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AGGRESSIVE, ETHICAL REPRESENTATION FOR OVER 30 YEARS

# COVID-19's Impact on Personal Injury Cases

Despite the COVID-19 craziness, personal injury attorneys stand ready to assist those who have been injured due to negligence. Attorneys can handle cases remotely via phone calls, emails, and videoconferencing, reducing your risk of COVID-19 exposure. Don't wait until the COVID-19 crisis simmers down to file a personal injury claim. Delays will lower your case value.

Insurance companies may contact you before you hire an attorney. Agreeing to an immediate settlement (and assuredly a lowball offer) may be tempting due to virus-inspired economic distress, but it won't benefit you in the long run.

Courthouse schedule alterations and procedure modifications due to COVID-19 could slow your case's progress. For cases that reach settlement, clients generally will not have to step foot in a courtroom. For those that go to trial, clients will only need to make a limited number of court appearances. By the time recently filed cases reach trial stage, the COVID-19 threat may have dissipated (hopefully!).

The COVID-19 economic turmoil has inflicted damage on insurance companies' bottom lines. Insurance companies have ramped-up motivation to limit the value of claims and take cases to trial.

More drivers may forgo paying their auto insurance premiums due to financial difficulty wrought by COVID-19. If you are injured in a crash involving an insurance-less, at-fault driver, recovering anything might be a pipedream. A proper amount of uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage is a critical safeguard.

Despite the COVID-19 threat, you must receive physician-recommended medical treatments and evaluations to maintain your case's value. Otherwise, it will be impossible to prove the extent of your injuries. Practice the recommended COVID-19 precautions.

Injury incidents caused by negligence will persist, even when a pandemic turns society upside down. Contact a personal injury attorney to protect your rights. •



# Mediterranean-style Pan-fried Haddock

A crispy fish with a fantastic sauce. And it doesn't take that long to make, either!

## INGREDIENTS

- 3 Haddock filets (can substitute cod)
- 2 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
- 1 egg, beaten
- 3 Tbsp. cooking oil
- Salt and black pepper
- 2 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
- ½ yellow onion, chopped
- 2 cloves of garlic, minced
- ¼ c. white wine
- ¼ c. chicken stock
- ½ c. cherry tomatoes, cut in half
- ¼ c. Kalamata olives
- 1 Tbsp. capers
- 1 Tbsp. pepperoncini, chopped
- 1 Tbsp. fresh parsley, chopped
- 1 Tbsp. fresh basil, chopped

## PREPARATION

- Season fish filets on both sides with salt and pepper, then coat with flour
- Heat up the cooking oil in a frying pan
- Coat the fish with the beaten egg wash on both sides
- Add fish to the pan and fry on each side until golden brown, 3-4 minutes per side
- In a separate pan, heat up the extra virgin olive oil
- Add chopped onions and cook for 2-3 minutes until they're translucent
- Add chopped garlic and cook an additional minute
- Add white wine and deglaze the pan
- Add tomatoes, olives, capers, and pepperoncini and cook for 2-3 more minutes
- Add chicken stock and let it reduce by half (3-4 minutes)
- Sprinkle with fresh herbs and serve with the fish (fish on a bed of sauce) •



## June 2020 Notable Dates

**June 1** – National Barefoot Day    **June 3** – National Repeat Day    **June 3** – National Repeat Day  
**June 7** – National VCR Day    **June 9** – Call Your Doctor Day    **June 13** – National Weed Your Garden Day  
**June 20** – National Vanilla Milkshake Day    **June 23** – National Pink Day    **June 30** – National Meteor Watch Day

## Toilet Paper ... the Bottom Line



Perforated toilet paper on a roll, the brainchild of brothers Clarence and E. Irvin Scott, has only been around since 1890. For many centuries prior, anything free and readily available would have to suffice for bathroom tidy-ups — for instance, leaves, grass, hay, seashells, rocks, fruit skins, sand, sticks, rags, snow, and water. Occasionally, rough edges and splinters could threaten one's nether regions.

Ancient Romans used a sponge on a stick that was rinsed in saltwater or a vinegar solution and sometimes used ... communally! In precolonial America, when corn was consumed, let's just say the cobs didn't go to waste.

The ancient Chinese invented paper, and by the year 1400 A.D., they had something akin to modern toilet paper. It was produced in flat sheets, perfumed, and reserved for the emperor and his family.

In the 15th century, paper became more widely available (but was expensive); eventually, newspapers served a dual purpose. By the late 19th century, the Sears, Roebuck & Co. Catalogue and the Old Farmer's Almanac became stars in American outhouses. The almanac even came off the presses with a hole in the corner for hanging.

Though perforated toilet paper on a roll was a great leap forward, the public didn't immediately embrace it — it spotlighted an embarrassing subject and wasn't free. But with the advent of indoor plumbing and flush toilets, Americans gradually warmed up to it. Their pipes demanded it.

Now, we can't imagine living without it. In 1973, Tonight Show host Johnny Carson joked about a toilet paper shortage. Viewers took him seriously and reacted. A misperception, chain-reaction freak-outs, and barren store shelves — TP has come a long way. •



# Grocery Shopping Should Be Life-Sustaining, Not Life-Altering

As recent events have highlighted, grocery stores play a prominent role in day-to-day life in this country. But no matter the circumstances, store owners are responsible for maintaining safe premises for their customers. If they fail to carry out their responsibilities within reason, injured victims may file claims for compensation.

Slip-and-fall incidents account for a large share of grocery store injuries. Poorly placed floor mats at entrances and exits, moisture tracked in from outside, runaway fruit or veggies on produce-section floors, leaking refrigeration units, and spills that aren't dealt with in a timely fashion are frequent culprits.

Items stacked atop shelves sometimes tumble onto shoppers. Unstable displays and aisle obstructions such as pallets or boxes might cause harm. Poorly maintained shopping carts can be hazardous to young children riding in them. Inadequate outdoor lighting can lead to injury or heighten susceptibility to criminal activity.

If injured at a grocery store ...

- Alert the store manager so they can view the scene.
- Ask for a copy of the incident report.
- Look for eyewitnesses (ideally, independent ones).
- Take pictures with your cell phone.
- Seek prompt medical care and follow doctor's orders in full.
- Stay off social media. Posts/photos may be monitored by the store's insurance company and twisted out of context.

Whether injuries cause temporary dysfunction or are permanently life-altering (e.g., traumatic brain injuries, fractures, back and spinal cord injuries, etc.), it's critical to hire a premises liability attorney to achieve rightful compensation. An attorney can handle the insurance companies, obtain surveillance footage, keep tabs on medical expenses, and prep for trial if necessary, among other vital tasks, enabling you to focus on healing. •

## Flag Day and Betsy Ross Mythology



Flag Day (June 14) commemorates the date in 1777 when the Continental Congress affirmed the design of the United States flag. Many credit Betsy Ross as the seamstress who transformed concept into reality, but lack of evidence dissuades most historians from buying in. Nonetheless, interesting tidbits abound.

Elizabeth "Betsy" Griscom, a skilled upholsterer and top-notch seamstress, married her first husband, upholsterer John Ross, in 1773. (Betsy was a three-time widow.) They started an upholstery business and joined Christ Church in Philadelphia.

John Ross's uncle was George Ross Jr., a Pennsylvania representative in the Continental Congress, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and an acquaintance of George Washington. Washington would worship at Christ Church when in town.

The first mention of Betsy Ross sewing the Stars and Stripes — after allegedly being visited and commissioned for flag duty by George Washington, George Ross Jr., and Robert Morris — was in a paper written by her grandson, William Canby, based on family recollections. The paper was presented to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in March 1870, nearly a century after the supposed event.

There are no records or documentation to verify Canby's claims. However, Betsy Ross did sew flags. She kept a receipt for flags sewed for the Pennsylvania Navy in 1777.

In 2015, a curator for Washington's Mount Vernon estate uncovered a sizable receipt from "John Ross of Philadelphia" — the only one in town at the time — for linens, canopies, sheets, and covers. Betsy Ross supporters were buoyed by the finding. Another instance in which Washington and Betsy could have met.

Many share the sentiments of President Woodrow Wilson, who when asked his thoughts on the story on the first official Flag Day in 1916, replied, "Would that it were true." •



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# Brake Checking: Another Form of Road Rage



Tailgating is a form of aggressive driving, road rage, or occasionally ignorance. Impatience and intimidation are its primary motivating factors. Sometimes the lead driver responds with their own act of aggression: brake checking.

Brake checking is the illegal act of braking hard in front of a tailgater to get them to back off. Brake-checking drivers are willing to risk rear-end collisions, the thought being that tailgaters will always be found at fault — a mistaken notion.

Eyewitness accounts of a crash involving brake checking can lead to fault (or partial fault) being assigned to the brake-checking driver. Many vehicles on the roadways are equipped with dash cams, which can help provide clarity. Those with continuous recording capability can also capture the lead-up to an incident.

Rear-end collisions are perilous for occupants of both the brake-checking and tailgating vehicles. Even worse, if the tailgating driver swerves to avoid the brake-checking vehicle, he may collide with another vehicle (or multiple vehicles), potentially causing harm to innocent victims. The brake checker, meanwhile, might disavow his own harmful actions and leave the scene of the accident.

It's understandable that a driver would be frustrated or angered by a careless tailgater, but brake checking is an equally dangerous response. The best solution is to take a deep breath; avoid "gesturing"; maintain a constant speed; follow all traffic laws; and signal and pull over if possible, to allow the tailgater to pass. Note the make/model of the car and the license plate number and report this information to the authorities.

If you suffer injuries due to another driver's negligence, contact an auto accident attorney to protect your rights. ●