

# PERSONAL INJURY NEWS YOU CAN USE

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW, L C

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## IVC Filters Raise Concerns For Many.

**I**f you haven't suffered from a blood clotting issue, you may have assumed that all blood clots are the same. As it turns out, this is not true. According to the Cleveland Clinic, blood clots within the deep veins of the upper and lower extremities and pelvis are termed Deep Venous Thromboses, or DVTs. While DVTs are not, in themselves, life-threatening, the condition can become deadly if the blood clot travels to the lungs and becomes a pulmonary embolism or PE, interrupting normal blood flow to the lungs.

For most people, a blood clot is initially treated with blood thinners. While these are good for treating blood clotting issues, blood thinners can cause excessive bleeding if you are injured.

For individuals with reoccurring blood clots, or for those who don't find success with a blood thinner, an inferior vena cava (IVC) filter may be used instead. The Cleveland Clinic explains that an IVC filter is a small metal device designed to prevent blood clots from traveling to the lungs. The filter is placed in the inferior vena cava (the large vein that takes blood back to the heart), typically just below the kidneys, using a catheter type deployment device.

So, think of an IVC filter like a car's

engine oil filter. The oil filter is in place between the oil reservoir and the oil supply to the engine. The oil filter prevents particles and contaminants from making their way into the engine to harm vital parts. This is similar to how an IVC filter prevents blood clots from harming the lungs or heart.

Unfortunately, issues with IVC filters have become more common in recent years. The FDA issued the following regarding defective filters:

Since 2005, the FDA has received 921 device adverse event reports involving IVC filters—328 involved device migration, 146 involved embolizations (detachment of device components), 70 involved perforation of the IVC and 56 involved filter fracture. Some of these events led to adverse clinical outcomes in patients. These types of events may be related to a retrievable filter remaining in the body beyond the time the risk of pulmonary embolism (PE) has subsided.

The FDA is concerned that these retrievable IVC filters, intended for short-term placement, are not always removed once a patient's risk for PE subsides. Known long term risks associated with IVC filters include, but are not limited to, lower limb deep vein thrombosis (DVT), filter fracture, filter migration, filter

embolization and IVC perforation.

A quick Google search for the term "IVC filter" will likely result in a long list of law firms. This is due to an increased number of lawsuits filed as a result of complications from the filters. Some IVC filters have been known to break, or cause damage to veins and organs. One such complication from a malfunctioning IVC filter involves Deep Vein Thrombosis. This is essentially a blood clot in one of the deeper veins of the legs. This can be very painful. If the clot breaks loose it can seriously harm to the heart, lungs or other organs. Other complications of the IVC filters include device-associated morbidity, device migration, filter embolization, filter fracture, insertion-site thrombosis, perforation of the vena cava, recurrent DVT, recurrent PE, thrombotic complications and vena cava thrombosis.

If you have or had an IVC filter and you are concerned, talk to your doctor or primary care physician about your concerns. He or she will be able to answer any questions you have regarding your device. If you've experienced issues or complications with your IVC filter, call us at 1-877-526-3457. We're always happy to explain your options, and answer any questions you have about your legal rights.

## Letter From Jan

So many people I meet associate my team and I with Social Security and Veterans benefits. They know we “won’t take no for an answer”—but they may not know that the same dedication to fighting for our clients applies to Personal Injury cases, as well.

I was excited to kick off the New Year with a renewed commitment to all of my clients, and I want to be sure that those who are struggling through the experience of a Personal Injury know that they don’t have to struggle alone. My team and I have the right experience, knowledge and understanding of Personal Injury claims to stand up for you or someone you care about, we want to fight for the compensation you deserve.

In our newest newsletter we have two articles to share with you. We’ve also included some news from our team and a recipe sure to delight any sweet tooth!

I hope you will find this newsletter helpful. I invite you to call us with any questions you may have concerning a possible Personal Injury claim. Our team is happy to help, and we are always glad to hear from you.

Sincerely,  
Jan Dils



Jan Dils brings her expertise to issues that affect you and millions of other Americans every day. While her knowledge spans the critical areas pertaining to Personal Injury, Veterans’ benefits, Social Security disability benefits and related appeals and claims, her practice remains focused on people, making sure you get the right answers and results.

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT!

### Jenn Booth

Jenny Eastman Booth brings nearly 17 years of legal experience to her new role with the Jan Dils team. Currently a paralegal

on our Personal Injury team, Jenn is studying for her February West Virginia Bar Examination.

After earning an Associates’ Degree in Business and an undergraduate degree

in Industrial Labor Relations from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, Jenn went on to obtain her Juris Doctor from Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School in 2006. She began her career as the Subrogation Specialist for one of the largest Insurance and Risk Management Companies in the United States. Jenn’s dedication to the Jan Dils’ team is evident by the attention to detail she devotes to each claim, and the personal service she provides to each client. According to Jenn, “Providing clients with effective assistance while they are traversing what is undoubtedly a difficult time in their life is important to me and the Jan Dils’ Team. I want the client’s only focus to be on seeking treatment—to get well while we handle the rest!

## Community Corner

On November 11th, the Jan Dils team proudly showed it’s support for the brave men and women who have fought for our country’s freedom by attending the annual **Parkersburg Veterans Day Parade**. The parade attracted a great turnout. The Jan Dils Team handed out candy and American flags to those in attendance.



### GOLDEN APPLE

For over four decades, **Mr. Thomas Godwin** has taught students in Wood County. On November 29th, he was recognized for his accomplishments. An AP Chemistry Teacher at Parkersburg Catholic High School, Mr. Godwin, was selected as the November 2016 Jan Dils—Attorneys at Law, Golden Apple Award winner.

Nominated by his principal, Mr. Godwin, was selected for his years of service and his dedication to his students. His nomination mentioned that he takes the time to prepare his students for college, often spending his own time helping students struggling with science or helping students acquire the skills necessary to succeed in his class.

# Unhitched: The Hidden Dangers Of Trailer Towing.



**T**he NHTSA reports that there are over 50,000 accidents every year related to towing. Like so many other accidents, some of these accidents are easily preventable.

One of the biggest potential problems involves towing with a vehicle that is either not recommended for towing, or towing a heavier load than your vehicle is equipped to handle.

You can technically buy a trailer hitch for any vehicle. It's also easy to find someone to install a hitch, even if your vehicle shouldn't be used for towing. Horsepower, torque, brakes, chassis, tires, wheels and suspension all play a big part in a car's tow rating. Improper towing can cause damage to your car and its engine. And, unfortunately, it can be much more serious than that. When individuals tow dangerously they put others lives in danger.

A trailer that is separated from its tow vehicle becomes an unguided missile. If you're traveling on the interstate at 70 MPH and hit by a loose trailer, traveling near the same speed, the results will likely be deadly. If you are on a city street, or even a country road, you also run the likelihood of harming

pedestrians. Recreational Vehicles are growing by leaps and bounds—some weighing more than 18,000 pounds. Imagine colliding with something like that on the highway.

According to the NHTSA, between 1975 and 2013, 17,000 people have been killed in accidents involving a vehicle towing a trailer. While not as large as the number of accidents caused by drunk driving, or distracted driving, these

accidents and deaths can also be easily prevented.

Crossovers and SUVs continue to be a popular choice among consumers. However, the SUVs and Crossovers of 10 years ago are much different than those available today. The newer models tend to be less powerful, have smaller engines and almost all of these vehicles have car frames. What this means is that towing capacity is shrinking across the board.

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## Rolo Pretzel Delights

You deserve a sweet treat and this recipe for Rolo Pretzel Delights from Case Manager, Brooke Watkins, is as easy as it is delicious!



### INGREDIENTS:

1 Bag small pretzels  
1 Bag pecan halves

1 ROLO® Chewy Caramels  
in Milk Chocolate

### DIRECTIONS

Heat oven to 350°F. Line cookie sheet with parchment paper or foil. Place one pretzel for each pretzel treat desired on prepared sheet. Top each pretzel with one unwrapped ROLO® Chewy Caramel in Milk Chocolate. Bake 3 to 5 minutes or until caramel piece begins to soften—but not melt. Remove from oven. Top with either pecan half or additional pretzel. Cool completely and enjoy!



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*Continued from inside story*

Here is an example: the 2006 Ford Explorer with the VA option could tow up to 7300 pounds. The 2016 Explorer, which is technically a larger vehicle, can only tow 5000 pounds. The current Ford equivalent to that 2006 Explorer, the 2016 Ford Edge, can only tow 3500 pounds.

Current crossovers and SUVs are more fuel-efficient, more comfortable and safer. However, these vehicles aren't as capable when it comes to towing. Further, recre-

ational activities like boating, camping and ATV use are on the rise, and these activities often require a trailer to haul equipment. So, we have more people towing, less capable vehicles, and owners who may not be as informed. This can lead to accidents.

Safety chains are a simple yet often overlooked towing aid. Every trailer should come with two safety chains which are intended to be crossed when they are attached to your vehicle. The act of crossing the chains helps ensure an

extra bit of safety should the tongue of the trailer separate from the hitch of the tow vehicle. The chains will cradle the tongue of the trailer until you are able to stop. If you look at trailers parked in a parking lot, or even some on the road, you will unfortunately see many trailers without safety chains.

Towing safety is an important issue. If you're going to tow make sure you know your vehicle's tow rating. Traditionally your owner's manual is the best place to look. However, a majority of manufacturers also publish these rating online. It's also important to know that your tow rating isn't the only factor that determines how much you should tow. If you have multiple passengers or a lot of cargo in your vehicle you need to adjust for that. Most tow ratings are set for a vehicle with only one passenger and no cargo.

If you've been involved in an accident with a tow trailer, call us for a free consultation at 1-877-526-3457. We can answer your questions and we may be able to help you receive compensation for your injuries.



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