

Featured:

**Press Release:
September 11, 2018**

**GA Attorney
General Selects
Legal Team to Assist
in Opioid Investigation
and Litigation**

ATLANTA, GA – Attorney General Chris Carr today announced that he has selected outside private counsel to serve as co-counsel in an investigation and litigation involving the manufacture, marketing, sale, and distribution of prescription opioid products in the state of Georgia. John Bevis of the Barnes Law Group will be appointed as Special Assistant Attorneys General (SAAGs) pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 45-15-4. The Barnes Law Group will work in conjunction with The Cooper Firm, Franklin Law, LLC, and Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis & Miles, P.C.

“We are honored that Attorney General Chris Carr chose our team to represent the State of Georgia. We look forward to working with the Attorney General to obtain justice for the citizens of Georgia who have suffered as a result of the opioid crisis.” – Lance Cooper ♦

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Consumer Reports Reviews Toddler Booster Car Seats

Several years ago, Consumer Reports launched a comparative car seat testing protocol. Since then, they have tested car seats at all stages (infant, toddler/boosters, all-in-one seats) in real-world crash scenarios on a recurring basis. This information is used when publishing their reports of safety concerns and approvals for car seats currently on the market. After an extensive review of many popular toddler booster seats, Consumer Reports showed real safety concern over four models from manufacturers Britax, Cosco, and Harmony. The Britax Frontier ClickTight, Britax Pioneer, Cosco Finale, and Harmony Defender 360 all showed less than satisfactory results. These are all car seats that are used as a traditional forward-facing car seat and then transition to a booster seat after the child outgrows the harness. Consumer reports conducted crash simulations that tested the structure when a dummy within the manufacturer’s stated height and weight limits was placed in the seat. In these tests, damages to the harness or the actual structure were noted that could increase the risk of a child coming into contact with front seats or being ejected. All pose serious injury risks or even death in a crash. In both the Britax and Harmony models, significant structural issues occurred during the crash simulation, and in some cases the entire harness pulled through the car seat structure.

Consumer reports acts as an independent safety testing agency, and should be used for educational purposes only. Their testing is different than NHTSA’s testing and therefore can yield different results. Consumers are encouraged to review as much information as possible when making a purchase and are encouraged to file a complaint with NHTSA or CPSC should an issue arise after purchase. ♦



Recall Round-Up:

Every week we scour the internet to 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 June – November:

BMW Vehicles

BMW will recall approximately 45k vehicles due to a fire risk. The manufacturer reported that the specific models equipped with an Exhaust Gas Re-circulation module can leak internally and mix with diesel engine soot causing an increased temperature and risk of fire. No injuries have been reported at this time. The following models are included in the recall: 2013-2018 BMW 328d and 328d xDrive, 2014-2018 328d Sports Wagon and 328d xDrive Sports Wagon, 2014-2015 535d and 535d xDrive, 2015 740Ld xDrive, 2015-2017 X3 xDrive28d SAV, and 2014-2017 X5 xDrive35d SAV. Consumers should expect to be notified by mid-December.

Ford Focus Vehicles

Ford issued a safety recall of 1.28 million 2012-2018 Focus vehicles in the United States with two-liter GDI and GTDI engines due to a fuel tank defect. Investigators noted that a canister purge valve could become stuck in the open position which could cause the Focus to stall and not restart. Ford encourages drivers to keep their fuel tanks at a minimum of half full until the issue can be resolved. Affected owners will be notified by U.S. mail when they can begin bringing their vehicle to authorized dealerships in order to have the defective part fixed for free.

Ford F-150 Trucks

Ford will recall 1.6 million 2015-2018 F-150 pickup trucks this year due to a seat belt defect. In the event of a crash, the front seat belt may release sparks that can catch materials in the pickup truck on fire. Dealers plan to remove materials and replace with heat resistant tape. In August, NHTSA began an in-depth investigation after receiving 23 reports of fire in pickup trucks following a crash. No injuries have been reported as of yet. Ford will notify owners, or they can call 1-866-436-7332 and reference recall 18S27.

Eddie Bauer Infant Carriers

Eddie Bauer (manufactured by Gold Inc) will recall approximately 22,000 infant carriers due to a strap defect. The buckles on the carrier may break which causes a possible fall risk for a child in the carrier. The Eddie Bauer branded carriers were sold exclusively at Target December 2017 through August 2018 for \$70. The manufacturer received eight reports of falling incidents, but no injuries. Gold Inc encourages consumers to immediately stop using the carrier and contact their customer service line at 866-600-7205 to verify your item is included in the recall.

Nissan Cars and SUVs

Nissan is recalling over 240k cars and SUVs in the U.S. and Canada due to a rear brake defect that can be a fire hazard. The recall includes 2015-17 Murano, 2016-17 Maxima, 2014-18 Pathfinder, and 2017 Infiniti QX60. NHTSA reported the anti-lock brake pump can leak brake fluid causing an electrical short. This increases the risk of a fire. Nissan recommends drivers who see the anti-lock brake warning light illuminated on their dashboard for more than 10 seconds should park outdoors and away from other structures and vehicles, turn off the vehicle and discontinue driving. If the light remains on, they should contact a licensed dealership to have the car towed for service. Nissan began replacing the defective part on October 15th.



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

◆ Team Updates



The Cooper Firm at a Braves game



Drew, Linda, and Doreen at AIEG conference



Gabby four-year anniversary



Lance speaking at Beasley Allen Retreat



The Cooper Firm Halloween 2018

Congratulations to Amanda Lavery on 10 years!

Amanda has given tirelessly of herself to our firm for 10 years and we could not be more grateful. It's not often employees remain at a company for a decade and we are so blessed to have such a loyal member of our team. Amanda is by far our funniest paralegal (Sorry Doreen... it had to be said) and in our industry we could all use a few moments of laughter. Thank you, Amanda, for an incredible 10 years and we look forward to many more! ◆



Amanda Lavery celebrates 10 years



Relentlessly Pursuing Justice

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“Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year
from all of us at
The Cooper Firm.”