



## KWBW Interview with Matt Bretz



**Matt Bretz**  
Attorney and MADD  
National Board Member

**BRETZ**  
INJURY LAW

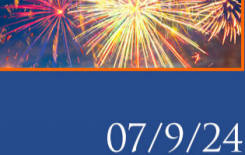


Listen as Matt Bretz, Attorney and MADD National Board Member, joins the KWBW Morning Show from Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. as he discusses the End Driving While Intoxicated Act of 2024 and progress of implementing impaired driving technology in new vehicles.

[LISTEN HERE](#)

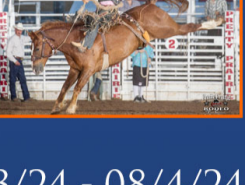
## UPCOMING EVENTS

07/4/24  
PATRIOTS PARADE &  
RAINBOW FIREWORKS  
HUTCHINSON, KS



07/9/24  
124TH ANNUAL  
WHEAT FESTIVAL  
WELLINGTON, KS

07/17/24 - 07/20/24  
PRETTY PRAIRIE  
RODEO  
PRETTY PRAIRIE, KS



07/23/24 - 08/4/24  
DODGE CITY  
DAYS  
DODGE CITY, KS

07/25/24 - 08/3/24  
NBC  
WORLD SERIES  
WICHITA, KS



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### What's going on?

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

[EVENTS NEAR ME](#)



## Inside Kansas Politics - End DWI Act



Watch as Attorney Matt Bretz joins reporter Rebecca Chung on Inside Kansas Politics to discuss the recent End DWI Act of 2024 and progress on the HALT act at the national level.

For more information on the End DWI Act, visit [tinyurl.com/y3ymk2bt](http://tinyurl.com/y3ymk2bt).

For more information on the HALT Act, visit [madd.org/haltact](http://madd.org/haltact).

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

## Astro's Adventures: Exploring Road Safety



Tess Rowland, former MADD National President and impaired driving victim, recently released her debut book, "Astro's Adventures: Exploring Road Safety," a unique and engaging children's book that helps introduce children to crucial road safety concepts in a fun and accessible way. To order a copy, visit [www.tessrowland.com/books](http://www.tessrowland.com/books).

[LEARN MORE](#)

## Matt's Monthly Minute

This month's "Monthly Minute" discusses the complexities of wrecks involving commercial motor carriers.

According to data released by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), approximately 500,000 truck wrecks occur every year in the United States. About 5,000 of these wrecks result in fatalities. Statistics show that one out of every eight traffic deaths involve a commercial truck.

Wrecks involving commercial motor carriers cannot be handled in the same way as a generic automobile case. There are complex federal regulations, multiple potential parties who may bear responsibility, product liability issues, and insurance questions which are specific to commercial motor carriers and wrecks with commercial trucks. This area of law is a minefield for the injured person and for the attorney who is inexperienced in commercial carrier litigation.

By way of example, consider the following list of potential parties who may be liable for a truck driver's negligence or who may be independently liable for their own negligence:

- Driver
- Tractor owner
- Tractor permanent and/or trip lessee
- Trailer owner
- Trailer lessees
- Employer for vicarious liability
- Employer for its own negligence
- Shipper or freight broker
- Manufacturer
- Maintenance company
- Physician who performed DOT physical
- Party or parties who loaded trailer.

Common theories of liability impacting commercial truck wrecks include the following:

- Negligence
- Vicarious liability such as from respondeat superior
- Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulation violations
- Joint venture
- Negligent hiring, training, supervision or control
- Negligent entrustment
- Improper loading
- Failure to provide safe work place
- Agency
- Borrowed employee
- Conspiracy
- Product liability (brakes, tire failure, rim failures, etc.)
- Inadequate lighting
- Driver fatigue

In addition to damages to compensate a person who has been injured, or the family of a person who has been killed, commercial truck wrecks frequently warrant punitive damage claims. Punitive damages may be awarded in addition to compensatory damages when a person or company has behaved in a reckless, wilful, wanton, or grossly negligent manner. Punitive damages are designed to punish a wrongdoer for his conduct and to deter others from doing the same thing.

In trucking cases punitive damages may be appropriate when there is evidence of negligent hiring, supervision, or control; negligent use of unsafe or broken equipment; allowing or requiring a driver to drive while fatigued; requiring a driver to falsify log books; not properly monitoring hours of service compliance; overloading a trailer; ignoring driver complaints about safety or maintenance issues; driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol; falsifying medical history information to get a DOT medical card; stopping the truck in a lane of travel allowing the driver to use a radar detector, etc.

Wrecks involving commercial trucks should always be carefully investigated to determine the underlying cause of a collision, and only after a thorough investigation should there be any discussion about settlement. If there is evidence to support a punitive damage claim you owe it to yourself, your family, and the public at large to pursue the responsible parties and put an end to the reckless or wilful conduct.

If you or a loved one has been injured in a truck wreck, call us today. Let us answer your questions and help you take the first step towards justice.

- Matthew L. Bretz

## Community News

### Wichita names its own website as the 'official' newspaper, replacing The Eagle



The Wichita City Council voted to use its website as the official newspaper, saving \$120,000 annually. The ordinance passed 5-2, ending the contract with The Wichita Eagle. Critics emphasize the need for independent records, and local newspapers can now apply to be a secondary print source. Read more [here](#).

### United Way of the Plains awards \$85,000 in grants to 10 local nonprofits



The United Way of the Plains awarded \$6,000 to \$10,000 grants to 10 local nonprofits to support underserved communities in Wichita. Announced on Juneteenth, these grants are part of the Promise on the Plains program, enhancing services like food, housing, education, and job training. Read more [here](#).

### Kansas lawmakers approve a plan to attract the Chiefs and Royals by financing new stadiums



Kansas legislators approved a plan to attract the Kansas City Chiefs and Kansas City Royals to Kansas by financing up to 70% of new stadium costs with state bonds. The funding would be repaid over 30 years using revenues from sports betting, Kansas Lottery sales, and new local taxes. Read more [here](#).

## Employee News



### Nedra Gallegos - Paralegal

We are happy to congratulate Nedra on her two-year anniversary at Bretz Injury Law. Her dedication and Spanish-speaking skills have been invaluable, significantly enhancing our ability to serve clients. Congratulations!



### Alex Rizzo - Paralegal

Help us wish Alex a very happy birthday! Alex's hard work and dedication make a significant impact on our team every day. Happy birthday, Alex!

## June Giveaway Winners



### Ultimate Recovery Giveaway

**Winner: Tammy Barron**

Tammy won a Theragun, massage oil, hot/cold gel comfort packs, and Biofreeze to help with recovery!



### Summer Splash Giveaway

**Winner: Tiara Eubanks**

Tiara won four day passes to Blast Off Bay in Goddard. She also won a swag bag with some beach towels, goggles, and water toys.



### Wingalooza Ticket Giveaway

**Winner: Nick Ball**

Nick won four tickets to Wingalooza at INTRUST Bank Arena. He also won some fancy bibs, tumblers, and a 100 count supply of wet-naps.



### Ice Cream Maker Giveaway

**Winner: Megan Lynn Sutcliffe**

Megan won a Ninja Creami ice cream maker to help keep her and her family cooler during the dog days of summer.

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

## Featured Recipe: Red, White, and Blue Crispy Rice Treats

### Ingredients:

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter
- One 10-ounce bag mini marshmallows
- 5 1/4 cups crispy rice cereal
- 1/2 teaspoon blue gel food coloring
- 1/2 teaspoon red gel food coloring
- 1/4 cup mixed red, white and blue sprinkles



### Directions:

Line a 9-by-9-inch baking dish with aluminum foil, leaving a 2-inch overhang on two opposite sides. Spray the foil lightly with cooking spray.

Divide the butter and marshmallows among 3 medium microwave-safe bowls (1 tablespoon of butter and about 2 cups of marshmallows per bowl). Microwave 1 bowl until the butter has melted and the marshmallows have puffed, about 60 seconds. Stir in the blue gel food coloring until the mixture is smooth and no streaks of food coloring remain.

Working spatula, add 1 3/4 cups of the rice cereal to the bowl and stir with a rubber spatula until evenly coated. Transfer to the prepared baking dish and press into an even, compact layer. (Spray your hands with a little cooking spray to keep them from sticking when pressing the cereal mixture into the pan). Set aside.

Microwave another bowl of butter and marshmallows in the same manner. Stir together until smooth and combined (this will be the "white" layer). Stir in another 1 3/4 cups of rice cereal until evenly coated. Place on top of the blue cereal treat layer, pressing until even and compact.

Repeat with the remaining bowl of butter and marshmallows, microwaving until melted and smooth. Stir in the red gel food coloring until the mixture is smooth and no streaks of food coloring remain. Add the remaining 1 3/4 cups rice cereal to the bowl and stir until evenly coated. Place on top of the white cereal treat layer, pressing into an even, compact layer. While still warm, top evenly with the sprinkles, pressing gently so they adhere.

Let sit at room temperature until firm, about 30 minutes. Cut into 16 squares. Store the crispy treats at room temperature in an airtight container for up to 3 days.

For more festive Fourth of July recipes, visit [foodnetwork.com](http://foodnetwork.com).

[Full Recipe](#)



Questions? Email the editor at [stephen@bretzinjurylaw.com](mailto:stephen@bretzinjurylaw.com).



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