

the cert*

SUMMER 2025 | ISSUE SIX

*certiorari, noun. From late Middle English law Latin 'to be informed' originally occurring at the start of a writ



PARTNERS DAVE CHRISTENSEN AND SARAH STEMCKY-KIME

winners of the first place award for best TV commercial as voted by a national panel of legal peers

<< watch it here



CHRISTENSEN LAW

PERSONAL INJURY TRIAL ATTORNEYS

FIRM NEWS - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUPPORTING MEANINGFUL CAUSES

This summer, we are focusing our charitable efforts on supporting children and families affected by epilepsy. As Campfire Sponsors and Volunteers for the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan's Kids Summer Camp, we're proud to help create life-changing experiences for kids living with epilepsy. We also sponsored the first annual Alistair's Sunrise Open, a tennis tournament inspired by Managing Partner Sarah Stempky-Kime's son Alistair's courage through brain surgery. Hosted by Bloomfield Open Hunt, the event brought together athletes, families, and supporters to raise funds for the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan and the Pediatric Epilepsy Surgery Alliance. Together, we're helping those living with epilepsy live fuller, brighter, and more empowered lives.



EPILEPSY
FOUNDATION
MICHIGAN

pediatric epilepsy
surgery alliance



OUT & ABOUT

We're firm believers in giving back to the communities we serve. One way we do that is through public education. Partnering with the City of Southfield, we've participated in a number of their weekly Seniors Speaker Series, covering topics ranging from *What Constitutes a Personal Injury Case* to *No-Fault Insurance*. Our team reviewed residents' policies to ensure they have the correct coverage to protect them in the event of an accident. Look for us there and in Mount Clemens this summer as we speak with young drivers to discuss the dangers and long-term consequences of impaired and distracted driving.

Paralegal Adonica Dawkins and Trial Attorney Brandon Abro at City of Southfield Seniors Speaker Series



IF YOU'D LIKE A FREE REVIEW OF YOUR INSURANCE POLICIES, GIVE US A CALL 248.900.9000



TEAM NEWS

Each quarter, our team nominates a colleague who goes above and beyond—in Q1, we are thrilled to celebrate Nancy Pruett, our Intake Specialist and Manager of Intake Experience. The warm, welcoming voice guiding clients through their first steps with our firm, Nancy draws on her hospitality roots and 5-star training to provide a client experience that feels personal, respectful, and professional. "She truly embodies the spirit and values of the firm."

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER



Attorney Michael Laurila & Team

L to R: Trezure Calmeze, Legal Support Specialist; Michael Laurila; Jenice McGruder, Paralegal; and Onya Sterling, Case Manager

Summer VIBES



EXPLORE MORE IN MI

SKIP THE CROWDS AND VISIT THESE LESSER-KNOWN LAKES

- Lake Sixteen (Metro Detroit) – Quiet paddling in Oakland County
- Spider Lake (Traverse City) – Great for kayaking and fishing
- Rush Lake (Hamburg Township) – Serene and shallow
- Chicago Lake (Iron County) – Crystal-clear water and camping
- Sand Lake (Lenawee County) – Peaceful sunsets and warm water swimming

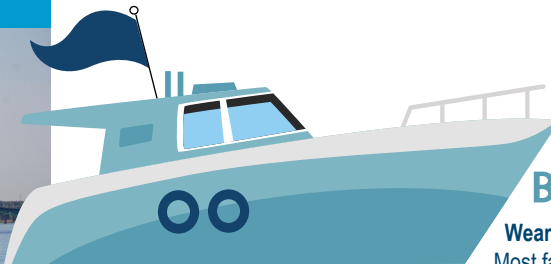


LISTEN PROTECT WIN™

SOUTHFIELD | DETROIT | TROY | GRAND RAPIDS | ANN ARBOR 248.900.9000 davidchristensenlaw.com

MACKINAW MYTHS: TRUTH OR FICTION?

A full-time crew lives under the mighty Mackinac bridge. It can flex more than 30' in high winds, and is longer than five Golden Gate bridges. The island has a hidden military tunnel system under the old fort. The world's longest porch can be found at the elegant Grand Hotel. There's a spooky cemetery statute of a nun that watches visitors. Mackinaw is known as the island built on sacred bones, where the woods whisper and ghosts haunt the shoreline.



BOATINGSAFETY

Wear Your Life Jacket, Every Time
Most fatal boating accident victims not

wearing life jackets. Don't take chances—keep it on, even in calm waters.

Avoid Alcohol While Boating

Alcohol impairs judgment and slows reaction time, greatly increasing the risk of a crash. Stay sharp and save the drinks for after you dock.

Check the Weather - Avoid Surprise Hazards

Storms and high winds can create dangerous waves and poor visibility. Check before you set out to gauge weather conditions.

Keep Safe Distances, Maintain Safe Speed

Many collisions happen when boaters follow too closely or travel too fast. Slow down near other vessels, shorelines, or swimmers to prevent crashes.

Assign a Lookout to Watch for Hazards

A second set of eyes can spot people, floating debris, or other boats that the driver might miss. Prevent accidents with constant 360-degree awareness.

Know the Lake and Respect No-Wake Zones

Ignorance of local rules causes many accidents. Learn the lake layout, obey posted speed limits, and slow down in no-wake areas to avoid collisions and shore damage.

Practice Caution When Towing Tubes or Skiers

Always use a spotter and maintain a wide, clear path. Sudden turns or getting too close to others can cause serious injuries.



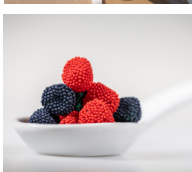
Be Prepared with Working Safety Equipment

Flares, horns, flags, and lights help signal for help and avoid collisions. Make sure everything works before leaving the dock.

SMART CHOICES FOR OPTIMAL BRAIN HEALTH

Michigan has so much to offer when the weather warms and the sun shines. It's the perfect time to not only have fun, but also to take care of yourself, especially your brain.

- **Stay Active** - Regular exercise boosts blood flow to the brain and enhances cognitive function. Aim for 30 mins daily of moderate exercise.
- **Eat Brain Foods** - Incorporate omega-3s, antioxidants, and healthy fats from fish, nuts, and berries. The Mediterranean diet supports long-term health.
- **Get Enough Sleep** - Aim for 7-9 hours/night for restorative sleep to aid memory and clear toxins that accumulate during the day.
- **Manage Stress** - Practice mindfulness, meditation, journaling, or deep breathing to reduce cortisol levels.
- **Stay Social** - Engaging with others helps keep your brain sharp and reduces cognitive decline.
- **Challenge Your Mind** - Read, solve puzzles, or learn a new skill or language to keep neurons firing.
- **Stay Hydrated** - Dehydration impairs focus and mental clarity.



CHECK OUT THE BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN'S RESOURCE PAGES FOR MORE INFORMATION.

MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS

TIS THE SEASON...

Seasoned riders ride smart. You've racked up miles and likely have stories. Keep your skills sharp, your ride legal, and your gear dialed in. Check the ego, check the bike, and check the laws. They've changed—and so have the roads.

Do a Serious Safety Check

Even the most well-maintained bikes need regular maintenance. Check your tire integrity (not just pressure), inspect cables, brakes, and battery load, and flush any stale fluids. A 10-minute look-over won't cut it.

Ditch the Blacks—Make Yourself Seen

You know drivers aren't looking for bikes. That matte black setup might look slick, but it vanishes at dusk or in rain. Consider adding hi-vis accents, auxiliary lighting, or reflective tape on your panniers, helmet, or jacket. Be seen and make it home in one piece.

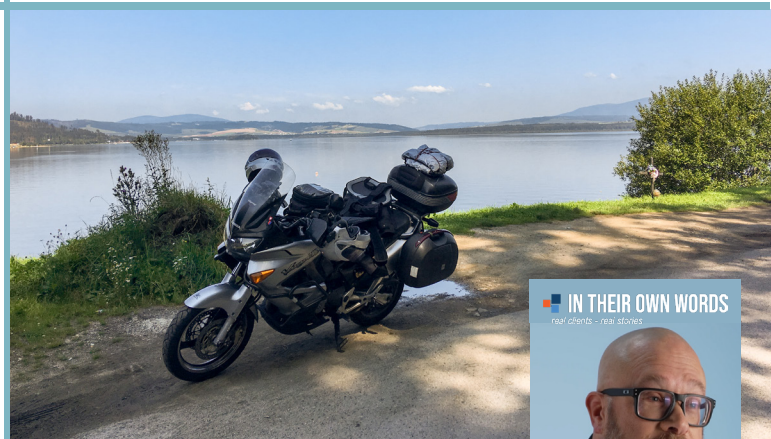
Refresh Your Legal Coverage—Our No-Fault Doesn't Favor Riders

Michigan's no-fault reform doesn't offer PIP to motorcyclists by default. If you're hit by a car, you'll depend on their auto policy for coverage—but only if it's active and adequate. Don't count on that. Consider a medical pay rider or supplemental health coverage tailored for riders. It could mean the difference between rehab and ruin.

Protect What You've Built—You're Entitled to More Than a Bike Fix

If you're injured by a negligent driver, Michigan law entitles you to:

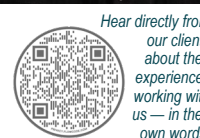
- Full medical coverage (from the at-fault driver's PIP—if available)
- Lost wages during recovery
- Pain and suffering compensation
- Bike repair/replacement
- Wrongful death benefits for surviving family (in fatal crashes)



If You Go Down - Veteran Riders Know the Risk is Real

- Get clear of the road, if possible
- Call 911—even if you feel "okay"
- Document the scene (photos/videos, license plates, witness names)
- Don't downplay injuries - adrenaline lies
- Call a trial lawyer who actually rides or knows biker law

But here's the hard truth: you'll need an experienced motorcycle injury lawyer to get it. Don't expect insurers to step up without a fight. We hope you never need to call, but if you do, we'll be right here for you.



Hear directly from our clients about their experiences working with us — in their own words. Watch their powerful testimonials to see how we help clients find justice and peace of mind.