

Scott Baron & Associates, P.C.

Attorneys & Counselors At Law



Spring 2014

159-49 Cross Bay Boulevard
Howard Beach, New York 11414
718-738-9800
Fax 718-738-3912

1750 Central Park Avenue
Yonkers, New York 10710
914-337-9800
Fax 914-337-9805

Email: general@scottbaronassociates.com
Web: www.scottbaronassociates.com

1 (866) WAS-HURT

HB attorney gives back in The Big Easy

BY MAGGIE HAYES

mhayes@queenscourier.com
@magghayes

Attorney Scott Baron hit the road to New Orleans where he volunteered alongside dozens of others at the annual NBA All-Star Day of Service.

"For me, in general, the feeling one gets from assisting the needy is incredible," Baron said. "I'm very happy just to take a small part in something like that."

Baron had the opportunity to work with NBA stars including Carmelo Anthony and Kyrie Irving during the service day, beautifying the outside of a school.

This is the second time the Howard Beach lawyer was invited to participate in NBA Cares Day. Although he partakes in various charitable events year round, the NBA's "philanthropic endeavors are particularly contagious and addicting."

"To see all of these players, who are role models, come together is a wonderful thing.

They work together, they're friendly and they're really producing," Baron said. "I support and I'm behind so many fundraisers and causes, but this is addicting."

The service day took place this month and while some painted, others worked on the site's green spaces and more volunteers put together a play set.

"Every time you do these events, you learn from it and you just go to the next one. You take what you learned to the next project," Baron said. "That's what makes philanthropy and fundraising so enjoyable."

The local lawyer mainly fundraises and frequents causes in state, so he "has an appreciation" for being able to leave the state to volunteer with an organization such as NBA Cares.

"That to me was a lot of fun," he said.

Looking ahead, Baron plans to continue his philanthropic work and is thinking up various ideas of where he'll put his energy next.



PHOTOS COURTESY SCOTT BARON
Howard Beach attorney Scott Baron participated in the annual NBA Cares All-Star Day of Service held this year in New Orleans.



If you need our services, please contact us at...

**1-866-WAS-HURT
(927-4878)**

www.scottbaronassociates.com

PERSONAL INJURY PRACTICE

- Free consultation
- Home & Hospital appointments available
- 24-hour, 7-Day emergency service
- No recovery, no fee.

We do not get paid unless you do.

ALSO HANDLING:

- Auto accidents
- Pedestrian accidents
- Motorcycle accidents
- Bicycle accidents
- Bus & train accidents
- Building accidents
- Elevator & ceiling collapses
- Sidewalk Falls
- Stairway accidents
- Ladder & scaffolds
- Construction accidents
- Slip & fall accidents
- Dog bites
- Job related injuries
- Lead poisoning
- Wrongful death

Stay safe on the open road

The freedom of the open road has been drawing Americans to motorcycles for generations. With more and more bikes hitting the streets, it's important to take the time to think about how to stay safe while riding. We know that drivers of cars and trucks don't always do the best job of sharing the road with bikers, but today we want to talk about what riders can do themselves to ensure their safety.

Follow these five common-sense tips so you can safely cruise those open roads.

1. 21% of riders involved in accidents are not licensed to ride a motorcycle! So step one to bike safety is to take a motorcycle safety course and get licensed.
2. Wear a helmet. Riders wearing helmets are three times more likely to survive head injuries than those who aren't. A helmet will also reduce the number and severity of head injuries suffered in lower speed accidents (the majority of accidents occur at speeds below 30 mph) by 50%.
3. Don't drink and ride. We shouldn't have to tell you this, but alcohol does not mix with riding a motorcycle. Riders need excellent balance and coordination – two of the skills that alcohol effects the most.
4. Lack of visibility, especially at night, can cause serious problems between a motorcycle and other vehicles. Help yourself by making sure all your lights are in working order and by wearing bright clothes while riding at night.
5. Raise awareness. Talk to your non-riding friends (nicely) about the importance of sharing the road with bikers.

Did you know that 80% of motorcycle accidents result in injury or death, compared to 20% of car accidents?

You don't pay unless you win: what is a contingency fee?

The most common way attorneys charge their clients in personal injury cases is through a contingency fee. If the client wins the case, the attorney gets a percentage of the award. If the case is lost, the client does not have to pay the fee.

The contingency fee is an important tool for consumers. It allows people to stand up for their rights even if they do not have the money to pay for an attorney. Ensuring access to the courts for all citizens is a crucial part of a just society. Without contingency fees, the courts would become a place only accessible to the wealthy, with ordinary Americans being left to fend for themselves.

The court system is also made stronger because of the contingency fee. Because an attorney won't get paid unless the case is won, it provides an incentive to keep frivolous lawsuits out of the courts. If their client

doesn't have a good chance at winning, an attorney is not very likely to spend hundreds of hours working on their case.

While the contingency fee works for most personal injury and workers' compensation cases, there are types of cases where it is not used. For example, it is not usually appropriate in criminal, divorce, adoption, immigration, bankruptcy, or business law cases.

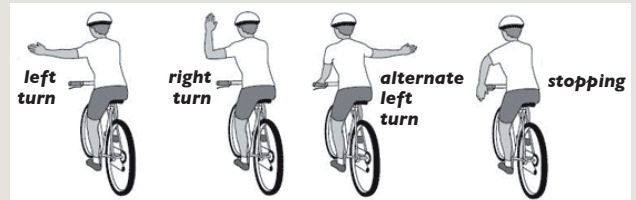
There are other costs associated with a lawsuit that are not a part of the contingency agreement. Expenses for expert witnesses, copies of medical records, filing fees, court reporter fees, transcript fees, and other costs are generally the responsibility of the client.*

Please feel free to call our office with any questions you have about our fees.

10 Tips for staying safe on a bicycle

Riding a bicycle is a healthy, environmentally-friendly, and just plain fun way to get around. The road, however, can be a dangerous place. When sharing the road with cars, trucks, buses, and pedestrians, it is important to be mindful of safety so you can get all the benefits of biking while minimizing the risks of an accident. Keep the following tips in mind and enjoy the ride.

1. Wear a helmet.
2. Ride on the right side of the road, with the flow of traffic.
3. Give your bicycle a quick inspection. Make sure the reflectors are secure, tires are properly inflated, brakes are working well, and gears change smoothly.
4. Respect the rules of the road. Stop at intersections and don't go the wrong way on a one-way street.
5. If riding at night, use a light and wear bright clothing so you are visible to motorists.
6. Yield to pedestrians.
7. Watch out for puddles, potholes, gravel, storm grates, and other obstructions.
8. Ride as if you are invisible. Motorists are not normally in the habit of watching for bikes, so it's best to assume they don't see you.
9. No headphones. You need full use of your hearing while riding.
10. Use hand signals so those around you know what moves you're about to make.



Assault, battery, or both?

Assault and battery roll off the tongue together, but they are actually two separate criminal charges. So what does each charge mean and how do they relate?

Any reasonable threat to another person is considered assault. To be reasonable, the perpetrator must appear capable of carrying out the threat. Battery is the actual use of force. If someone threatens to punch someone else in the face, it's assault; if they actually do punch them in the face, it's battery.

Assault and battery often occur together. Assault and battery are offenses in both criminal and civil law.

There are defenses to these charges which include consent (like a boxing match), self-defense, defense of others, defense of property, or performance of duty (like a police officer).

In a civil case, damages can be sought by the victim for medical expenses, lost earnings, pain and suffering, etc. Punitive damages may also be awarded.



What to do if you're bit by a dog

Over four million Americans are bit by a dog every year. About 20% of those bites require medical attention. If you or a loved one are bit by a dog, it is important to treat the injury right away with first aid and follow that up with a visit to a medical professional.

How you respond to a bite is determined by the severity. If it is a minor wound, barely breaking the surface of the skin, respond with typical first aid. Wash the area thoroughly with soap and water, apply an antibiotic cream or clean with rubbing alcohol, then cover with a bandage. For more severe wounds, apply pressure with a clean, dry cloth to stop the bleeding. See a doctor immediately.

In the days following a bite, be sure to stay alert to signs of infection. If you notice swelling, redness, oozing, or an increase in pain, see a doctor as soon as possible.

Dog owners are responsible for the behavior of their pets. If you or a loved one has been bitten by a dog, contact our office to find out what legal options you may have.

SCOTT BARON & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Attorneys & Counselors At Law
159-49 Cross Bay Boulevard
Howard Beach, New York 11414

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LANCASTER, PA
PERMIT NO. 242

Thanks to all of you who have recommended our firm to your relatives, friends, and neighbors. We appreciate your vote of confidence and pledge to care for these "VIPs" as well as we care for you.

ATTORNEY ADVERTISING

*The information included in this newsletter is not intended as a substitute for professional legal advice. For your specific situation, please consult the appropriate legal professional. Some photos depict fictional scenes. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome. Percentages of fee(s) are computed after deduction of costs, disbursements, and other litigation expense. If no recovery, expenses of litigation, including court costs and disbursements, are payable.

Good night's sleep— key to safe driving



If you or a loved one has been involved in an accident caused by drowsy driving, contact our office for help.

Driving drowsy is a growing problem on our roadways. According to The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, at least 100,000 police-reported accidents are caused by drowsy driving each year. The result is an estimated 1,550 deaths, 71,000 injuries, and \$12.5 billion in monetary losses, which is probably a severe underestimate since it is extremely difficult to prove a driver's drowsiness caused an accident. The American Automobile Association (AAA) estimates that one out of six fatal accidents and one out of eight accidents requiring hospitalization are due to a sleepy driver.

The reason for all this trouble seems pretty simple; people aren't getting enough sleep. AAA found that 41% of the people they surveyed admitted to falling asleep at the wheel at least once in their lives, while 10% said they dozed off while driving within the past year. 27% said they drove while "so sleepy that (they) had a hard time keeping (their) eyes open" within the past month.

While drowsy driving is more of a problem for at-risk groups like commercial truck drivers, shift workers, young men, people with sleep disorders, and those taking sedative medication, it is an issue for anyone who gets behind the wheel. Awareness of the problem can help. So can a recognition of the seriousness of the issue. Did you know that sleepiness can impair driving ability as much as or more so than alcohol?