

From the Desk of

LAWRENCE S. LAPIDUS

(202) 822-3777

llapidus@karpfrosh.com

October, 2004

Dear friend:

The Washington Post reported last month that because of traffic congestion, all of us are spending more time in our cars than in prior years and that our daily automobile trips are becoming longer than ever before. In this stressful environment, it is not surprising that many drivers become frustrated, inattentive and try to by-pass traffic rules to make up the "lost time" caused by traffic congestion on the roads. However, this explanation is just that---it is not an excuse for negligence. Like it or not, we all must drive by the rules of the road and be careful because lives and property are at risk if we do not remain attentive and follow the traffic laws.

If you, a member of your family or friend is hit by a negligent driver, I can help you recover compensation for your losses. There are things that you can do immediately which will help your case. Briefly, they are:

1. Do not minimize your pain. Many injured people tell others at the scene they are "OK" when they are not, in fact, OK. Frequently, many are dazed and disoriented. Reluctant to talk, they take the path of least resistance by simply saying "OK" to avoid further questions or decision -making. None of us want to disrupt a schedule. Many are due to be at meetings, gatherings, at work, etc. People frequently decline the offer of an ambulance when in fact they need to be checked out medically immediately. Many problems-- both medical and legal-- can be avoided by immediate medical attention.

Representing Negligence Victims for Over Twenty-five Years

From the Desk of

LAWRENCE S. LAPIDUS

(202) 822-3777

llapidus@karpfrosch.com

2. If possible, obtain the names & addresses of all witnesses--especially people you do not know. They can be very helpful if questions arise later about fault.

3. Avoid making statements to anyone other than to a police officer about how the accident occurred. Make sure a police officer is called to the accident scene.

4. Take pictures of the damage to your car before it is repaired. Many settlements turn on the issue of how badly the cars were damaged. Although there is no scientific evidence that damage to a vehicle has any relationship to the degree of injury, virtually all insurance companies as well as many jurors believe there is a direct relationship between damage to the vehicles and the degree of injury.

5. Never tell an insurance adjuster you are "feeling fine". This will always be used against you to limit the amount of money you can potentially recover.

6. Call me as soon as possible after the accident. We need to investigate the accident immediately and determine sources of available compensation.

With kindest regards, I remain cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Law", with a large, stylized flourish underneath.

Representing Negligence Victims for Over Twenty-five Years