

Petition

Via Fax

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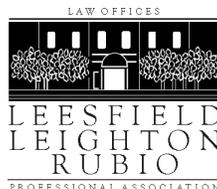
Summer Safety Litigation

Memorial Day weekend in South Florida and the rest of the country kicked-off a time for fun and recreation. However, it is also a time for safety awareness. This issue of *Petition* focuses on summer safety and litigation tips related to recreational injuries.

Summer Safety Tips

Pools and Hot Tubs/Brain Damaged Infant

Christopher Leenan was born with cerebral palsy. There was no family history of birth defects but it was discovered that his mother had been exposed to an overheated hot tub during her second trimester of pregnancy. There were no warnings at the defendant hotel regarding hot tub use for pregnant women. It was also determined that the thermostat on this particular hot tub was defective and was allowed for temperatures to exceed industry standards. **LLR** partner **Ira H. Leesfield** settled this massive birth defect case during trial in Key West against the motel owners for failure to warn and improper maintenance.



Water Craft/Jet Ski Litigation

Leesfield Leighton & Rubio has litigated numerous water craft and jet ski litigation in the waters of South Florida. In *Whitlock v. Jamaica Tourist Board* the firm's young client had his leg amputated by a boat propeller because water safety procedures were not properly followed resulting in an \$800,000 award.

In *Morizane v. Blue Lagoon* of Key West, the firm's client was wrongfully killed in a boat/jet ski collision.



Sailboat Safety

A video tape on Sailboat Safety produced by **Leesfield Leighton & Rubio** was presented for The Western Trial Lawyers and is available by e-mail request.

Key West Moped Injuries

Because of its year round mild climate, Key West and the Florida Keys are heavily populated with moped owners as well as renters who come as visitors. Mark Clemente had relocated to Key West and had just begun his new job when he was struck by a car at a congested intersection in Key West. After the collision Mark's moped and its hot muffler landed on top of him causing severe burn injuries to his lower leg. His case was settled for \$500,000 by **LLR** partner **Ira H. Leesfield**.

Danielle Hanstein was a young model trying to get started in South Florida. While in Key West her moped was struck by an armored car, resulting in severe injuries. Danielle's case was settled by **Leesfield Leighton & Rubio** for an amount that cannot be disclosed pursuant to agreement.



Bicycle Safety/ \$800,000 Award

As Nancy Pradas took her daily bicycle ride in her suburban neighborhood, a man driving with a suspended license for DUI struck her, crushing many of her bones. She underwent extensive back surgery with residual orthopedic injuries. **LLR** partner **John Leighton** sued the driver and negotiated a settlement with a structured payout of almost \$800,000 after the court denied the defendant's motion for summary judgment.

3-Wheel Bicycle Accident results in \$400,000 Verdict

Shorty Jackson lived in the Florida keys and rode his 3-wheel bicycle for exercise. He was riding in the bike path when a Southern Bell truck stopped in front of him, causing him to strike the truck and throwing him to the ground. Southern Bell refused to accept responsibility. **LLR** partner **John Leighton** convinced a Dade County jury to award Shorty \$400,000 for his injuries and medical expenses.



Summer Safety Litigation Material Available on the World Wide Web

Pool safety litigation information:

<http://www.cyberus.ca/purewater/poolsafe.txt>

Boating Safety Litigation tips:

<http://www.mailbag.com/users/stobo76/cbpwc.html> and, <http://www.tcmall.com/>

Bicycle Litigation Safety Tips:

<http://www.bhsi.org/>

Gas Grills: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml97/97128.html>

Lightning: <http://www.southwind.net/ksnw/weather/lightning.html>

Playground: <http://www.world-playground.com/Article.htm>

Fireworks: <http://www.netm.com/4th/>

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