

## Electronic Newsletter

March 2013

### [The Law Firm of Stephen M. Reck, LLC](#)

P.O. Box 431  
391 Norwich Westerly Road  
Holly Green, Suite 2C-B  
North Stonington, CT 06359  
phone (860) 535-4040  
fax (860) 535-3434

email [attorneyreck@yahoo.com](mailto:attorneyreck@yahoo.com)

[www.stephenreck.com](http://www.stephenreck.com) / [www.scottcamassar.com](http://www.scottcamassar.com)

Find us on [Facebook](#); Follow our [Blog](#)

**Proud Founder of**  
[KidsAgainstDistractedDriving.com](http://KidsAgainstDistractedDriving.com)



### In This Issue

Thousands of Patients Each Year Suffer from Surgical Sponges Left Behind by Doctors

Study: More Distracted Driving in U.S. than Europe

Survey: People Think Distracted Driving Worsened

Researchers Find No Evidence that Gun Laws Reduce Violence

Appeals Court: School's Response to Bullying Must be Effective to Protect Against Liability

Report: Unregulated Labs Pose Bioterror Risk

Author: Outdated Laws Drive Gov't Spending

Recall Central

Don't Drive Distracted!

## Thousands of Patients Each Year Suffer from Surgical Sponges Left Behind by Doctors

USA Today reported that "Thousands of patients a year leave the nation's operating rooms with surgical items in their bodies. And despite occasional tales of forceps, clamps and other hardware showing up in post-operative X-rays, those items are almost never the problem. Most often, it's the gauzy, cotton sponges that doctors use throughout operations to soak up blood and other fluids." These mistakes have life-altering consequences. Read [more](#).

If you like our Newsletter, please forward to a friend who could also benefit from it!

 Join Our Mailing List

## Study: More Distracted Driving in U.S. than Europe



A recent [CDC study](#) compared the percentage of distracted drivers in the United States and seven European countries: Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

The study found that among U.S. drivers (ages 18-64 years old), 69% reported that they had talked on their cell phone while driving within the 30 days before they were surveyed, compared to 21% in the United Kingdom. It also found that close to one-third of drivers in the United States reported that they had read or sent text messages or emails while driving compared to just 15% of drivers from Spain.

## Survey: People Think Distracted Driving Worsened

A recent survey by AAA found that nine in 10 people felt that distracted driving is worse now than it was three years ago. But too many are still part of the problem. While more than 80% of people surveyed said that texting and emailing is "a very serious threat to safety" and "completely unacceptable," more than a third surveyed admitted to reading a text or email in the past 30 days. In fact, more than a quarter (26.6%) typed a text or email. Read [more](#).

### Newsletter Archive

New to our mailing list? To read our prior newsletters, click [here](#).

## Author: Outdated Laws Drive Gov't Spending

Philip Howard, author of "The Death of Common Sense: How Law is Suffocating America," founder of reform coalition Common Good, and vocal critic of the tort system, now "wants to banish out-of-date regulations that drive up costs and perpetuate senseless programs." Read [more](#).

## Recall Central

To read about recent recalls and product safety news from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, click [here](#).

## Researchers Find No Evidence that Gun Laws Reduce Violence



[The Independent Institute](#) notes that a 2004 study by the National Academy of Sciences could not identify "a single gun law that had lowered violent crime, suicide, or gun accidents. This wasn't a minor report, but a massive review of 253 journal articles, 99 books, and dozens of government studies. Other research has found that handguns have been used more often for defensive purposes than for committing crimes." Each year, "three to six times as many victims successfully defend themselves with guns as criminals misuse handguns," writes attorney, criminologist, and Independent Institute Research Fellow Don B. Kates Jr. A study published in the *BYU Journal of Public Law* found that firearms were used approximately half a million times per year to stop home invasion burglaries, and in most of those cases no shots were fired: merely brandishing a gun sent the burglars fleeing.

## Appeals Court: School's Response to Bullying Must be Effective to Protect Against Liability

A new bullying case originating in New York has been decided by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. The case demonstrates that schools potentially may be held liable for monetary damages even in cases where they take steps to respond to harassment that occurs in school. The ruling in the case means that a school response needs to be effective in order to be legally sufficient. Read [more](#).

## Report: Unregulated Labs Pose Bioterror Risk

[USA Today](#) reported that the United States is at increased risk for accidents at laboratories conducting research on potential bioterror germs, such as anthrax, because federal officials have failed to develop national standards for lab design, construction and operation, according to a report by the Government Accountability Office. Meanwhile, another recent government audit has found significant failures by federal officials to detect security and safety violations during inspections of bioterror labs. The undetected issues included the transfer of anthrax and plague to an unauthorized facility, and allowing workers at multiple research facilities to remain on the job with expired security risk assessments. Security at bioterror labs has been an issue of particular concern since the 2001 anthrax letter attacks; a scientist at an Army biodefense lab was later implicated. Read [more](#).

## About Our Firm



At [The Law Firm of Stephen M. Reck](#), justice is our mission. Our firm is well known and well respected for its ability to handle personal injury, wrongful death, and professional malpractice cases in Connecticut and Rhode Island. Call today or visit us on the web at [www.stephenreck.com](http://www.stephenreck.com).

### The Law Firm of Stephen M. Reck, LLC

Proud to support the [North Stonington Education Foundation](#), [Little League Baseball](#), [Children International](#), [Heifer International](#), the [Avalonia Land Conservancy](#), and the [Conn. Chapter of the Special Olympics](#).

**\* Advertising Material \***

Get the latest recall information from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration [here](#).

The Dept. of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service regulate meat, poultry products and processed eggs. Check their recalls [here](#).

Click [here](#) for Food and Drug Administration recalls, market withdrawals and safety alerts.

For updates on the peanut products recall click [here](#).

## Don't Drive Distracted!

**It Kills**



[KidsAgainstDistractedDriving.com](http://KidsAgainstDistractedDriving.com)

### Proudly Serving Connecticut and Rhode Island

The trial attorneys at The Law Firm of Stephen M. Reck, LLC represent individuals in all types of personal injury cases throughout the state of Connecticut and the state of Rhode Island, including, in Connecticut: New London County, New Haven County, Middlesex County, Hartford County, Tolland County, and Windham County; and in Rhode Island: Bristol County, Kent County, Newport County, Providence County, and Washington County.

### Referrals Welcome

**Remember we are here if you need a referral to an attorney in a different area of law.**

