



1314 Texas, Suite 1012  
 Houston, TX 77002  
 713-226-9900  
 Fax 713-226-9901  
 Toll Free 1-877-226-9940  
 www.kahnlawyers.com



2010

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# KLF Legal News

Presented by The Husband & Wife Legal Team at The Kahn Law Firm, PC

Seeking Justice for Texas Families  
 Handling Cases involving Personal Injuries and Criminal Defense

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 PREMIERE ISSUE

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## Teen Drivers at Higher Risk of Accidents

Parents of young teen drivers and auto accident lawyers in Texas will find the results of a new report by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, very disturbing.

According to the report, in 2007, young drivers (those between the age of 15 and 20) accounted for close to 1/5th of all traffic accident fatalities in the country. These drivers made up just 9 percent of the national population in 2007, but accounted for 19 percent of traffic fatalities the same year. Those rates must be taken as a wakeup call by our law enforcement agencies – they need to focus harder on this vulnerable section of the Texas population.

Among the many statistics in the report, these really stood out:

1. About 2/3rd of these fatalities are either the motorist or his/her passengers.
2. Most passenger fatalities in these accidents are in the same age group as the young driver, i.e. between 15 and 20 years.
3. Texas had 251 young motorists killed in these crashes in 2007.
4. In all, 626 people died in accidents involving young drivers in Texas in 2007.
5. In Texas, 89 passenger fatalities in young driver-related accidents were between 15 and 20. Passengers below 15 accounted for 29 fatalities, and those above 20 accounted for 45 deaths. A total of 162 passengers of young drivers died in these accidents.

Most of these young driver fatalities are involved in accidents on rural Texas roads. There could be a reason for that. Maintenance and repair activities tend to focus on highly trafficked city streets and highways, with lesser attention on country roads.

For three families in the Katy, Texas area, it was a heart-breaking Christmas. Three teenagers, 16-year-old Taylor Contreras, 18-year-old Timothy Laufenberg and 19-year-old Jonathan Fernandez were killed in an accident the weekend before Christmas. They were traveling on Katy Hockley in the early hours of the morning when their car crashed into a pine tree. The vehicle immediately exploded into flames, killing the three inside.

As parents and Texas auto accident attorneys, we remain very interested in teen driver safety. Strong driving habits developed during the teen years can set the tone for a person's motoring skills and abilities for the rest of his life. We would like to see law enforcement implementing innovative programs that combine education and entertainment to target teen drivers, who tend to have a lower attention span. Schools in Texas must also step up their driver education efforts. We would also encourage parents to have frequent conversations with their teenage children about the importance of driving at safe speeds, never driving intoxicated, always wearing seatbelts and switching off their cell phones while driving.

If you or a loved one has been involved in an auto accident, contact the Texas auto accident attorneys at The Kahn Law Firm today at 713-226-9900 or toll free 1-877-226-9940.

## Christian Lawyers John & Jennifer Kahn are Houston's Top Lawyers, again!



For the second year in a row, John & Jennifer Kahn were recognized as two of Houston's Top Lawyers by H Texas Magazine in June 2009. We are honored to have been selected as a top lawyer in Houston.

To see the entire article, please visit our website at [www.KahnLawyers.com](http://www.KahnLawyers.com) and click on the H Texas icon.



For more information about any of these articles and more, please visit our website at [www.KahnLawyers.com](http://www.KahnLawyers.com)



Photo by Layla Wolken  
www.laylawolkenphotography.com

## Our Family News

As you can imagine, life in the Kahn family continues to stay exciting with our busy law practice and our beautiful and outgoing children. Like many parents, we are active from the time we wake up (or get woken up by our 5 & 3 year old “alarm clocks”)

our 3 year old son, is busy chatting up a storm and displaying his independence daily. He loves the Wonder Pets and playing with both his brothers and sister. Our daughter, Carolyn, who is 21 months old, is the princess in our family. She thinks she is as big as her big brothers and can do everything they do—but in a girly way. It is almost as if her motto is “I can do anything you can do. Better!!”

Corey, our newest addition to our family, was born on November 18, 2009. He is as sweet as can be and sleeps well, most of the time. His brothers and sister absolutely adore him—sometimes too much!



John & I have recently celebrated our 7th anniversary. We are so blessed to a wonderfully strong and loving marriage and blessed that we can work together daily... and still like each other!!

to the time our head hits the pillow.

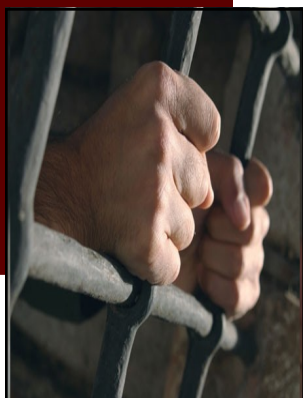
Our oldest, Carson, 5 years old, is in Kindergarten. He has just finished fall soccer and his first season playing tackle football. He loves staying busy and is disappointed on days when there are no scheduled activities! Cody,

*Thank you for Referrals!*

Much of our success is due to satisfied clients & colleagues recommending our firm to those who need an attorney.

Thank You So Much!!

No one ever plans on needing a criminal lawyer, but when you do, the attorneys at The Kahn Law Firm are here for you!



## The New Booster Seat Law in Texas

As of September 1, 2009, children up to 8 years old (or up to 4’9) must be in a booster seat. This new law changes old booster seat laws which required a booster seat only up to age 5 or over 3’ tall.

According to the National Highway Transportation & Safety Administration (NHTSA), regular seat belts do not provide appropriate protection for children ages 5-8. In fact, children are at a high risk for neck, abdominal, facial and head injuries if they are in an adult seat belt system because the adult seat belt system was not de-

signed for such a small stature.

Many children are not being restrained properly in car seats and booster seats and it is frightening to think that some children are not being restrained at all. This puts children at a higher risk of severe injury—even death—if they are involved in a car accident .

Additionally, car seats and booster seats must be properly installed. To find a car seat installation location near you, go to our blog on our website.: [www.thekahnlawfirm.com/blog](http://www.thekahnlawfirm.com/blog)

## Do the Police HAVE TO Read Me My Rights?

Everyone has heard the infamous *Miranda* rights: “You have the right to remain silent—anything you say can and will be used against you. You have the right to an attorney...” etc. But what do these words really mean?

The purpose of *Miranda* warnings is to protect our Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination. The *Miranda* requirement applies only during a custodial interrogation and

not to the arrest process itself. A suspect can assert his or her Fifth Amendment rights at any point during an interrogation. If a suspect in custody indicates that he or she would like an attorney present or would like to remain silent, then the questioning must cease immediately or the information obtained afterwards should be inadmissible in court. If you are EVER being questioned by the police or a detective, even if you do not believe you have done anything wrong, ASK FOR A LAWYER IMMEDIATELY!!

# What To Do if You Have Been in an Accident



If you have been involved in an auto accident, make sure to get the other driver's insurance information and take pictures of the damage to your vehicle and injuries.

If you have been injured at all, seek emergency medical attention immediately and follow up with your medical provider the next day. Sometimes because of the adrenaline and excitement of an accident, you may not feel like you have been injured right away, but you may feel certain injuries the following days. Continue to follow up with your medical provider as required by going to the appointments as scheduled and taking medication as directed. Also, make sure to get a work restriction letter

from your doctor if you are unable to work due to your injuries.

Remember to contact an attorney as soon as possible and DO NOT give a recorded statement to an insurance adjuster without first speaking with your attorney.

The attorneys at the Kahn Law Firm are experienced in all types of auto accidents, motorcycle accidents and 18 wheeler accidents. Contact us if you have any questions at 713-226-9900.

**“Remember to contact an attorney as soon as possible and DO NOT give a recorded statement to an insurance adjuster without first speaking with your lawyer.”**

*Visit our blog for a discussion of current legal events and issues at*

*[www.TheKahnLawFirm.com/blog](http://www.TheKahnLawFirm.com/blog)*

*And follow us on Facebook, Twitter & Avvo.com!*



## The Spotlight... This month, meet Leticia Moreno, paralegal extraordinaire!

“I had every intention after graduating top of my class and earning a 4 year scholarship to University of Texas in Austin of becoming a kindergarten teacher. After much consideration, I made a decision to attend Houston Baptist University in Houston, Texas still majoring in Education. Never did I imagine that taking a semester off and accepting a job as a receptionist at a law firm 21 years ago would take me down another path.

“I decided to take some legal courses while working and continued to do so obtaining my accreditation as a Professional Legal Secretary and eventually my certification in paralegal studies. I have had the privilege of

working with and for some great attorneys in areas of family law, civil and commercial litigation, medical malpractice, products liability, premises cases and mass tort.

“I am a member of the National Association of Legal Professionals and American Notary Association. While I continue to strive to encompass every aspect of this ever changing industry, I never forget that it's about having the responsibility of being there for my attorneys in order to have a small part in helping them serve their clients.

“I am very proud of all of my professional accomplishments, but the thing I am most proud of and grate-

ful for is my family. My husband and I have been married for 16 years and we have two beautiful boys, Matthew, 8 years and Daniel, 6 months old.



Lettie joined our team in July 2008 and has been a valuable member of our firm. If you have a question about your civil case, call our office and ask to speak with Lettie.

If you have questions about a specific case, please call us for a **FREE, NO-OBLIGATION, CONFIDENTIAL** case evaluation at 713-226-9900 or 1-877-226-9940.



The *Kahn* PC  
Law Firm

1314 Texas, Suite 1012  
Houston, TX 77002  
713-226-9900  
Fax 713-226-9901  
Toll Free 1-877-226-9940

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[www.KahnLawyers.com](http://www.KahnLawyers.com)

## Did you know MRIs can kill you?

If you have had an MRI or MRA with contrast, or know someone who has, this could be very important information.

Gadolinium is the contrasting agent that is injected in a person's circulatory system to assist doctors in differentiating one's organs from one's blood vessels.

In people with normal functioning kidneys, this contrasting agent is usually expelled from the body quickly, causing no damage. However, gadolinium can be very dangerous in people with decreased kidney function or kidney problems. The body is unable to quickly expel the substance from the body causing a condition called Nephrogenic Systemic Fibrosis (NSF), also known as Nephrogenic Fibrosing Dermopathy (NFD).

Common symptoms of NSF are

- ◆ Hardening of the skin
- ◆ Thickening of the skin
- ◆ Breathing difficulties
- ◆ Muscle weakness
- ◆ Stiff joints/difficulty in moving

If you have been diagnosed with NSF or have any of these symptoms, call the lawyers at the

Kahn Law Firm for a free consultation.



**Gadolinium, the contrast agent used in many MRIs, can be dangerous to your health.**

**Must Read!**

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