating with insurance companies—and chances are you'll be no match for them on your own. Insurance adjusters are under pressure to reduce or deny claims, and they are very good at making their settlement offer sound like the very best they can do. Furthermore, the insurance companies know how to word their questions in a way that they can often use your answers to minimize your claim if it goes to court.



A skilled personal injury attorney understands how the insurance companies work and how to negotiate with them to get the settlement you deserve. Being able to refer

the insurance company to your attorney can save you from saying something that could be used to weaken your position legally.

AN ATTORNEY KNOWS WHEN TO NEGOTIATE—AND WHEN TO LITIGATE

Insurance companies are not always willing to settle. Many of them will refuse offers that seem fair, only to turn around and pay more when the case goes before a judge. At the same time, if you litigate your case and the insurance company can prove you were partially at fault, you could actually wind up with a lower settlement with additional court costs to pay. This is why it's important to have an attorney determine whether you need to take your claim to court or if it can be resolved through negotiations with the insurance company. A good attorney knows when a settlement offer is fair, and when it makes more sense to take your case to court.

AN ATTORNEY CAN HELP DEFER YOUR MEDICAL BILLS

Washington State does require drivers to carry Personal Injury Protection (PIP) insurance, but it can be declined by written waiver. If you don't have PIP, or if your PIP coverage runs out before your case is resolved, you could be facing collection actions for your unpaid medical bills. An experienced attorney can often step in on your behalf with your insurance company or

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Shelly's RECIPE CORNER

CHEDDAR AND HARD CIDER FONDUE

Ingredients:

- One 12-ounce bottle hard cider
- 3/4 cup homemade or store-bought low-sodium chicken broth
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce, such as Lea & Perrins® Worcestershire
- 1 clove garlic, finely chopped
- 8 ounces sharp Vermont or New York yellow Cheddar, grated
- 8 ounces Gruyere, grated
- 3 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1/8 to 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- Kosher salt
- 1 tablespoon Bourbon, whiskey or apple jack, optional

Directions:

For the fondue: Heat the cider, chicken broth, Worcestershire sauce and garlic in a medium pot over medium heat and simmer until the liquid has reduced by half (about 1 cup/8 ounces), about 15 minutes.

Toss the Cheddar and Gruyere in a medium bowl. Sift the cornstarch over the cheese and toss to coat lightly.

Use a wooden spoon to sprinkle some of the cheese mixture into the cider mixture and stir to incorporate it. Continue to stir in small amounts of cheese until it is all incorporated and the fondue is smooth and melted, about 15 minutes. Stir in the cayenne, a pinch of salt and Bourbon, if using.

Transfer the mixture to a fondue pot or double boiler and serve with desired dippers.

Dipper ideas:

Cooked chicken and apple sausages, chorizo, or mini hot dogs; sliced baguette or black bread, radishes, roasted shallots, roasted mushrooms or small fingerlings or baby potatoes, pears, apples, or pretzels.

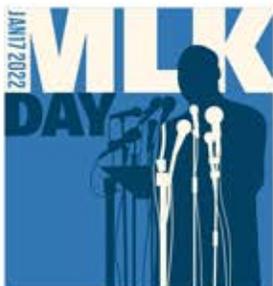


Recipe courtesy of www.foodnetwork.com



MAX MEYERS LAW™

Where Accident Victims Get Help



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DO I REALLY NEED AN ATTORNEY AFTER A CAR ACCIDENT?

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medical providers to make deferred payment arrangements until your case is settled.

GET THE PEACE OF MIND YOU DESERVE

While you have the right to represent yourself in your own personal injury case, hiring a car accident attorney provides you with a whole set of additional resources and skills that, in the end, will improve your chances of a more generous settlement even after you pay attorney fees. Having an attorney will also give you much greater peace of mind knowing the legal piece is being covered while you focus on recovering from your injuries.

The team at Max Meyers Law understands the complexities of helping you get a fair personal injury settlement. Let us help you get the full amount to which you're entitled under the law. Contact our offices to schedule a free consultation, or call us at 425-399-7000.

NATIONAL Dress Your Pet Up DAY



is January 14th!



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