



Inside Kansas Politics - Wrongful Death Caps



Watch as Matt Bretz joins Rebecca Chung on Inside Kansas Politics to discuss Kansas House Bill 2183 and wrongful death caps in Kansas. To contact your legislator, visit www.kslegislature.org.

WATCH VIDEO

UPCOMING EVENTS

06/07/24
SMOKE ON THE PLAINS FESTIVAL
DERBY, KS



06/08/24
THUNDER ON THE PLAINS CAR SHOW
HAYS, KS



06/14/24
KANSAS PRIDE FESTIVAL
HUTCHINSON, KS



06/20/24 - 06/22/24
SMALLVILLE FESTIVAL
HUTCHINSON, KS



06/27/24 - 06/29/24
COUNTRY STAMPEDE FESTIVAL
BONNER SPRINGS, KS



BRETZ INJURY LAW

What's going on?

There is plenty to do in Kansas! Click the button below for more events in your area.

EVENTS NEAR ME



2024 Ride Like MADD Poker Run



We would like to thank all who participated in the 2024 Topeka Ride Like MADD Poker Run. With your help, we were able to help bring funds and awareness to Mothers Against Drunk Driving and help support the family of Cheyanne Branson, a victim of drunk driving. If you would like to help support MADD's mission, you can donate to their cause [here](#).

WATCH VIDEO

Kansas Drive to Zero



Over 32% of traffic crash deaths in the U.S. are caused by alcohol-related impaired driving. Driving after drinking can mean going to jail and paying fines, legal fees, and mechanic bills. You could also hurt or kill yourself, your passengers, or someone else on the road.



KANSANS WHO DRIVE DRUNK OR HIGH PUT YOUR LIFE IN DANGER

Did you know that over 32% of traffic fatalities in 2022 were caused by drunk and drugged driving? With over 13,000 deaths for the second consecutive year, this alarming statistic underscores the urgent need for action. Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) is advocating for new vehicle technology to prevent impaired driving, which could save thousands of lives. Additionally, increased law enforcement, public education campaigns, and stricter penalties for offenders can help combat this issue. By making responsible choices and supporting these measures, we can work together to reduce drunk driving fatalities.

Victim to Victory Podcast

Listen as Matt Bretz joins Attorney Lawrence LeBrocq on the Victim to Victory podcast as they discuss the impact of personal loss on legal representation.

LISTEN HERE



Matt's Monthly Minute

This month's "Monthly Minute" focuses on product liability claims, covering the different categories and who can be held liable.

According to statistics from Santa Clara University, every year over 34 million people in the United States are injured or killed as a result of dangerous products. Product related injuries are the leading cause of death in people from age 1 to 26, accounting for more deaths in this age group than cancer and heart disease. Injuries and deaths from products have a \$12 billion annual cost.

Product liability claims may be divided into three main categories including design defects, manufacturing defects, and a failure to warn. These are not generally considered to be legal claims in and of themselves, but are included as part of the theories of liability which are discussed below.

A "design defect" occurs where the design of a product is dangerous or useless regardless of how carefully manufactured. One may look at whether the product fails to meet normal consumer expectations or whether the risks created by the product outweigh its benefits.

A "manufacturing defect" is a defect which occurs during the manufacturing process, making the product dangerous not because of its design but, rather, because of poor quality materials or poor workmanship.

A defect in "failure to warn" occurs when a product is designed and manufactured properly, but still has inherent dangers which are not obvious and which could be avoided with proper warnings.

To explain the differences between these three types of product liability claims, consider the real-life example of a wheel which was installed on the back of a cruiser motorcycle which is normally used for long distance highway travel carrying a passenger, loaded saddle bags, and possibly a small pull-behind trailer. While returning from Sturgis the driver of such a motorcycle, for an unknown reason, lost control of the motorcycle, crashed, and the passenger suffered severe injuries.

Most attorneys would pursue a liability claim for the passenger against the driver of the motorcycle in such a case. But when we handled this case, we first investigated to see whether there was an underlying cause for the driver to lose control. Was the wheel damaged in the wreck, or did damage to the wheel cause the wreck? Was the wheel properly designed, with the proper type of metal thick enough to handle the increased load associated with a heavy cruiser motorcycle, passenger, packed saddle bags, and trailer? Was the wheel manufactured to specifications, or was an improper cheaper metal with impurities used, making the wheel weak and susceptible to failure? If the wheel was designed and manufactured properly, was there a failure to warn about overloading the motorcycle? Through investigation and discovery, we were able to determine that in this case, the cross section of the metal in the rim was too thin for the load carried on this type of motorcycle.

Also consider the example of several exploding gas tank cases where people were burned to death after their vehicles were rear-ended at a fairly low speed. Many of these claims were pursued only against the drivers of the vehicles which rear-ended the other vehicles, without the attorneys even considering why the gas tanks exploded.

While we did not handle these cases, in one such case a careful and experienced attorney also looked into the underlying cause of the gas tank rupture and explosion. This attorney found that the fuel tanks were positioned behind the rear axle and in front of the rear bumper, that the fuel filler neck would tear away from the sheet metal tank and spill fuel beneath the car upon impact, and that the tank was also easily punctured by bolts protruding from the rear differential and nearby mounting brackets. In short, the vehicles were manufactured properly, but had several inherent design defects which rendered them unsafe.

If you've been injured due to a defective or unsafe product, call us today. Our experienced team will answer your questions and help you take the first step towards justice.

- Matthew L. Bretz

Community News

Kansas governor approves \$75 million increase for special education

Governor Laura Kelly signed a \$6.6 billion education bill, including \$75 million for special education. She vetoed a provision directing safety funds to a specific software company, advocating for broader use. Lawmakers praised the bill as a crucial step in meeting educational funding requirements. Read more [here](#).

Kansas drivers ranked 8th worst in 2024 study

In a study by Forbes Advisor, Kansas drivers ranked 8th worst in the United States. The study considered multiple factors including fatal accidents due to drunk driving, distracted driving, speed, and more. Read more [here](#).

Free legal advice available to Kansas residents

Kansas residents can now access free legal advice through the American Bar Association's Free Legal Answers program. Available since May 1, this service lets attorneys address civil questions online, Kansas Legal Services and other organizations also offer free legal and advocacy services. Read more [here](#).

Employee News

Alex Rizzo

We're excited to introduce Alex Rizzo, our new paralegal. Having spent much of her life in Hutchinson, Alex is a proud Salthawk. She is eager to use her skills to make a difference in each of our clients' lives. Welcome to the team, Alex!

Casey Enszt

Help us congratulate Casey, our Marketing and Intake Director, on his 3-year mark at Bretz Injury Law! Casey's dedication and hard work have been instrumental in our growth and success. Here's to many more years of excellence and achievement!

May Giveaway Winners

CINCO DE MAYO GIVEAWAY



Cinco de Mayo Giveaway

Winner: Cole Mills
Cole won three \$50 gift cards to Abuelo's, Carlos O'Kelly's, and On The Border. He also won a chips and dip basket to enjoy at home!

DAY AT THE ZOO GIVEAWAY



Day at the Zoo Giveaway

Winner: Jay Sims
Jay won four tickets and four attraction passes to the Sedgwick County Zoo. She also won a snack package to keep her crew energized for a fun day at the zoo!

RANDY TRAVIS TICKET GIVEAWAY



Randy Travis Ticket Giveaway

Winner: Anthony Beltran
Anthony won two tickets to Randy Travis: The More Life Tour at The Orpheum! He also won a \$30 gift card to Norton's Brewing Company for dinner before the show.

DAY AT THE ZOO GIVEAWAY



Day at the Zoo Giveaway 2

Winner: Jared Phillips
Jared won four tickets to Tanganyika Wildlife Park in Goddard! He also won a pair of stainless steel water bottles, some sunscreen, and lip balm.

Giveaways are posted Mondays on the Bretz Injury Law Facebook page. Visit www.facebook.com/bretzinjurylaw to enter for your chance to win!

Featured Recipe: Tater Tot and Bacon Breakfast Casserole

Ingredients:

- 1 pound bacon, diced
- 1 (32 ounce) package frozen tater tots
- 12 large eggs
- ½ cup milk
- 1 pinch salt
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- 2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese

Directions:

Gather ingredients. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Place bacon in a large skillet and cook over medium-high heat, turning occasionally, until evenly browned, 5 to 8 minutes. Drain bacon on paper towels. Spread bacon into the bottom of a 9x13-inch baking dish to cover. Spread tater tots over the bacon. Beat eggs, milk, salt, and pepper together in a bowl; pour over the layer of tater tots. Top with cheddar cheese and bake in the preheated oven until hot in the center, about 1 hour. Serve hot. Enjoy!

For more tasty summer recipes, visit allrecipes.com.

Full Recipe



Questions? Email the editor at stephen@bretzinjurylaw.com.



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