



The
**CZACK
LAW FIRM**
Czack Has Your Back



Friends of the Firm
Newsletter

Fall 2020

**OUTSIDE
THE BOX**



Michael W. Czack, Esq.

Dear Friends,

Hiring a lawyer can be an expensive proposition. Oftentimes people are excluded from the legal process because they think they may not be able to afford to hire a lawyer.

Lawyers, in particular trial lawyers representing consumers and injured persons, thought *outside the box* and proposed helping clients through what we now call the *contingency fee arrangement*. By the early 1900s, the American Bar Association declared that contingency fee arrangements were an ethical way to represent clients.

Instead of billing a client on an hourly basis or asking for a significant money “retainer” at the beginning of the case, the lawyer agrees to be paid his fee *only upon the successful conclusion of the case*. The fee is typically a percentage of the settlement or jury verdict. *In the event the claim is unsuccessful, the lawyer receives no fee.*

The contingent fee practice has been an essential tool in our civil justice system for more than 100 years now. It permits every American, regardless of wealth or social standing, the opportunity to pursue a valid claim against even the most powerful corporation, organization, or individual. In large measure, it has made our justice system the envy of the world. The contingent fee is the equalizer, giving injured persons, no matter what their financial means, an equal opportunity in the courtroom against giant corporations and insurance companies.

At The Czack Law Firm, we are proud to handle all of our serious injury and wrongful death cases on a contingent fee basis — a “No Settlement — No Fee” guarantee. Our willingness to handle your case on this basis gives you the opportunity to enforce your legal rights against the individual or corporation responsible for your injuries. This *outside-the-box* legal arrangement is your key to the courthouse.

If you have more questions about the contingency fee concept or a case you might have, call The Czack Law Firm at (216) 696-9216 or email me at mczack@czacklaw.com.

Michael W. Czack
Founder, The Czack Law Firm

Being the best advocate oftentimes requires a lawyer to think “*outside the box*” to help a client with a complicated legal situation. We share some of these very gratifying instances with you in our Friends of the Firm Newsletter in a column we call **Outside the Box**.



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OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
and by appointment.

PRACTICE AREAS

- Serious Personal Injury and Wrongful Death
- Auto, Truck, and Motorcycle Accidents
- Medical and Nursing Home Negligence
- Construction Site Accidents
- Brain and Spinal Cord Injuries
- Workers’ Compensation and Social Security

Electric Scooters Causing Problems in Cities

If you’ve visited downtown Cleveland or a college town lately, you’ve probably noticed business people, tourists, and residents alike zipping around on electric scooters. One can rent a scooter at locations throughout the city of Cleveland using an app. It’s been wildly successful, and e-scooters have become a popular transportation alternative in cities. The downside is that regulations to make such travel safe is lagging and accidents happen often.

In 2019, a Fort Lauderdale woman suffered

a traumatic brain injury that left her in a permanent vegetative state after being hit by a car while using a Lime scooter. In Fort Lauderdale, it is against the law to ride scooters in the street, yet stickers on the scooter and instructions within the app instruct riders not to ride on the sidewalks.

Since e-scooters were introduced in 2017, *Consumer Reports* has reported injuries from 110 hospitals in 47 U.S. cities and found at least 1,500 riders were injured and eight riders were

killed in e-scooter accidents. Pedestrians are also struck by riders or trip over scooters left on the sidewalks and are injured.

If you are hurt in an accident as a rider or pedestrian involving an e-scooter, you may be able to file an injury claim if someone else was at fault.

If you’ve been injured in an e-scooter accident, contact The Czack Law Firm to help you navigate the user agreements and laws of the jurisdiction in which the incident occurred.

VOTING VIA MAIL IN OHIO

Though we usually focus on serious personal injury and insurance issues, a quick reminder to everyone to VOTE is in order.

Mail-in voting (also called absentee voting) has become an increasingly popular option as voters seek to avoid traveling to the polls during the coronavirus crisis. And, mail-in voting is especially important to voters who have injuries or mobility issues and can't get to a polling location.

Voting by mail in Ohio is a simple process:

- 1) Request your mail-in ballot with a mail ballot application.
- 2) Fill out the application completely.
- 3) Submit the request to your local election office. You should request your ballot as far in advance of the election as possible. The deadline to request a ballot by mail is 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 31, 2020.
- 4) When your ballot arrives, read it carefully and follow the instructions to complete it and return it.

Regardless if you choose in-person or vote-by-mail, make sure you exercise your right to vote on or before November 3.

If you have questions, contact your local board of elections.



CUYAHOGA COUNTY —
<https://boe.cuyahogacounty.us>

LAKE COUNTY —
<https://www.lakecountyohio.gov/lakeelections>

GEAUGA COUNTY —
<https://boelections.co.geauga.oh.us>

ASHTABULA COUNTY —
<https://www.boe.ohio.gov/ashtabula>

LORAIN COUNTY —
<https://www.voteloraincountyohio.gov>

MEDINA COUNTY —
<https://www.boe.ohio.gov/medina>



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Thanks for the referrals!

TRUCK OVERLOAD

What Happens When Debris from Overloaded Trucks Causes Injury?

Have you ever been following a truck on a Cleveland highway with a load of pipes, wood, machinery, or other items that made you feel a little nervous? Chances are you have. Imagine the damage those things could do if they weren't secured properly, or if a load were too large and fell off the truck.

Whether it's tons of pipes, pieces of garbage, or clumps of dirt and rock flying off a commercial truck, if it causes an accident or damage, the company or driver can be held liable. Both have an obligation to secure their loads for the safety of drivers and pedestrians. Federal and state law provides clear guidelines on size and weight of truck loads.

And, no, a sign on the back of a vehicle warning drivers to keep a distance and claiming that the company isn't responsible for damage caused by falling debris doesn't absolve the company of responsibility to follow regulations and secure what it is hauling.

If flying debris causes you to be in an accident and damages your vehicle or causes injury, get the name of the company and truck number if possible, make note of your location and the time, take plenty of photos of the damage, and file a claim right away with your insurance company. If an injury was sustained, call us at The Czack Law Firm, (216) 696-9216.

