

SCHURMER & DRANE news

Specializing in Serious Injury and Wrongful Death

Volume II



A Message from Earl Schurmer

I hope you enjoy this second issue of our law firm's newsletter. We will continue to update you with current developments in the legal field particularly as it relates to the specialties of our firm. We will also provide some of our recent successes and other information that should be of

help if you or a loved one suffer from an injury or death in the family.

As you know, we specialize in all types of serious injury and wrongful death cases. This includes automobile, truck, train and boat accidents, premises liability, dangerous conditions of public property, construction site accidents, governmental liability, medical malpractice, insurance bad faith, elder abuse, products liability and legal malpractice.

We handle all matters on a contingency fee basis only and advance all costs necessary to effectively represent our clients. This means there is no out of pocket expense to you to retain our services. No fee is paid unless the case is won or settled.

We do things differently at Schurmer & Drane. When you hire us I will personally work on your case. At the first interview you will meet with me directly so that you may ask any questions you have and so that I will have a thorough understanding of your individual needs and concerns.

We have been located in this community for over 30 years. We have worked with and have great relationships with highly qualified physicians, physical therapists and chiropractors. This means that we will make sure you receive the best and most appropriate medical care for your injuries.

At Schurmer & Drane we aggressively represent your interests and will do everything necessary to make sure you receive fair and adequate compensation for your case.

Please feel free to contact me directly at any time if you have any questions.

Client Reviews

“I was very happy with Schurmer & Drane. The attorneys and the staff were very attentive, very efficient and professional. They gave me trust and confidence. The attorneys always accompanied me to the appearances I had to make and I was never by myself. That made me feel real good. I will always recommend them, especially to people that have the same type of case as mine. I was very happy.”

Maria Lucia Andrade

“Just wanted to thank you again for the fabulous job you and your great office did for my family. This was the first time I have ever used a lawyer and I could not be any happier with the results you produced. You're the best.”

Bruce Heimlich

“I was very happy with your services. Your law firm and the medical providers you referred me to were very professional. I feel like I got the best. Your whole staff is very nice and professional. I'm truly pleased with all your services and the way I was treated at your office.”

Martha Cabrera

RECENT RESULTS

Schurmer & Drane recovered **\$2,000,000.00** for a family who lost their daughter when she drowned at a local lake. We alleged that the owner of the lake and the entity that controlled all of the ranger services and maintenance of the land were negligent. Specifically, that in the area where the young girl drowned, the lake floor suddenly dropped off from 1-2 feet in depth to over 10 feet in depth. Even though the defendants held this location out as a safe place to swim it was impossible to tell from the shore that this steep drop off existed. The young girl was wading in knee to waist deep water when suddenly she stepped off of the ledge into deeper water and immediately drowned. Defendants did not place any warning signs of any sort to alert campers of this dangerous condition.

Schurmer & Drane recovered **\$170,000.00** for a 53 year-old woman who suffered a Galeazzi fracture to her forearm when she fell in a parking lot. We alleged that the cracks in the parking lot resulted in a dangerous condition that caused the fall. The defendant claimed that the parking lot was not dangerous and the cracks were not sufficiently large to cause anyone to fall. The defense also claimed that her injury was not severe and had completely healed.

Schurmer & Drane recovered **\$625,000.00** for a 39 year-old woman who suffered a low back injury in a bus accident. In the time frame after the accident the injury to her back did not seem to be as serious as it ultimately turned out to be. The client finally had surgery to her back almost three years after the accident. Because of the delay in surgical treatment and a number of other issues the defense hotly disputed the nature and extent of her injuries. The matter ultimately settled right before trial when the defendant dramatically increased the offer to settle.

Schurmer & Drane recovered **\$700,000.00** for a 49 year-old gentleman who was rear-ended while driving an 18 wheel tractor-trailer on the freeway. The client was initially treated through the worker's compensation system and within a few months the worker's compensation physicians stated that he had completely healed and should go back to work. After consulting with Schurmer & Drane and seeing different orthopedic specialists it was determined that the client had suffered a herniated disc in his low back. He had surgery and fortunately made a good recovery.

What To Do If You Are In An Accident

- Immediately call the police and request that they come to the scene and prepare a traffic collision report. Sometimes the other party does not want to do this; do not let them convince you not to. This is very important.
 - Call the paramedics or other emergency personnel so that you can receive prompt medical attention.
 - Write down the other driver's information including name, address, phone number, date of birth and driver's license number. Also, make sure to write down the other driver's insurance information including policy number, company name and phone number.
 - Write down the other driver's vehicle information including license plate, year, make and model.
 - Write down any and all information from any witnesses to the accident. Make sure to include their names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses.
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- Photograph the scene of the accident, including damage to all vehicles in the accident, skid marks on the road, debris and other visible evidence. If at all possible take pictures of the vehicles at their points of rest before they are moved.
 - Do not give any statements to any insurance company until you have first spoken to us. The insurance company is not your friend and will try and obtain any information they can to damage your case.
 - Do not sign any papers from any insurance company unless and until you have consulted with our office.

Schurmer & Drane News



Since our last newsletter, Lauren Miller, previously a highly skilled law clerk in our office, successfully passed the California State Bar examination on her first attempt. Ms. Miller received her law degree from Golden Gate University School of Law where she appeared on the Dean's List. Prior to coming to Schurmer & Drane she interned with the U.S.

Department of Housing and Urban Development, Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity office in San Francisco, as well as a toxic tort firm specializing in asbestos defense. Ms. Miller began her personal injury career when she interned for a plaintiff's personal injury litigation firm specializing in automobile accidents, bicycle accidents, and dog bites.

Since passing the bar in November of 2011 Ms. Miller has worked on a large variety of cases. She has successfully defended and taken numerous depositions and has successfully litigated many law and motion matters in the Ventura and Santa Barbara Superior Courts. She has been a great addition to our firm.



We recently had the privilege of adding Elisa Lomeli to our staff as a legal secretary/paralegal. Ms. Lomeli comes to us with a great deal of experience in the field with over 15 years working in the industry. Ms. Lomeli is bilingual and we are very pleased to add her to our team.



We also recently hired Karen Louth to act as file clerk and to work on special projects for the firm. A longtime resident of Ventura County, Ms. Louth has lived in Fillmore since 1993. She graduated from Fillmore High School in 2006 and received a bachelor of arts

degree in English from UCLA in 2010. Ms. Louth also completed the UCLA Extension Paralegal Training Program in 2012, earning her certificate with distinction.



This year Schurmer & Drane took two trips to Dodger Stadium with past clients and friends of the firm. This has become a firm tradition and we have enjoyed these events for the past 10 years. The pictures above show everyone having a good time.



Schurmer & Drane was pleased to sponsor the Fillmore High School Teachers Breakfast. We hosted approximately 60 of the school's teachers, staff and administration and served over 60 breakfast burritos. We were also pleased to donate a volleyball net for the students at the High School.

Schurmer & Drane continues to participate in community events and is always looking to sponsor and help worthy causes. This past year we were privileged to contribute to the Relay for Life in Fillmore, a fundraising event dedicated to finding a cure for cancer, Our Lady of Assumption School in Ventura and Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Oxnard. We sponsored a local children's AYSO soccer team and once again were the main Sponsor for the annual Mother's Day Mariachi Festival.

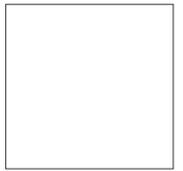


Schurmer & Drane hosted an Open House at our newly renovated offices located at 500 Esplanade Dr. Suite 1540 in Oxnard. A good time was had by all.

Schurmer & Drane Sponsors The Mexican Consulates Weekly Radio Program

Alicia Llinas has hosted the Mexican Consulate's weekly radio program for over 20 years. The local consulate covers Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties. Recently Schurmer & Drane had the opportunity to become the main sponsor for the show. This is an important weekly program that discusses issues important to the Hispanic community. The show airs on 910 am, La Mexicana, every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. and on 96.7, La Mejor, every Sunday morning at 9:30 am.





Worker's Compensation versus Third Party



Many people think that if they are injured while they are on the job they only have a Worker's Compensation case. However, under many circumstances there might also be a third party case against another defendant. This can happen in a number of situations. The following are just a few examples:

1. A truck driver or delivery person that is injured when they are driving in the course of their employment and another driver causes an auto accident. Under these circumstances the injured worker would have both a Worker's Compensation case, because the injury occurred while they were working, and also a third party case against the negligent driver that caused the accident.
2. A person that works on a machine at work and that machine malfunctions and causes an injury. The worker would have both a Worker's Compensation case and a Product Liability case against the manufacturer and possibly the distributor of the machine.
3. A person that is working on property like a ranch, home, market or hotel that is owned by someone other than his or her employer may have a case against the owner if that person does something that makes the property dangerous and causes an injury.

Many times a third party case can have a higher value than a Worker's Compensation case. If you are at all unsure it is very important to seek legal advice to make sure that you are not missing an important right.