

CLANCY & DIAZ, LLP
PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEYS

California Lawyers Help Stairway Injury Victims

Our client was leaving a rental property in Richmond, California. She fell when walking down defective stairs that were not up to code and that did not have the required handrail. The fall she took on the stairway from the building to the sidewalk changed her life — destroying her left ankle and leading to nine surgeries and two amputations.

We went into action and retained building code and safety experts to inspect the stairway. Clancy & Diaz sent a lengthy and detailed demand letter that analyzed all of the legal issues and damages to the client, including defective stairs and a missing handrail. The letter also included photos of the client's gruesomely damaged ankle, surgeons' comments and a precise itemization of the million-dollar medical bills she faced.

"The physical and psychological injuries are substantial. Aside from losing her left leg, she continues to suffer from depression, will

need physical therapy and years of prosthetics, and has incurred massive medical bills. As a result of her injuries she has lost her independence and is reliant upon others for her most basic needs," stated the Clancy & Diaz letter to the insurer.

The insurer paid its policy limits, as well as its large umbrella policy within 30 days of receiving the letter.

A study published by The American Journal of Emergency Medicine in September 2017 found stairway injuries to be prevalent:

- Over a million Americans are injured on stairs each year.
- "An estimated 24,760,843 patients were treated in emergency departments for a stair-related injury during the 23-year study period (1990 to 2012) averaging 1,076,558 patients annually, or 37.8 injuries per 10,000 United States residents."
- Stairway injuries affect children, adults and senior citizens.
- Conclusion: "Stairs are a common source of injury among individuals of all ages and the frequency and rate of stair-related injuries are increasing. This underscores the need for increased prevention efforts, particularly those related to stair design and construction."

If you were injured in a stairway slip and fall accident, contact us online or call 800-409-8075 so that we can help you.

California's average speed up 30% during lockdown

California residents have been urged to stay home as much as possible due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Under Executive Order N-33-20, issued by Governor Gavin Newsom, only essential businesses will remain open until life gets back to normal.

As a result of this statewide shutdown, California roads are far less congested, though some areas around major grocery store chains tend to be more congested. Currently, the desolate highways have become the perfect place for speeding during rush hour, according to the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA).

The GHSA reports a 30 percent increase in speeding in Los Angeles alone. Across the nation, some drivers have been clocked at more than 100 mph, which can certainly lead to deadly crashes.

Law enforcement officers urge California drivers to slow down

With fewer cars comes more speeders, according to the California Highway Patrol (CHP) Officer Jim Bettencourt, who monitors traffic from a dispatch center in San Diego County.

Shortly after the statewide shutdown began, two drivers reportedly died in high speed crashes, according to Bettencourt.

"With no traffic, people are pushing the envelope a little more. The crashes are a little more dynamic, fewer fender-benders," said Bettencourt. "Almost every one has an ambulance responding."

CHP officers have been using social media outlets like Twitter to urge drivers to slow down. In addition, officers will be out looking for speeders, and reckless and impaired drivers.

Speeding kills more than 9,000 people each year across the United States. Even when the roads are wide open, anything can happen at any time. Drivers who barrel down the highway at 100 mph are more likely to strike slower-moving cars, as well as cars entering an on-ramp or exiting a shoulder.

According to the NHTSA, speeding increases the risk of a serious or fatal crash due to:

- Loss of vehicle control
- Reduced effectiveness of seatbelts and airbags
- Increased stopping time and distance
- Increased crash severity

Contact us online or call our Walnut Creek office at 925-835-7500 to schedule your free case evaluation.



Car crash risks associated with marijuana use

Evidence shows that marijuana can compromise a driver's judgment, motor coordination concentration, and perception of time and distance.

Additionally, marijuana use puts drivers at risk of falling asleep behind the wheel, which can result in a devastating crash at full speed.

According to researchers from the University of Michigan Addiction Center, roughly one in five patients who use medical marijuana admit driving while under the influence. The study surveyed Michigan adults who were trying to obtain medical marijuana certification or recertification in 2014 and 2015. Participants were asked about their driving habits within the past six months.

The study found:

- 56 percent of respondents reported driving within two hours of using marijuana
- 51 percent admitted to driving while mildly high
- 21 percent admitted to driving while very high

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SEE PAGE 1

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Research indicates that traffic fatalities went up temporarily by one additional death per one million people in three states that approved recreational marijuana: Colorado, Oregon, and Washington. This also impacted neighboring states, which experienced an additional 170 deaths within six months after cannabis become legal. After about a year, the traffic fatality rates dropped back down to normal levels.

The study suggests that the increase in traffic fatalities may be due to an influx of people inexperienced with cannabis use.

When the worst happens, our attorneys can help

If you have been injured in a crash, determining whether marijuana was a factor may be difficult. An experienced and knowledgeable attorney at Clancy & Diaz, LLP can review the details regarding your crash and use the evidence to help you maximize your compensation.

Contact us today to schedule your free, no obligation case evaluation.

