

# Watch Out For Motorcycles!!!<sup>®</sup>

## HIRING AN ATTORNEY:

*By Brad Souders*

After an accident or motorcycle crash, you may be asking:

**“How do I find an attorney?”**

**“Which one should I call?”**

**“Does it make a difference?”**

Do I simply pull the telephone book; or, do I rely on television commercials, billboards, magazine ads, the internet, or ask friends or relatives?

Finding a “good” lawyer shouldn’t be done haphazardly. Who you call may cost you the difference of thousands of dollars and may greatly affect your outcome or recovery. The hiring of lawyer should not be based upon advertisements alone!!!

Before addressing some “key factors” in what to look for when hiring an attorney, let’s consider a quick example:

Mr. Unlucky, a 45 year old, is riding home from work one day when Ms. Cage runs a red light and T-bones Mr. Unlucky, causing him a severe heel crush injury, including a fractured shoulder, broken collar bone and many other injuries. After surgery, his medical bills total more than \$100,000.00; and, the injuries completely disabled him from work. Unfortunately, Ms. Cage carried bodily injury liability insurance of only \$100,000.00; and, Mr. Unlucky himself had underinsured motorist coverage of \$25,000.00. In this scenario, Mr. Unlucky may end up with nothing. Will the lawyer charge a reduced fee; or, will he charge the most allowed by law? Will his lawyer seek and obtain other assets for a greater recovery; and, will he or she also take the time and effort to reduce his past medical bills?

Generally, when hiring an attorney, consider the attorney’s: 1) Availability; 2) Experience; 3) Reputation; and 4) Trust. These are some of the most useful factors to consider:

**AVAILABILITY:** Will the attorney handle your case; or, will they have a non-lawyer, case administrator, case manager or paralegal doing the work? Will the attorney go the extra mile if necessary, such as requiring and taking asset and income statements; or, personally reduce your medical bills, to net you the greatest recovery possible?

**EXPERIENCE:** Does the attorney have the past experience of handling thousands of cases to answer most if not all of your questions at the initial consultation? Does the attorney have the personal experience of being a true biker, knowing only those things a biker knows, to representing you and protecting your rights?

Does the attorney have the litigation experience within the county, to knowing how cases in town are handled or tried?

**REPUTATION:** Does the attorney have the reputation of handling cases in a timely fashion? Does he represent bikers at biker’s rates, not charging the maximum allowed by law? Does he or she have a good reputation with people who will be involved in your case, such as with insurance adjusters, defense attorneys, judges, judicial assistants, court clerks and deputy bailiffs, who cares for his or her clients, who has received high approval ratings from local judges and lawyers?

**TRUST:** Does the attorney give straight answers? Does he or she have credibility with the opponent, the Court and the jury? Overall, you want an attorney who you are proud of, someone you have no hesitancy to refer to your closest family member or friend, should they ever have the misfortune of being involved in a crash!!!

Following a crash, other than hiring an attorney, you may ask other questions such as what doctor(s) should I see for the examination and treatment of my injuries. In the next writing, we will examine this question and things to consider. In the meantime, ride safe and please remember to ... WATCH OUT FOR MOTORCYCLES!!!<sup>®</sup>



Attorney Brad Souders is with MacKay & Souders, P.A, having a principal office in Tampa. The law firm concentrates on representing bikers involved in accidents. Brad has been a biker most of his life and he practices in the area of personal injury, civil trial and wrongful death, for almost twenty years now. He may be reached at: 1-800-254-5155 or by email at: [brad@hoglaw1.com](mailto:brad@hoglaw1.com) for a free initial consultation. If no recovery, no fees or costs.

Brad Souders has been a rider for most of his life, preferring long rides across county and state lines. He is also a licensed attorney, having twenty years experience in the areas of civil trial, personal injury & wrongful death, with an office in Tampa. Brad represents bikers throughout the state of Florida; and, he may be reached for a free initial consultation by calling (800) 254-5155 or by emailing him at [brad@hoglaw1.com](mailto:brad@hoglaw1.com). No fees or costs if no recovery.

Despite cold temps, a large crowd was on hand on Jan 14th to cheer as Dayton Shultz won a Harley-Davidson Crossbones motorcycle at Brandon H-D. The bike giveaway was sponsored by MacKay and Souders. Dayton is wearing the red jacket in the photo which also includes Brad and his dog Polar, Radical Randy, Gary Bang, and Silvana Golzman.



Chip Weiner Photographic Arts 2010