

Featured Case:

Motorcyclist Sues GM Over Self-Driving Crash

A San Francisco motorcyclist is suing General Motors after he was struck on the highway by one of their self-driving vehicles, a Cruise AV.

Self-driving vehicles, or autonomous vehicles, have been part of the automobile conversation for several years. Although fully autonomous vehicles are still a futuristic concept, semi-autonomous vehicles are already in use.

The victim claimed the vehicle had begun to change lanes and then abruptly returned to the lane, colliding with his motorcycle. The driver of the GM Cruise AV confirmed the vehicle was operating under the auto-pilot mode.

In 2016, Tesla's semi autonomous vehicle Model S was involved in a similar, but fatal, crash. A Federal investigation determined that the autonomous design was a contributing factor, stating the system allowed the driver to rely too heavily on the car's automation.

Representatives for Tesla have long taken the stance that when operating their vehicles in the auto-pilot mode, the 'responsibility remains with the driver' to safely operate the vehicle and to follow and obey traffic laws. It is not an opportunity to 'check out'. No statement has been made by GM as of now.

Follow our blog for more updates regarding safety concerns for semi- and fully autonomous vehicles as they are introduced to the public.

Source: ABC News ♦

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Linda Stricker Celebrates 20 Years with The Cooper Firm

In February, Linda Stricker celebrated a big milestone—20 years working for Lance Cooper! From Johnson, Cooper & Jones to The Cooper Firm, one thing has remained constant and that is Linda. Her original role was Legal Assistant but she has worn many hats over the years. Nowadays we like to call her our 'Director of First Impressions.' Linda is the first person anyone speaks to when they call or visit our firm. She sets the tone for how every client or business partner will be treated and there is no one we would prefer to have in that role.

Linda began her journey in the legal industry working for a collection attorney in Buckhead. She spent several years commuting from her home in Marietta in a legal field she didn't really enjoy before she told herself she wanted to work for a trial lawyer—and more specifically personal injury. She loves to share that she was Lance's very first interview. Clearly he has a good eye for talent! Thank you, Linda, for your loyalty, service, friendship and laughter!



We are proud to call Linda our 'Director of First Impressions.'

Here is a message from Linda in her own words:

"I have had no greater privilege, honor and blessing in my life than to be a member of the team that supports Lance's efforts to 'Relentlessly Pursue Justice.' I have watched our work family grow and change, and I have watched my co-workers' families grow and change. I have also had the privilege the privilege of watching Lance and Sonja's children grow into adulthood with the addition of spouses and grandchildren. What a joy it has been to witness their bond of love and faith in Our Father.

"One of the privileges of working with The Cooper Firm has been my ability to participate on several Mission trips to Liberia, West Africa through our relationship with Orphan Aid Liberia. Not many employers enthusiastically allow for the extended two weeks or more absences in order to travel the world to aid others. The calling I have to serve those less fortunate is mirrored by many of us at The Cooper Firm but none more so than Lance Cooper. All I can say is that I Am Blessed. Thank You!" ♦

Recall Round-Up:

Every week we scour the internet and bring you the latest information on product and automotive recalls. Make sure to visit the blog every Friday for our Recall Round-Up.

Recall Highlights from January – March:

Harley-Davidson

Nearly 175,000 bikes were recently recalled by Harley-Davidson due to a potential brake failure. NHTSA received numerous complaints about sudden brake loss and began an investigation in 2016. They determined that if an owner does not replace the brake fluid after a 'prolonged period' beyond the recommended two-year schedule, deposits may form that increase the risk a brake failure and motorcycle crash.



KitchenAid Electric Kettles

Whirlpool is recalling 40,000 KitchenAid electric kettles due to a burn hazard. The manufacturer received 79 reports in the U.S. of handles separating from the kettle, causing the hot contents to spill and increasing the risk of a burn.

2017-2018 RAM Trucks

Fiat Chrysler is recalling more than 180,000 RAM trucks due to a gear shift problem. Included in the recall are the 2017-2018 RAM 1500, 2500, 3500 and 5500 model pickup trucks. These trucks have steering wheel mounted gear shifters and an internal flaw might allow a driver to inadvertently shift into gear without stepping on the brake. It might also be possible to shift the vehicle out of park when the key is not in the ignition. Both mechanical failures increase the possible of rollaway which could result in a crash or injury.

Graco Highchair

The popular manufacturer of baby products announced a recall of nearly 36,000 highchairs in February. The Graco Table2Table 6-in-1 highchair converts from a traditional highchair to five other modes including a booster seat and toddler chair. Graco received 38 reports of the rear leg pivoting out of position which can cause the highchair to lose its stability and fall over, increasing the risk of injury. Five children have reportedly been injured as a result of the defect.

Hyundai 2018 Santa Fe and Santa Fe Sport

Hyundai announced they are recalling nearly 43,000 2018 Santa Fe and Santa Fe Sport models. Hyundai reports that the vehicles pose an injury risk because the steering wheel can break away from the steering column in the event of a crash.

Ford Fusion and Lincoln MKZ

This week Ford announced a recall of a combined 1.4 million vehicles due to a faulty steering wheel. The auto maker determined the Ford Fusion and Lincoln MKZ from model years 2014-2018 both have a steering wheel bolt that could come loose and potentially detach. This increases the risk of collisions and injuries.

Information on these and other notable recalls from the beginning of 2018 can be found on The Cooper Firm blog. We also include links to each manufacturer for important details on how to resolve any issue with a defective product.

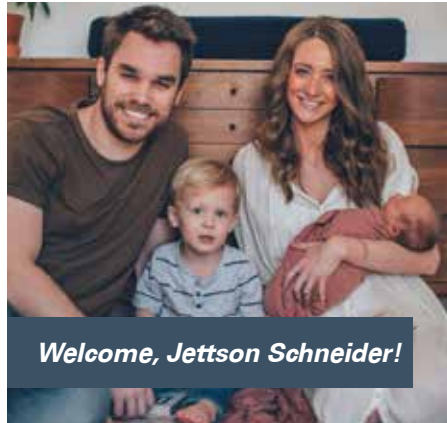
As always, if you have been injured as a result of a product or vehicle that you believe to be defective, contact us immediately.

◆ The Cooper Firm Alumni Updates



The Hon. Scott B. Cooper

Congratulations to Hon. Scott B. Cooper on his recent appointment to Orange County Superior Court bench. After leaving Atlanta in 2007, Scott started the Cooper Law Firm in Irvine, California. The Cooper Law Firm spent the past 10 years successfully representing clients in employment and consumer class action. Congratulations, Judge Cooper!



Welcome, Jettson Schneider!

Victoria and Ian Schneider welcomed Jettson Darwin Schneider on March 9th. He was 6lbs 14oz of preciousness and was so excited to meet his big brother, Cove, that he arrived 20 days early. We wish all the best to the Schneider Family.



Recent Grad Kate Shilton

Congratulations, Kate! You may remember Kate Shilton as one of our 2017 Summer interns. We are happy to report that she has just graduated from law school in Australia.

◆ TCF Team Updates



Congratulations to Amanda Lavery

Congratulations are in order for Amanda Lavery! Amanda was recently named Ways and Means Chair of the Cobb County Legal Professionals Association. As part of her duties, she heads up the marketing efforts for the association to increase community awareness and membership. She also has spearheaded a community service project for CCLPA called "BOGO for Backpacks" where local Marietta law offices are asked to contribute food items to the Blessings in a Backpack organization which supports meals for children and their families outside of the normal school day. We are so proud of you, Amanda!



Prayers for Gabby and Orphan Aid Liberia

We are so proud that Gabby is joining Orphan Aid Liberia on their June visit to Africa. You may know that Gabby is a current Public Health graduate student at Mercer University, in addition to the wonderful job she does here of course. While on the trip, she will be giving various public health demonstrations regarding healthy behaviors with the children at the orphanage in addition to providing deworming services and delivering food and hygiene supplies to Ebola-affected families. Gabby is so excited to go help inform, educate and empower these children.



Relentlessly Pursuing Justice

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“Lance sees the human value of his cases,
he doesn’t just look at the monetary value.”
Every case that he takes is worth his time.

Y.G. Nyghtstorm, Client