

Client's Bill of Rights

Lawyers will tell you that it is impossible to offer a guarantee in the legal business, but we disagree. We say that law firm clients should settle for nothing less than a guarantee.

Remember, your attorney works for you not the other way around.

At Sherrod & Bernard we believe we can guarantee our clients quality service with personal attention. We believe that, as our client, you are entitled to have the:

- 1) Right to loyalty to you and your cause.
- 2) Right to be updated regularly and in a timely manner as to the progress of your case.
- 3) Right to our respect.
- 4) Right to expect competence from our firm and all who work here.
- 5) Right to know the truth about your case.
- 6) Right to prompt attention from our staff.
- 7) Right to have your legal rights and options explained in simple terms without a lot of legal mumbo jumbo.
- 8) Right to a fair written fee agreement with our firm.
- 9) Right to a fair fee for the services we provide.
- 10) Right to make the final decisions in your case.

REFERRALS

We want you to think of us as your law firm. If you have a legal matter that needs attention, please let us know. If we cannot handle the matter, we will refer you to a firm that can.



Sherrod+Bernard, P.C.
Attorneys at Law
P.O. Box 1154 | 8470 Price Avenue
Douglasville, GA 30133

FIRM NEWS



John Sherrod recently attended the Southern Trial Lawyers Association annual conference held in New Orleans. The 4 day conference covered a variety of topics involved in handling catastrophic injuries and wrongful death cases. John was joined at the event that coincides with Mardi Gras by wife, Patty, and daughters, Sydney and Lindsey.



Dance Academy West "Dazzlers" recently participated in the Star Power Dance Competition at the Georgia World Congress Center. Hayley Bernard is a Dazzler and pictured back row center. The Group received 5 out of 5 stars and numerous awards.



Ken and J.T. Bernard recently attended the 3rd Annual Denim & Diamonds Charities of Douglas County benefit in support of children through the county's Court Appointed Special Advocate program and the Douglas County Boys & Girls Club. Sherrod & Bernard was a Silver Sponsor, and Ken continues to serve on the founding board of the non-profit organization led by Stephanie Bleakley.



Ken and Carlyne Bernard recently attended the University System of Georgia Foundation's 10th Anniversary Celebration at The World of Coke benefiting need based college scholarships at the 31 public colleges and universities in Georgia. Ken formerly chaired the Foundation for 3 terms.



Congrats to Sydney Sherrod who will be graduating from the University of Georgia's journalism school with a degree in advertising in May. Sydney plans to grow her jewelry business which can be found at www.sherrodsisters.com and in boutiques across the south.



Best wishes to John and Patty Sherrod who recently tied the knot in Florence, Italy.



Bicycle Safety

By: John Sherrod

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As warmer weather approaches, more and more cyclists will take to the public roads. In 2011, 677 pedal-cyclists were killed in motor vehicle crashes. All road users must respect each other to foster a safer transportation environment. As an avid cyclist, I thought it important to review some excellent safety tips.

Bicycles, on the roadway, are like any other vehicle with the same rights and responsibilities. It goes without saying, any cyclist should be wearing a well fitted helmet, colorful clothing, and obey the rules of the road. Here are some additional safety measures for cyclists to avoid being struck by an inattentive driver.

1. Gain Motorist Attention. When cycling through an intersection, it is important to gain the stopped motorist's attention to alert the driver that you are present. A good attention grabber is a headlight with flashing mode on your bicycle. A cyclist should also attempt to get a motorist's attention by making eye contact and waving before safely proceeding through an intersection. If you are unable to make eye contact with the driver, you should slow down if a sudden stop is required.

2. Watch for Car Doors. As cyclists drive past parked cars, it is common to stay close to the car. Unfortunately, when a driver suddenly opens the door, the cyclist is faced with little choice. This is a common type of crash and can be avoided by riding far enough to the left that you will not run into any door if it is opened unexpectedly.

3. Avoid Sidewalks. For serious cyclists sidewalk riding can be very dangerous. The cyclist is vulnerable to cars pulling out of parking lots or driveways. You are also threatening pedestrians and dog walkers that also cause bad crashes. It also becomes very dangerous as the cyclist attempts to make a street crossing at a crosswalk where drivers are not expecting bikes in the crosswalk. It is hard for the motorist to see you because of the nature of turning from one street to the other so it is very easy to get hit this way.

4. Don't Ride Against Traffic. Each year a number of serious injuries and deaths occur because the cyclist attempts to ride against traffic. The problem occurs when a car turns out onto the road from a side street not expecting to see a cyclist in the wrong lane. The motorist had no reason to expect that someone would be coming at them from the wrong direction. *continued on page 3*

Urgent: Car Needs Repairs! Is the work getting done?

By: Ken Bernard

General Motors (GM) recently issued a recall on a number of vehicles due to faulty ignition switches, which caused vehicles to shutoff during operation. A number of deaths nationwide have been related to these faulty ignition switches.

Unfortunately, some auto dealers failed to follow a previously issued GM Technical Service Bulletin ("TSB") which called for a keyhole fix among other things to address ignition shutoff during normal operations. Has your dealer properly inspected, tested, and researched all TSBs involving your vehicle?

In one Georgia case, in which our firm is involved, the answer was No! The results were charging for and performing unnecessary work and sadly death. No one would have even known a young lady's death was caused by the dealer's failure to perform appropriate and necessary work, but for a lawyer requesting inspection of the vehicle's "Black Box" data recorder (Electronic Data Recorder or EDR).

The EDR records certain measurements and data associated with the vehicle's performance. When our client's vehicle crashed after she lost control, the EDR demonstrated her vehicle shutoff during operation at least three to four seconds before she wrecked, resulting in a loss of power, brakes, power steering, and control. The EDR demonstrated the vehicle switched from the "Run" position to the "ACC" position prior to the crash. While the police without the aid of the "Black Box" assumed she lost control voluntarily, the EDR proved them wrong.

For more info on the GM recall visit:

<http://www.gm.com/ignition-switch-recall.html>



P.O. Box 1154
8470 Price Avenue
Douglasville, GA 30133

FREE CONSULTATION

LOCAL: 770-920-8350

Call or visit
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You will get confidential
answers from an attorney
with no obligation.

Augusta National: My Intersection with Golf Immortality

By: Ken Bernard

Bobby Jones was an international sportsman and celebrity before cable TV, satellite radio, and before golf was anything near what it is today. Many credit Mr. Jones with bringing golf to America's attention, and the world's for that matter, even before Nicklaus, Palmer, and Player. You see Bobby Jones won golf's grand slam before it was known as such. Lewis Grizzard might call this "a premonition."



Bobby Jones and Clifford Roberts decided to buy an old fruit farm in the 30's, and it became Augusta National. Augusta National is Bobby Jones. He built it of course, and with his name, people came. No wonder the view on TV is so splendid.

In 1934, the first Augusta golf tournament was held: you may know it as simply "The Masters". My first trip there was in 1986 during the early rounds - oh by the way, Nicklaus won his 6th green jacket later that weekend. I've had the privilege of being a patron a hand full of times to watch the azaleas, flowers, trees (even the Eisenhower), and throngs of spectators – some who do not even like golf. They go, like I, because if ever the fruit from above was ever so magnificently displayed, it is at Augusta National.

On Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2014, I got to play Augusta National. Teeing up on number 1 was exhilarating and bone chilling. You see I have not played a lot of golf since the triplets were born over 10 years ago, and I felt undeserving. I felt downright bad that my dad (who loves golf) and my friends (who do golf) were not there in my place. It goes without saying with each step on the beautiful green carpet of ANGC, I embraced history: from Horton Smith and Gene Sarazan to Phil Mickelson and Tiger Woods. But mostly, I learned that you do not have to be a golfer to appreciate God's fruit farm now known as Augusta National.

Severe Weather Common in Spring

Spring arrived with greenery and colorful flowers. However, the season can also bring severe weather. The American Red Cross wants everyone to know what steps they can take to stay safe if dangerous weather is predicted for their community.

TORNADOES

Spring can be the peak season for tornado activity. Tornadoes occur mostly on warm spring days between 3:00 and 9:00 p.m. However, tornadoes can occur anywhere, at any time of the year, at any time of the day. The Red Cross has safety steps people should take now to be ready if a tornado warning is issued for someone's neighborhood:

- Know your community's warning system.
- Pick a safe room in your home where family members can gather if a tornado is headed your way. This should be a basement, storm cellar or interior room on the lowest floor with no windows.
- Prepare for strong winds by removing diseased and damaged limbs from trees.
- Move or secure lawn furniture, trash cans, hanging plants or anything else that can be picked up by the wind and become a projectile.
- Know the tornado danger signs – dark, often greenish clouds, a wall cloud, cloud of debris, large hail, a funnel cloud or a roaring noise.



THUNDERSTORMS

Thunderstorms are most likely to happen in the spring and summer, during the afternoon and evening. However, like tornadoes, they can happen anywhere, at any hour of the day. Every thunderstorm produces lightning, which kills more people every year than tornadoes or hurricanes.

The Red Cross has steps you can take if a thunderstorm is predicted for your area:

If thunder roars, go indoors. If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be in danger from lightning.

- Watch for storm signs like darkening skies, flashes of lightning or increasing winds.
- Postpone any outdoor activities. Many people who are struck by lightning are not where it is raining.
- Take shelter in a substantial building or a vehicle with the windows closed. Shutter windows and close outside doors securely. Stay away from windows.
- Do not take a bath, shower or use plumbing.
- If you are outside or driving, there are things you should do to remain safe.

Source – The American Red Cross

continued from front page

5. Avoid Blind Spots. Cyclists stopping at a red light should pull up next to a driver and make eye contact. If the cyclist stops in the unsuspecting driver's blind spot, there is a risk of getting hit when the light turns green. It is important that the cyclist's presence be made aware before the driver takes off at the green light deciding to turn directly into the path or into the body of the cyclist.

6. Beware of the Pass/Right-hand Turn. Another common situation when cyclists are hit on the road occurs when a motorist passes and then makes an immediate right-hand turn. The cyclist is confronted with the turning car and usually has nowhere to go other than into the side of the car. Once again, avoid riding on sidewalks because of the danger of turning cars. When riding on the road, the cyclist should be mindful of cars coming up from behind who may attempt this dangerous pass and turn. It is advisable to have a handle bar or helmet mirror to monitor traffic coming up from the rear. The same logic applies - cyclists should never attempt to pass a vehicle on the right-hand side at an intersection. It could be that the motorist decides to make a right-hand turn into the path of the cyclist.

7. Keep Your Line. In order to avoid being rear-ended on a bicycle, the cyclist must never ever move left without looking behind. Some motorists like to pass cyclists within mere inches, so moving even a tiny bit to the left unexpectedly could put you in the path of a car. Once again, a rear-view mirror is important and will help in monitoring traffic coming up from behind.

8. Beware of Night Riding. Some 60% of bike collisions are caused by cyclists riding at night without lights. A recent study showed that 39% of deaths on bicycles nationwide occurred between 6:00 P.M. and midnight. If a cyclist rides at night, he or she must have a flashing red rear light. The cyclist should also wear reflective clothing such as a safety triangle.

By following these safety tips and obeying the rules of the road, cyclists are much less likely to be struck by a motor vehicle. As a fellow cyclist, let's look forward to warmer weather and safe peddling.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

By Hannah Field

Lemony Cucumber Salad



Ingredients

- 1 cup thinly sliced radishes
- 1/2 cup finely chopped orange bell pepper
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
- 2 English cucumbers, thinly sliced (about 6 cups)
- 1 teaspoon finely grated lemon rind
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 1/2 teaspoons white wine vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Preparation

1. Combine first 4 ingredients in a large bowl.
2. Combine lemon rind and remaining ingredients in a small bowl, stirring with a whisk. Pour over cucumber mixture; toss well to coat. Serve at room temperature or chilled.

DID YOU KNOW?

If you need cash while on vacation, observe ATM safety rules at all times. Be aware of what's around the ATM, including suspicious people or vehicles, or bushes that may hide lurkers. Use outdoor ATMs only during the daytime. Check the machine for tampering. If any component looks as though it has been glued, tacked in place, discolored, or anything else looks even a little odd, go to another location to perform your transaction.

When you talk on a cellphone while driving you are increasing your chance of being in an accident by 400%.

The average text message takes 4.6 seconds to write and send. While driving that would take your eyes off the road long enough to drive the length of a football field blind if you are traveling at 55 miles per hour.

Thank you for the referrals...

A referral from a former client or friend is the greatest compliment our firm can receive. We are grateful for every referral – below is a list of the people who recently referred a friend or family member to our firm. We would like to publicly thank each and every one of them by listing them in our newsletter. Again, we say, "Thank You!" We at Sherrod & Bernard appreciate all our referring friends, even those inadvertently omitted. This list was generated solely from clients reporting how they found our firm.

Thank you for your confidence in our legal team.

Lisa Alexander	Ruth Carpender	Barry Gamel	Barry Keaton	Tommy Rainwater	Fred Smith	Jeff Morris
Raheem Bawani	Heather Chambers	Wayne Garner	Sherri Kelley	Leanne Roberts	Michael Tackett	Jay Davis
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