

SECOND EDITION

BRAVING THE ACCIDENT JUNGLE

Your Guide to Avoiding Predatory Insurance Companies



BRIAN BRANDT

**The Attorney Other Lawyers Recommend
to Their Families and Friends**

BRAVING THE ACCIDENT JUNGLE

Your Guide to Avoiding
Predatory Insurance Companies

BRAVING THE ACCIDENT JUNGLE

Your Guide to Avoiding
Predatory Insurance Companies

BRIAN BRANDT

*THE ATTORNEY OTHER LAWYERS RECOMMEND
TO THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS*

Inland Empire Location:

309 N. Euclid Avenue
Upland, CA 91786
Phone: 909-932-1162
Fax: 909-932-1161

Orange County Location:

101 S. El Camino Real, Suite 107
San Clemente, CA 92672
Phone: 949-481-1468
Fax: 949-481-1469

www.brianbrandt.com

(800) 983 4467

Copyright © 2016 by Brian Brandt

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission of the author. Published 2016.

Printed in the United States of America.

ISBN: 978-1-59571-819-8

Designed and published by

Word Association Publishers
205 Fifth Avenue
Tarentum, Pennsylvania 15084

www.wordassociation.com
1.800.827.7903

CONTENTS

Introduction	1
1 Why I Wrote This Book	5
2 FAQs.....	9
3 Brian Brandt’s Personal Injury Practice Area.....	17
4 How to Start	21
5 Why Hire Brian Brandt?	23
6 If You’re Ever Injured.....	25
7 Action Steps You Can Take in Your Personal Injury Case	29
8 Hire a Trial Attorney for Your Personal Injury Claim.....	33
9 Your Personal Injury Attorney Should Have Solid Credentials.....	37
10 Do I Need to Hire a Lawyer? Can’t I Settle My Own Case?	39
11 The Cases Brian Brandt Will Accept	45
12 Action Steps Brian Brandt Will Take In Handling Your Personal Injury Cases	49
13 Brian Brandt’s Settlements & Verdicts	55
14 About Attorney Brain Brandt	57

INTRODUCTION

For twenty-eight years now. I've been an attorney practicing in the field of personal injury. I am a member of the State Bar of California and a Lifetime Fellow of the Prestigious American Board of Trial Advocates. I've earned an "AV" rating with Martindale Hubbell, their highest rating for lawyers. And recently I was named the Orange County Trial Lawyer of the Year - 2014.

I also hold the records for:

- I. The largest personal injury verdict in California in 2013
- II. The second highest award of all cases in California in 2013, only surpassed by the patent infringement case between Samsung and Apple.
- III. The largest wrongful death verdict in the history of California
- IV. The second largest motor vehicle verdict in the nation for the 2013
- V. The 14th largest verdict of any kind in the country in 2013

Member:

Super Lawyers

Multi-Million Dollar Advocates

Top 100 Trial Lawyers

American Association of Justice

Consumer Attorneys of California

Consumer Attorneys of Los Angeles

Consumer Attorneys of the Inland Empire

Orange County Trial Lawyers Association

Gerry Spence Trial Lawyers College

I'm also a graduate of the very selective Gerry Spence Trial Lawyers College in Wyoming (www.triallawyerscollege.com); just think “boot camp” for attorneys and you'll get the picture of what that involved: three intense weeks of nothing but opening statements, cross examinations, closing arguments—everything I needed to prevail for you in the courtroom.

I'm back at the Gerry Spence Trial Lawyers College once a year for a week-long legal “tune-up,” and over the years there I've cultivated personal friendships with attorneys across the country with whom I network continually. As a result, I'm able to offer legal services to you no matter where you live in the United States, from Hawaii to Maine, from Michigan to Florida, and all points in between.

The reason I got into law was in part family tradition. My father, Barry Brandt, practiced law in California for forty years, and I grew up admiring what he was able to accomplish during his legal career. And my brother, Brendan Brandt, is also a highly regarded attorney in California.

Another reason was personal: I was always that kid who went ballistic when I saw someone bullying someone else and

would always go to the aid of the victim. That attitude and that experience carried over into my adult life and my profession of representing people against bully insurance companies, teaching them lessons as well. My firm represents the little guys, the Davids of this world, against the Goliaths, who have all the money and resources imaginable to delay payment on legitimate claims—that is, if they can't deny them altogether.

Every day presents new challenges for me, and I get a tremendous amount of personal satisfaction from what I do, helping victims get better in every way—financially, psychologically, emotionally—and getting the justice they deserve.

You'll get a personal touch with me; I'll be the one working on your case, not a paralegal or an attorney you'll never meet. I'll see it through to the end, whether it's an out-of-court settlement or a verdict a judge or jury reads in a courtroom.

I know from my experience that this personal touch pays off; visit my website and listen to the testimonials of Billie, Chris, Julie, and Jeff, among others, who thought enough of my work to lend their names and cases to my website. I always keep in mind that while the law may be the same in any one state, every case, including yours, is unique.

A CASE IN POINT— LIFETIME PARALYSIS



Cynthia was in a horrible accident when a tire on her Ford Explorer shredded as she was traveling on the 15 Freeway, leaving her severely paralyzed. This was a case that involved a company knowing about the danger of a product but did nothing to fix the problem. Ford initially offered to settle for \$1.2 million; the jury came back with a \$23.4 million judgment for Cynthia.

A CASE IN POINT— A FAULTY PRODUCT



The adult sons and daughters of Charles, an eighty-two-year-old retired police officer, came to me with a heartbreaking tale. Their father had been killed in a vehicular accident. His truck had been sideswiped by another truck, which had blown a tire. Charles was run off the road; his truck rolled over three times, and he was killed.

My prompt investigation uncovered the fact that the other truck's blowout had been caused by a faulty valve stem manufactured in China. The U.S. distributor learned of the defect, but instead of issuing a public recall, it sent out a "silent" recall, telling only car parts stores to take them off the shelves.

I obtained an award of \$1,000,000 for Charles's family.

1

WHY I WROTE THIS BOOK

I wrote this book for a variety of reasons. I wanted to offer personal injury victims hope—hope that their physical, emotional, and financial situations can improve and do so dramatically. I also wanted to offer them hope that their lives could get back to normal, that their families would be provided for, that the upheaval they experienced after a personal injury can not only stop but also be rectified.

My goal with this book is to offer a light at the end of that proverbial tunnel for victims of personal injuries, helping them and their families get their lives back on track by minimizing the far-reaching and long-lasting financial and emotional ramifications that personal injuries cause.

Making someone completely “whole” again might not be 100 percent possible, but I work hard for my clients to help them get all the legitimate compensation for damages that they’re due. In addition, my clients gain the satisfaction of knowing that the “big guys” didn’t get away with it, whether “it” was tolerating substandard and unsafe working conditions or letting shoddy

and dangerous products get into the marketplace or ignoring the necessity of recalling them. My clients get the chance to help make sure that our communities are not at the mercy of corporations that care more about their bottom lines than the safety of people, or insurance companies that are looking to maximize their profits. And all this can happen at the terrible expense of those who've been injured due to the negligence or wrongful acts of others. This is where I come in.

My book will not answer all your questions; that's why an initial consultation is necessary. My initial consultations are free, and I'll even come to your house if coming in to see me would be a difficulty. This consultation will give me the opportunity to dig in to your case and give you professional, experienced advice on what your next steps should be.

This book is aimed more at giving you the steps you should and shouldn't take on your own, an idea of the questions I'll be asking you, and also the steps that will be involved in handling your case, from collecting and preserving evidence, interviewing witnesses, getting experts to thoroughly investigate the scene of the accident, and so on.

My biggest concern is letting you know the rights you have and how best you can protect them now and in the future.

So don't take anything you read here as "legal advice"; I'll be able to give you legal advice, my professional opinion, after I've had the opportunity to review all the facts of your case and accept you as a client. I know from my experience that I'll be asking questions about your accident of whatever nature that

you may not have thought about. After our consultation you'll have the opportunity to enlist my services, and we can get going. Let's review some frequently asked questions next.



DID YOU KNOW?

Statutes of limitations vary not only from state to state but also for the types of suits: medical malpractice or personal injury, private company or government entity, minor or adult involved, and so on.



A CASE IN POINT— FAILURE TO TREAT

One of the many heartbreaking cases I've handled was that of a forty-nine-year-old car salesman whose doctor discovered something suspicious in his lung. Even though the next step should have been further tests, the specialist failed to order them, deciding on a "wait-and-see" strategy instead. By the time it was definitely diagnosed, that "something suspicious" was stage-four lung cancer that had reached my client's brain. I got a settlement of \$1.5 million, which reflected the insurance policy's limits, on behalf of him and his family.

2

FAQS

How do I know if I have a personal injury case?

You may have a personal injury case if you have suffered an injury (and this can be emotional as well as physical) because of someone else's negligence, that is, something they *did* or *did not* do. The phrase "personal injury" covers a lot of territory: it refers to physical injury, obviously, but it can include damage to someone's emotional health, the loss of the ability to enjoy life as he or she had enjoyed it before, and even damage to someone's reputation.

How long do I have to file a personal injury case?

That depends on the statute of limitations that applies to your case. A statute of limitations is a law that dictates how long you have to file suit within a certain time of an event, in this case of an accident that results in your personal injury.

In California, as in many states, you have two years from the date of the accident to file a lawsuit to recover damages from that accident. But there are many exceptions to this two-year

rule. In the case of medical malpractice, you generally have just one year (the medical and insurance lobbies in California are powerful), but in certain cases the statute of limitations for medical malpractice can go to three years. In California, if the party being sued is a “public entity” such as a school, a town government, the state government, for instance, the statute of limitations is six months.

The statute of limitations for minors can be much longer; it’s generally two years from the time they turn eighteen, but in medical malpractice the statute of limitation for cases and claims that involve minors can vary widely and can be highly technical and complex. And in cases of wrongful death, survivors have one year from the date of death to file suit.

Statutes of limitations can vary from state to state; that’s why it’s crucial that your attorney is knowledgeable about these laws in your state and/or has colleagues in your state who can be counted on to know them.

I’m sure you’ve noticed my use of the word “generally” in the above paragraphs; I’m not trying to gain any wiggle room here. Rather, I’m underscoring the fact that the whole area of statutes of limitations is contentious: those trying to protect potential defendants want shorter times, while those advocating for the rights of injured parties want longer times.

This all points to the fact that you need expert and accurate advice when it comes to the statute of limitations that applies in your case. Don’t take anyone’s word for it unless you’re sure that person has your, and no one else’s, best interests in mind. And

always keep in mind that the other side will not be forgiving one bit if you miss a statute of limitations.

Won't automobile insurance cover such accidents?

If you're the driver in an automobile accident and don't have auto liability insurance, under California law you won't be able to collect compensation for pain and suffering. However, if you're a passenger, you can collect. And if you're hit by a drunk driver, not having liability insurance won't affect your right to recover for pain and suffering.

This is all to point out again that there can be many twists and turns to the law regarding automobile insurance, and you have to rely on the advice of an attorney whose sole responsibility is standing up for your rights and not rely on what *anyone* else tells you.

How long do I have to file a personal injury case?

Negligence is a matter of someone not acting as a “normal, reasonable person” would have acted. In personal injury cases one or both parties can be found negligent (see “***What If I'm Partially to Blame***” on page 13) but to different degrees. As you can imagine, a lot of factors can go into determining any one party's negligence, and they can be subject to a variety of interpretations, so that's why you need expert advice and representation in personal injury matters in light of the fact that it can take a judge and jury to come to an ultimate decision.

Do I need a lawyer?

Let's answer that question this way: you'll need a lawyer to tell you if you *don't* need a lawyer. Perhaps you're not sure if you have a case; perhaps you've been told that you don't have a case. The truth is, personal injury cases can be very complex; just as you'd rely on the advice of a specialist before deciding if an operation is really necessary, you have to get professional advice from an attorney well-versed in the field of personal injury to determine whether you have a case.

Keep in mind that in many cases someone filing a personal injury case will be facing off against an insurance company worth billions because the company has made it its business to collect premiums as high as the market can bear and to pay out as little as possible on claims, oftentimes by making lowball offers to settle, supposedly justified by arguments that run like this: "You're really not that bad off, and no lawyer will take your case because there's not that much money involved."

If a case goes to court, that's when they can flex their muscles by lining up against you seasoned attorneys and their own expert witnesses whose job it is to minimize any payments, that is if they can't get out of paying them altogether.

Long story short, you need a pro who's not only willing to but also capable of pitching against such heavy hitters, and I'm proud to say I have a proven record of doing just that in settlement negotiations and trials alike—I don't back down.

How quickly should I find an attorney?

Absolutely as soon as you can. The other side is not going to wait, and you might face pressure from insurance investigators fishing for information that will help protect them, or claims adjustors trying to get you to bite on a quick settlement, to keep that fishing analogy going. You don't want to deal with the "other" side on your own without a pro in your corner, and you want to give your attorney as much time as possible to conduct an adequate investigation. What could be at stake is your claim for current and present medical bills, lost current and future wages, pain and suffering, and loss of enjoyment of life.

What if I'm partially to blame?

Even if your actions were partially to blame for an accident, other factors, such as unsafe working conditions, faulty warnings, or another's negligence could be critical factors that led to the accident. This is again where you simply need expert legal advice from someone able to review *all* the facts of the case, conduct a thorough investigation, interview witnesses, and other steps necessary to determine "comparative" negligence. Let's say an arbitrator or judge or jury holds you 20 percent responsible for an accident; this means the award you would have been granted if the other party were completely at fault will be reduced by that percentage. So even if you do share in the blame for an accident, what you're nonetheless entitled to could be a substantial amount, enough to get you back on your feet financially, emotionally, and physically.

How much is my case worth?

As you can well imagine, there are so many factors that go into answering that question that it's hard to come up with even an idea until I've talked with you and gone over your case. But I know exactly where to look for compensation, whether it's an insurance company, a third party that may be at fault, workman's compensation, and so on.

I'll also know what you have a right to be compensated for: current medical bills and current lost wages, of course, but also future lost wages, including promotions you were expecting to earn, and the possibility of future medical care, even years down the road, that your injury might require. I'll come up with reliable figures for the value of property lost or damaged. When you add in the compensation you deserve for the pain and suffering you've endured, it can all add up to a large amount, and I'll know *what* to go after and, just as important, *how* to go after it.

Can I afford an attorney?

Let's face one fact: most people *can't* afford attorneys; they just don't have the means to reach into their pockets and fork over \$200, \$300, \$400 an hour to a lawyer to take on a case that might last months, even years.

But if I'm unable to win a settlement or a court case, it won't cost you a dime; *if we don't collect, you don't pay*—it's as simple as that.

On top of that, I'll review your case for free.

I have the resources to go up against insurance companies, including hiring investigators, expert scientists and engineers, and other specialists your case may require. I'll front those costs as well as filing fees and other expenses, and I'll get reimbursed for them *only* if I prevail for you in your case.

Typically, my fee will be 33 1/3 percent of any settlement or, if your case goes to litigation, 40 percent of any award or recovery. That higher percentage is a reflection of the additional time and effort I'll put in on any case that goes to litigation.

More FAQs:

My experience with my many clients past and present tells me that these few FAQs hardly scratch the surface of concerns that personal injury victims have, so I encourage you to contact me with your questions. You can call me or send in your question on the "contact us" tab on my website: **www.brianbrandt.com**. I'd appreciate the opportunity to be in contact with you, and at no charge or obligation, of course.



DID YOU KNOW?

In many personal injury cases the jury is not told an insurance company is involved.



A CASE IN POINT— TOO BUSY LAWYER

Al, a friend of mine and a fellow soccer coach, is a driver for one of those big package delivery companies. He had a case involving an auto accident that was languishing on the desk of the lawyer he'd hired—the matter had been in this lawyer's hands for a year when Al brought it up to me on the sidelines one "soccer Saturday." I asked Al's permission to get his case transferred over to me, and long story short, I won a settlement of \$100,000, the other side's insurance policy limit, and he had a check in his hand in forty-five days.

3

**BRIAN BRANDT'S PERSONAL
INJURY PRACTICE AREAS**

- Car Accidents
- Truck Accidents (potentially much more catastrophic)
- Motorcycle Accidents
- Vehicle Rollovers
- Construction Site Accidents
- Pedestrian & Bicycle Accidents
- Medical Malpractice
- Nursing Home Neglect & Abuse, including:
 - medication errors (failing to follow doctor orders or abusing chemical restraints)
 - improper nutrition (resulting in dehydration or malnutrition)
 - falls / broken hips (often caused by insufficient restraints or supervision)
 - bed sores (caused by failure to turn an immobile patient in bed)
 - lack of supervision (resulting in disoriented patients, such as Alzheimer patients walking off)

- Dog Bites
- Premises Liability
- Product Liability
 - Bad Design
 - Failure to Warn
 - Defective Product
- Paralysis/Spinal Cord Injuries
- Traumatic Brain Injuries

Results of Personal Injuries Short Term:

- Pain and other medical complications that need immediate treatment.
- Lost current wages.
- Large immediate debt and the worry that comes with that.

Results of Personal Injuries Long Term:

- Intensive, extensive medical procedures that might be years in the future (see *A Case In Point—Future Medical Needs* on page 32).
- The necessity of dealing with the emotional and psychological trauma that could result from an accident.
- Lost future wages, and not just at your current rate of pay but also pay raises and promotions you might have to forgo due to your injury.
- Necessary job or vocational retraining if you are not able to continue in your current area of employment due to the physical or psychological results of your injury.

- Cost of ongoing, chronic medical treatment and rehabilitation that can last months, even years.
- Compensation for not only current but also ongoing, future pain and suffering. Bear in mind that certain injuries can cause pain and suffering that starts only long after an accident. I'm familiar with this possibility, having handled many cases where there's a potential for long-term pain and suffering, and I can advise you about your potential to have a legitimate claim for this even if you're not experiencing any symptoms at this point.
- Loss of enjoyment of life. You can have a legitimate claim for compensation if, for instance, you're no longer able to enjoy activities outside of work you once enjoyed (and this can range from woodworking and bicycling to playing baseball or being a Boy or Girl Scout leader). This is one area where my experience in these hard-to-quantify areas can be of exceptional service to you as I negotiate a settlement and prepare your case to go to trial.



A CASE IN POINT— PEDESTRIAN STRUCK

When Dawn, age forty-six, in telephone sales, was struck by a car, her injuries were extensive: she was hospitalized for broken bones, which required surgery to correct. I sued the driver and his company for motor vehicle negligence and gained a settlement of \$750,001 for Dawn.



DID YOU KNOW?

Sometimes victims of personal injuries can seemingly recover from an accident, but that accident could result in medical complications later in life; a knee injury today might necessitate a knee replacement later in life but much earlier than otherwise would have been necessary. I, with the help of expert medical advice, can advise you on the possibility of future complications and win for you compensation for them even if they're years in the future.

4

HOW TO START

When the immediate needs of a victim of a personal injury victim have been seen to, when his or her medical situation has settled down a bit and immediate pain and trauma are ebbing, the victim will finally be in a position to ask the all-important question, What now?

The next step might be filing a lawsuit, and that's never an easy possibility to contemplate or decision to make. It's important to remember that most claims settle prior to filing a lawsuit, so a lot of your worries about a long, extended stint in a courtroom just might not be necessary. And hiring an attorney with a proven track record in court, a lawyer who's not afraid to take it to trial if necessary, will put the insurance companies on notice; they know the attorneys out there who simply go for quick settlements and those who are willing to go the whole nine yards and face off with them in the courtroom.

Guess which lawyers achieve the best results for their clients when it comes to settlements and judgments?

If you're a victim of a personal injury, you owe it not only to yourself but also to your family to look into the possibility that you could be entitled to compensation for all you and your family have been through.

No matter what you initially think, no matter the circumstances surrounding the accident, and no matter what you've been told by your employer, your friends, or anyone else, it's best to start the process of finding a lawyer who will protect your rights just as soon as you can. I'm a pro with a proven track record at this, and everything I do will have one goal in mind: taking some overwhelming burdens off your mind so you can focus on what you have to do, whether it's going through rehab or simply recuperating with the knowledge that you're in good hands.

You'll find that once you get the ball rolling you'll start feeling less overwhelmed because you'll know you're in the hands of a professional attorney and not going it alone. I've seen my clients breathe sighs of relief and start shedding their feelings of helplessness once they've talked to me and enlisted my help. They started seeing lights at the end of their personal tunnels, and no, it wasn't a train—it was justice.

5

WHY HIRE BRIAN BRANDT?

Keep in mind that you need a specialist in the complex area of personal injury, not a jack-of-all-trades, and that's where I have a distinct and great advantage over the lawyer who handled your real-estate closings or the attorney who wrote up your will, as good as they are in their areas of specialty.

I'm a trial attorney in the State of California, which means I've proven my expertise in the area of personal injury litigation. In addition, my contacts through that Gerry Spense Trial Lawyers College I mentioned earlier has afforded me a long list of lawyers across the country I know personally and to whom I can refer you with confidence and pride.

I'm also more than willing to take your case to court if and when that becomes necessary to win for you the justice you deserve, while sadly, there are other lawyers out there content to accept a settlement that may not reflect your current and future needs, but one that offers them a quick payoff.

Don't be misled by splashy Yellow Page ads or flashy websites; these could be indications simply of an attorney's advertising budget and not a measure of his or her level of success or competence. Same goes for listings in lawyers' organizations and directories; in many cases all this means is that a lawyer has paid to have his or her name listed.

Also, you'll need an attorney ready and willing to walk into a courtroom on your behalf. Beware of lawyers who can point only to settlements and not courtroom verdicts; this could be an indication of a reluctance to take a case all the way to a judge and jury in a courtroom.

Personal injury cases cannot be handled by the attorney who you relied on when you bought your house or wrote up your will; it's a technical area, a legal specialty. In a personal injury case you need a specialist licensed to practice law in your state or someone who can offer you a solid reference to one. That's where my personal network can come in to play for your benefit.

A CASE IN POINT— DOG BITE



My client Chelsea was bit on her face by a neighbor's dog, requiring stitches and additional surgeries but leaving her with a scar on her lip. I obtained a settlement of \$210,000.

6

IF YOU'RE EVER INJURED...

If You're Ever Injured in an Automobile Accident:

Keep in mind the absolute importance of preserving evidence, and consider your automobile a big piece of evidence. Don't sign off with the insurance company and let them tow your car away, and don't have it towed to a shop for repairs; it could be a crucial piece of evidence in your case. I'll be happy to store it for you if necessary.

If you've been injured in an auto accident, when it comes to talking with EMTs, your employer, investigators, and others, don't admit any fault on your part. In truth, you just can't know all the elements that went into your accident, so you just simply can't know that it was all your fault; things can just happen too quickly, and your immediate trauma and shock you suffer are bound to affect your perceptions. Things you blurt out can come back as evidence against you and your case.

Keep in mind that even if you ultimately bear some responsibility for an accident, others might share in the responsibility by having driven recklessly, having created an unsafe product, or having

failed to give sufficient warning about potential hazards, and you should not be held responsible for their lapses.

Details you may have overlooked or not even be aware of could have a drastic impact on your claim for compensation; you need someone to handle a thorough, professional, and prompt investigation of the whole matter, and this can include getting statements from witnesses, taking photos of the scene of any accident, and preserving the evidence, including even the vehicles involved. Today's cars have "black boxes" just as airplanes do, and these are major, important sources of computerized information that can bolster your case.

I'll arrange to obtain relevant tape recordings of 911 calls and also for copies of the audio and video "belt tapes" that law-enforcement officials wear that record what happened when they responded to your accident. I'll also be on the lookout for skid marks, stop signs obscured by tree branches, and other factors that could have a bearing on your automobile accident case.

I'll also arrange to have photos taken of your injuries themselves and your wrecked car (which can be powerful visual evidence that can substantiate your claim of personal injury). I'll also enlist the professional help of engineers, designers, and investigators all to make sure that other pieces of critical evidence are uncovered rather than lost, overlooked, or plain forgotten.

I'll work closely with your doctor(s) and other medical health professionals in analyzing your potential case.

If you're Ever Injured by a Product:

Any piece of machinery or tool involved in your accident, whether it's at your place of employment or at home, where you might be the victim of a badly designed ladder or a kitchen appliance, could end up being a critical factor in your case, so don't alter, change, or try to repair such items. Also, never use it again; this could be construed as your thinking it was safe.

Warn whomever you can about the tool or equipment to make sure that it isn't used by someone else.

Contact me immediately. I'll get the ball rolling and get experts to investigate the product. This can take on a great deal of importance because you can be sure that the opposing side will have their own "expert" testimony from manufacturers, engineers, etc. in an attempt to downplay their responsibility in the case of a faulty product. (see ***A Case In Point—A Faulty Product*** on page 4 of this book).

If You're Ever Injured in a Slip and Fall:

"Slip and Fall" accidents refer to those involving falling or tripping in a variety of settings including on sidewalks, in supermarkets, playgrounds, construction sites, and apartment complexes, just to name a few.

Some of the things we'll do to preserve your evidence and start work on your case include:

- obtain any video surveillance that may have captured the incident occurring.
- determine the applicable building codes

- obtain measurements of the lighting if the incident occurred at night
- have experts inspect the scene with instruments to measure and determine the “coefficient of friction,” the slip resistance of a particular surface
- take photographs of the scene.



DID YOU KNOW?

Statutes of limitations vary not only from state to state but also for the types of suits: medical malpractice or personal injury, private company or government entity, minor or adult involved, and so on.

7

ACTION STEPS YOU CAN TAKE IN YOUR PERSONAL INJURY CASE

So you've been injured, but the critical care you've received has stabilized your condition. You're out of immediate danger, but what does the future hold? It's hard to contemplate all of the potential news, good and bad, that will be coming your way, so just focus on the next steps you can take one at a time:

Realize that time is critical factor, and no matter what you've heard about statutes of limitations, get the straight scoop from me on that. Two years might seem like a long time, but some complex cases require a lot of time to prepare. None of that precious time will be wasted if you contact me in a timely fashion.

Contact me before responding to or signing any request for information from insurance adjustors, claim representatives, etc., and this includes even your own insurance company. Insurance companies will routinely ask you for authorization to get in touch with your doctors, etc., and this can lead them to information on your entire medical history. Don't talk about

your accident with anyone except me, and don't sign anything until I've had a chance to give it a thorough review and an okay. Follow the orders you get from your doctors, physical therapists, and other medical professionals orders to the "T"; if you don't, the other side could use this as evidence that you weren't that badly hurt or that your injuries weren't that extensive.

Keep all your medical appointments even if you feel that this visit or that visit just isn't necessary or convenient at the time. Let your doctors and specialists determine matters such as that, and keep in mind that your failure to keep appointments could be construed as evidence that your injuries weren't as severe as they really were.

Keep a journal of your physical and emotional condition—dates, times, places, etc. of instances of dizziness, confusion, pain, and visits to your doctors, physical therapists, and others. Also, mark down work days you've lost and times when you were unable to engage in your nonwork-related activities, such as coaching, attending a family reunion, taking a vacation, and so on. The courts will take into consideration such "quality of life" issues when it comes to calculating awards.

Save all records, bills, notes, letters, statements, and everything else from doctors, hospitals, ambulance services, and so on. I'll need these, and you don't want to rely on some office somewhere to get you a copy of a misplaced bill by the time it might be needed. This is an area where you can have a great impact on your case, so it's well worth the time to have someone make copies of all such records. You can rely on me to handle this for you if it proves to be a difficulty.

Realize that you'll need help complying with *other* deadlines: getting forms returned to insurance companies, getting letters from your doctors, dermatologists, plastic surgeons, specialists called in for consultation, etc. My staff and I can keep track of all these demands.

Don't talk to others about your accident or your case. Once I take on your case, you and I will have established an attorney-client relationship, and that can possibly be jeopardized if you get into discussions with others about the facts of your accident.



A CASE IN POINT— LOWBALL SETTLEMENT

Sandra, who worked in administration at a warehouse, came to me with a settlement agreement from an insurance company; they were offering her \$2,000 over her \$4,000 in medical bills she'd run up after being injured in an automobile accident. That \$2,000 figure was low, and that's what I told her. I was able to increase the settlement she received to \$30,000.



A CASE IN POINT— FUTURE MEDICAL NEEDS

One of my clients, Christopher, was on his motorcycle when a truck driver making a left turn ran into him, badly damaging his knee. The defendants claimed that his knee was completely healed, but I pushed the point that Chris was going to ultimately need a knee replacement as a result of this accident, and he deserved compensation for that, even if the matter wasn't going to come up for twenty years or so. The extra money for the future knee replacement pushed the settlement to \$200,000.

8

HIRE A TRIAL ATTORNEY FOR YOUR PERSONAL INJURY CLAIM

When you're looking to hire someone to represent you in your personal injury case, you should find out if your lawyer is a trial attorney with a successful record when it comes to actually taking cases to court. Although many cases do settle and thus don't end up in court, you need to know that your attorney has not only the experience but also the willingness to go to court if and when that becomes necessary.

Insurance companies aren't in the business of giving away money; they want to keep as many of those premium dollars that come in their doors as possible. They'll fight and argue cases no matter the amount because they're afraid of setting a precedent even in small cases, so you can imagine the effort they will put into stalling, arguing, debating, and defending against major lawsuits with bigger dollars involved.

But when an insurance company isn't amenable to a fair settlement (and in my experience that's usually the case), it can simply become necessary to file a lawsuit.

That's where some lawyers will leave you flat. They may have talked up their skills at settling cases, settling for big amounts, and settling quickly, but that could be because they've focused on settling cases and haven't taken that many if any to trial; they're good at settling because they're not good at litigating or just plain uncomfortable in a courtroom. They know their weaknesses so they play to their strengths, but that could cost you.

Once the lawsuit is filed, it is important to have an attorney preparing the case as if it is indeed going to trial. There's a well-known rule in the legal profession: "Cases that are prepared for trial settle, while cases that are prepared to settle go to trial." A trial attorney who knows how to properly prepare your case for trial (and the insurance companies know who they are) will have a much better chance of wrestling a just settlement from an insurance company prior to stepping into a courtroom and facing a judge and jury.

What I wrote about insurance companies knowing all about the attorneys who face them is true; such companies have the resources necessary to find out which lawyers settle and which ones are willing to step up to a judge and jury on your behalf if their "final" settlement offer isn't fair. They know the personal injury attorneys out there who have teeth, those who'd likely prevail in a trial and cost them a lot more in the end. That's why the cases that are prepared for trial often settle.

Unfortunately, attorneys who are reluctant or worse, ill-equipped, to go to trial may try to talk you into accepting a settlement far

less than you're entitled to; they want to avoid a trial at all costs, and that means at your cost.

It's one thing for lawyers to swap letters with insurance companies to find out what they're willing to settle for; all lawyers should know how to do that. But it's another thing for attorneys to prepare pre-trial motions, uncover all the evidence your case requires, take depositions from witnesses, arrange for expert witnesses to testify, file for discovery. That type of activity will make an insurance company sit up and take notice of the real possibility your case is going to trial if the company doesn't start acting reasonably before the trial starts. And it's still another thing for attorneys to take the case to trial; you'll definitely want someone willing to litigate your case and experienced enough to do so with confidence.

That's why it's critical that you find an attorney who has had extensive trial experience with personal injury actions and is willing to go the distance. As I mention elsewhere in this book, you don't want an attorney who's a jack-of-all-trades or specializes in tax cases but is looking for a big payout with a personal injury case.

Ask the lawyers you talk to about your case to give you a list of the awards the courts have given their clients for their cases as a result of trials as well as what settlements they've achieved. (You'll find my list of settlements and verdicts at the back of this book; I've done them all one case at a time, and I'm proud of what I've been able to accomplish on behalf of my clients.) Don't settle for someone without a long list of both.



A CASE IN POINT— BIG RIG CRASH \$150M VERDICT

This tragic case involved a big rig that was parked illegally on the shoulder of the highway. A family of five on their way to a Thanksgiving celebration crashed into the rear of the truck. The two youngest children were able to escape the resulting fire that killed their parents and older brother.

The insurance company initially offered nothing and maintained all along that the children's father fell asleep causing the crash. Just prior to trial they offered \$1 million. The jury awarded us a record setting \$150 million verdict.

9

**YOUR PERSONAL INJURY
ATTORNEY SHOULD HAVE SOLID
CREDENTIALS**

A lawyer's credentials are some of the best information you'll find when it comes to determining the quality of the services he or she will offer you and your case. The fact is that all lawyers are not created equal, and the accreditations they have will give you an idea of who's high up on the list of those you should consider giving your case to.

See if they're listed in attorney-rating publications and associations. Some you can search are SuperLawyers (superlawyers.com) and Martindale-Hubbell (martindale.com). You should look for an attorney who received an AV or Preeminent rating, which means he or she has the highest professional and ethical standards. In AVVO (avvo.com), he or she should have a rating of 10 or "superb."

Also, recognition in the Top 100 Lawyers (thenationaltriallawyers.org) is a sign of an attorney who is accomplished in the personal injury field. Finally, an attorney who is a member of ABOTA

(American Board of Trial Advocates, abota.org), which is limited to fewer than the top 1 percent of the trial attorneys in the nation, is a great indicator of a skilled attorney.

As I mentioned in the chapter on “The Importance of Hiring a Trial Attorney,” ask for (and expect to receive) a solid list of the cases an attorney has actually litigated in court as well as the settlements the attorney has received for clients—again, don’t settle for an attorney who doesn’t have an impressive list of both. You can do some of this legwork pretty easily on the web; any attorney’s site should have a list of his or her status, ranking, and standing, national as well as local. You can be impressed if you see that an attorney has won a Trial Lawyer of the Year award from local bar organizations; that’s a good indication he or she is respected by and has a good reputation among other attorneys and judges alike.

10

**DO I NEED TO HIRE A LAWYER?
CAN'T I SETTLE MY OWN CASE?**

Not all victims of personal injury need the services of a lawyer. That doesn't sound like the type of thing you'd ever hear a lawyer say, does it? But the reason is plain economics. In some cases, the damages that certain personal injury victims could expect to recover just aren't enough to warrant their hiring a lawyer. I know through my experience with hundreds of cases how juries and judges are likely to look upon certain cases and what they'd be willing to award a plaintiff.

The fees any lawyer would have to charge to be fair to his or her practice or firm might take up a disproportionate amount of any settlement or award, and that would work against your best interests. In short, in some cases, you're better off accepting a settlement and avoiding legal fees.

Here are some guidelines I ask myself when presented with a personal injury case, and there's no big secret to any of them.

- **Is your case a MIST (minor or sometimes called “minimum” impact soft tissue) case?** These can be tough to litigate. A broken arm is a broken arm, and X-rays will prove it. But soft-tissue pain and discomfort (such as a wrenched neck) can and will be challenged by the insurance company because of their subjective nature. “He’s not really hurt that much. The damage to his car was minimal, so how could he have been hurt badly? Besides, he was prescribed only some pain killers.” You get the picture here.
- **Is there only property damage and no injury?** This is a corollary of the above question. If you’ve suffered no quantifiable injury, judges and juries are unlikely to look beyond the damages incurred (car repairs, etc.) when it comes to what they consider reasonable recompense.
- **Did your injuries consist of minor bruises, strains, and sprains?** Here again, you might find yourself facing a judge or jury with the attitude, “Just walk it off—We have to!”
- **Did you have only one or two doctor visits and some pain medication for treatment?** It could be tough to establish that you’ve undergone major pain and suffering even if that’s the case.
- **If you received physical therapy, was it for less than three or four months?** That will be taken as an indication that you’ve recovered from injuries that were more aggravating than debilitating.
- **After your initial visits with the doctor, do you expect any further treatment?** Your doctor will be the

best source of information on your long-term prognosis; he or she will advise you on whether any injury you sustained could cause you chronic pain or problems down the road. But even if your doctor suggests that you could be facing problems later, realize that the defendant (mostly insurance companies with time and money to spare) will be sure to have a doctor on its side that will counter that information with statistic after statistic on similar cases.

If you answered yes to most or all these questions, your case is probably one you could settle for a few thousand dollars; the damages, thus any award, just won't be that high. But don't think that the insurance company will just roll over and give in to a claim that exceeds what it thinks it should pay no matter how little that is. That's because insurance companies employ lawyers for exactly that purpose—to make sure it doesn't set a precedent for paying more than it thinks it should and develop a reputation in the legal community for that.

Again, if you answered yes to a majority of the questions above, you can probably resolve your claim yourself with the insurance adjusters by providing them with a few important items:

- **Photographs of the scene and the property damage.**

This has been made so much easier by the advent of camera phones; you probably won't need to delay taking photos of the damage to your car, say, but also damage to the other car and even such elements as skid marks or the stop sign the defendant ran. (You can skip this step if you feel at all concerned about your physical condition; taking care of your immediate physical needs trumps sticking around to take photos.)

- **Any witness information** to support your version as to how the crash occurred. This is important to keep your claim from becoming simply a matter of your word against the other driver's word. Remember to get the names and phone numbers of witnesses at least; some phones will allow you to record statements right on the spot.
- **Copies of all of your medical records and bills related to the accident.** This is a good reason to get organized even if that's not your nature. Set a simple manila folder aside into which you put all letters, receipts, bills, medical records, even printouts of emails—anything and everything related to your accident. You don't want to lose track of these items or rely on someone to make a copy and send it to you, because that's likely to happen on that person's schedule, not yours.
- **If the police make a report,** be sure to ask for a copy of it or how you can get one, and put it in your file as well.

Once you have those items, make copies of everything and forward them to the adjuster. Allow a reasonable amount of time (perhaps thirty days) for a resolution to your claim. I'm not saying here that you should roll over and accept the first offer an adjuster offers because it's bound to be lower than what you have asked for, but if you've substantiated the damages you've incurred, you'll be in a strong position due to your solid documentation.

So in minor cases such as MIST or simple, identifiable property damage, the above are exactly the steps an attorney would take, and there's no reason for you to have to send part of your settlement to your attorney in payment for actions you could have taken easily enough on your own.



A CASE IN POINT— BRIAN OBTAINS 4.5M SETTLEMENT FOR VICTIM OF MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

This tragic case involved a big rig that was parked illegally on the shoulder of the highway. A family of five on their way to a Thanksgiving celebration crashed into the rear of the truck. The two youngest children were able to escape the resulting fire that killed their parents and older brother.

The insurance company initially offered nothing and maintained all along that the children's father fell asleep causing the crash. Just prior to trial they offered \$1 million. The jury awarded us a record setting \$150 million verdict.

11

**THE CASES BRIAN BRANDT
WILL ACCEPT**

My firm has come up with guidelines to help you determine if you have a case that my firm would be very interested in discussing with you.

If you're ever in an automobile accident, the victim of medical malpractice, or suffer another type of accident that has caused you definite and serious injury, call us. We know from experience that accidents that required hospitalization, emergency-room care, visits to doctors and specialists—cases that have generated a “paper trail,” so to speak, of physician's reports, medical bills, and so on—are much, much stronger because of that documentation. We will advise you that cases involving vague and undefined pain, particularly if they haven't been treated by doctors, just aren't going to go very far at all in terms of settlements or judgments.

This is particularly the case when, say, you've been hurt in a vehicle accident but your car just doesn't *look* like it's been severely damaged; a fact like that can sway a judge or jury to believe the other side that you couldn't possibly have suffered major injuries.

We welcome cases with plenty of time to run on the statute of limitations. I'll be the first to let you know that if your statute of limitations is about to run out, I simply won't have the time to adequately prepare your case for settlement or litigation.

I'll also be very frank with you about your chances for success if you've filed claims for accidents in the past, or if you were the one who got the ticket in a traffic accident, or if you have a history of arrests and convictions in other matters. These situations, unfortunately, muddy the waters and make it unlikely you'll get the outcome you want.

After I look over facts pertaining to these matters, you can count on me to give you a frank and honest assessment of your chances of getting compensation.

I'll also be quick to tell you that if your case involves, for instance, neck pain, and you've had problems with neck pain *before* the accident, or say you had rotator-cuff surgery to your shoulder in the past and that shoulder was injured in the accident, judges and juries can find it very difficult to distinguish between what pain was there before and how much was caused by the accident. This can result in very low settlements or judgments, if any at all.

Other potential problems I'll alert you to now include going to a doctor recommended by another attorney. If that's where your claim and medical "paper trail" starts, I'll tell you that this could be a bad sign. It might turn out that that attorney regularly sends clients to one or a small number of doctors, and the courts might interpret that as a sign of "collusion" between the lawyer and the doctor. You can be sure that the insurance company will bring

this up, hoping to cast some doubt on your claim. Your best bet is to go to your own doctor, or one recommended by friends or family, and to rely on that doctor to refer you to specialists such as orthopedic surgeons, physical therapists, and so on.

“Honesty is the best policy” is an old, hackneyed phrase, but I know what dishonesty can do to cases. I know of cases in which claimants have exaggerated the extent of their injuries or have claimed, for instance, that they couldn’t ride a bike or play softball any more, and guess what the defense discovers? Yep, their investigators come up with a video or some other evidence that shows that the claimant is just not as injured as he or she claimed. Take a guess how the defense is going to portray that, and take a guess how the judge or jury will look at that.

Same thing goes for past injuries. If you’re claiming a back injury and try to hide the fact from everybody that you’ve had back problems before, this can sink your case like a stone. Insurance investigators have dozens of ways to discover such past conditions. Let me know way upfront about past injuries so I can take all the facts into consideration and give you my best advice in your particular case; this can possibly save you a lot of disappointment down the road.

And it’s not just your medical history I’ll ask you to lay all out for me; you and I will also substantiate exactly how much you’ve lost in wages and earnings. With my help we can round up your past tax statements, pay stubs, records of direct deposits, and so on to definitely establish all that and make sure there are no “skeletons” in your claim’s closet that might negatively impact it.

Truth is, *any* slip-up, *any* exaggeration, *any* hiding of evidence will be pounced on by the other side; you have to keep in mind that they'll be working overtime to figure out how to cast a shadow, *any* shadow of doubt, over even a small part of your claim, hoping to shoot the whole thing down or at least get it substantially reduced.



DID YOU KNOW?

It's critical to keep every medical receipt that comes your way after a personal injury and also make copies of them. You never want to rely on an office to send you a copy; time can be a critical element in your case.

12

**ACTION STEPS BRIAN BRANDT
WILL TAKE IN HANDLING YOUR
PERSONAL INJURY CASE**

Personal injury victims have too much on their minds; they need professional help in crossing the very important legal t's and dotting all the i's involved. Those opposing you in your claim will not be forgiving about missed deadlines—and this could mean potential disaster for your case.

The whole idea of filing a lawsuit can be overwhelming to most people, but I approach the matter with a “one step at a time” attitude. I’ve learned through my experience that a methodical, informed approach can get your case from A to Z, and the complexities of cases just don’t deter me. I’ve been involved time and time again in looking for every possible source of compensation for my clients for their pain and suffering, lost current and future wages, today’s and tomorrow’s medical expenses, and getting the maximum for them. This includes pursuing wrongful death cases if you have lost a loved one.

You can count on me to get busy:

- Obtaining police reports.
- Making sure evidence is not discarded or destroyed. This is particularly important in the case of automobiles involved in accidents. While damage to your vehicle is considered a matter of property damage rather than personal injury, a totaled car can be a compelling piece of evidence in your personal injury case. I've even stored cars for my clients, and you can count on me to do that for you.
- Getting statements from witnesses.
- Dealing with claims adjustors so you can concentrate on getting better.
- Contacting insurance companies to uncover the actual owner of a vehicle and other potential parties in your suit.
- Determining your comparative negligence, if any.
- Getting reports from doctors, physical therapists, and other medical personnel.
- Helping with liens against your case. (A sometimes overlooked fact: your medical insurance company and/or Medicare might be in line to recover what they've paid you if and when you settle or win a verdict, but they've been known at times to ask for more than they're entitled to. I know the ins and outs of this whole area of the law.
- Finding out if public entities, such as a city service, a state agency, or a school district are involved. The statute of limitations on cases involving such "public" entities can be shorter than those involving a company, so time can be an even more critical factor here.
- Investigating the accident scene and any and all tools, products, or equipment involved in an accident.

- Interviewing witnesses: there could be witnesses you're just not aware of, and security cameras in the area of the accident could possibly yield evidence that could win your case.
- Uncovering other factors that may have slipped you by in the heat of the moment.
- Letting you know exactly how to handle requests for information coming from insurance companies, insurance adjustors, investigators for the other side, and so forth.
- Evaluating settlement offers and requests for mediation and arbitration, keeping in mind your current and future needs.
- Keeping you updated on how your claim is progressing. I'm proud of my "open door" policy on these matters; you deserve to know how everything's going along, and you can rest assured that I'll keep the lines of communication open between us.
- Handling depositions, discovery, motions, and other procedures mandated by the courts.
- Preparing not only you but also witnesses and evidence for trial.
- Walking into the courtroom with confidence and knowledge. We're always working on your case so if it does go to trial, we'll be ready as well as willing to do so.

Damages for Which You Can Claim Compensation:

Past and Present Medical Expenses: These can include insurance deductibles and co-pays (thus the importance of keeping all receipts and records of payments) and:

- the cost of wheelchair rental or purchase

- the expense of neck braces, walkers, crutches, and other medical assistance devices
- the cost of physical therapy
- payments for transportation you need to hire to get you to and from doctors' appointments
- the costs of prescription and over-the-counter medication

Future Medical Expenses: Your accident might require future medical procedures—one of my clients recovered for a knee replacement he was sure to need later in life—but the key factor here is whether there's a “reasonable certainty” you'll need medical care related to your accident, or if it's just a remote possibility. I and my medical experts can present the evidence you'll need.

Present and Future Lost Wages: While it's not difficult to point to exactly what you've lost in terms of wages as a result of your accident, determining what you'll lose in the future again involves a factor of “reasonable certainty”; how likely was it that you would have progressed, gotten pay raises and promotions? Here's where you can count on the insurance company you're trying to settle with to fight tooth and nail because this area is open to a lot of interpretation and argument.

Past and Future Pain and Suffering: This includes your loss of ability to enjoy life, the psychological stress that can be caused by permanent disfigurement or physical impairment. There are no set figures for the above; as you can imagine, they vary according to the extent of the injuries and how long they're going to have an impact on a victim. A younger person might

expect to receive more for long-term pain and suffering based on life expectancy rates.

Loss of Consortium: A victim of a personal injury whose sex life has been affected can be awarded compensation under the “pain and suffering” part of a settlement or award. But keep in mind that a victim’s spouse can also recover for what is called “loss of consortium,” being deprived of having sexual relations with the victim. And courts have been recognizing for a long time that “consortium” covers a greater area than just sex; it also refers to the loss of companionship that exists between a couple. Maybe they were both avid hikers or campers, but an injury left one unable to engage in those activities or other pursuits the couple customarily did together prior to an accident; maybe a husband or a wife really counted on the other to perform all kinds of household chores the victim is no longer able to handle. A spouse can collect damages for having lost aspects of their relationship that include sex but also companionship and society. Such awards are over and above what the victim himself or herself settles for or is awarded.

A CASE IN POINT— FAILURE TO DIAGNOSE



One of my clients was an elderly woman whose doctor should have screened her for colon cancer as a matter of course; it wasn't until much later, however, that her cancer was discovered, and by then it was too late to treat it. I sued the doctor for medical malpractice—failure to diagnose, specifically—and won a settlement of \$310,000 for my client.

13

**BRIAN BRANDT'S SETTLEMENTS
AND VERDICTS**

Results do matter. That's a simple fact you must keep in mind when it comes to hiring a lawyer. While no attorney can make any promises about the outcome of your case, you can rely on me to bring my years of experience in personal injury lawsuits to bear on your case and to give you some honest and reliable information and advice on the likelihood of your recovering the compensation you deserve. Such advice will be coming not from some corporation or insurance company but someone you can trust to be in your corner, someone who has your, and *only* your, best interests in mind.

You deserve nothing less.

Attorneys who cannot point to settlements they've obtained or verdicts they've won for their clients just might be people who have had little experience in the huge, complex area of personal injury, and there's no reason for you to trust your case to someone with little likelihood of success either in gaining a settlement or convincing a judge or jury that you deserve what you're asking for.

My situation is markedly different from those attorneys who will fish for a quick settlement and push you to accept it. I'm more than ready to take your case to court—I've repeatedly done that before for my clients. As well, I'm particularly well-known in the

field; insurance companies know me and my abilities; they sit up and take notice when they hear from Brian Brandt.

Suffering personal devastation and family devastation will impact your quality of life, including being able to pay for your daughter's wedding, taking that long-discussed vacation, enjoying a worry-free retirement, and having the peace of mind you've worked hard for that can all be negatively affected by a devastating personal injury.

Here are just some of the recent settlements and verdicts I've won for my clients:

\$150,000,000+	Trucking Accident
\$23.4 million	Auto Accident
\$4.5 million	Medical Malpractice
\$4.3 million	Auto Rollover
\$1.5 million	Premises Liability
\$1.5 million	Medical Malpractice
\$1 million	Defective Tire Valve
\$825,000	Tire Defect
\$750,000	Auto Collision
\$750,000	Auto vs. Pedestrian Accident
\$650,000	Auto Collision
\$500,000	Medical Malpractice
\$450,000	Auto Collision
\$390,000	Medical Malpractice
\$300,000	Auto Collision
\$300,000	Skateboard vs. Pedestrian
\$276,000	Premises Liability
\$175,000	Motorcycle Accident
\$125,000	Medical Malpractice
\$110,000	Auto Collision

14

**ABOUT ATTORNEY
BRIAN BRANDT**

Attorney Brian Brandt grew up in southern California and graduated from the University of California Santa Barbara in 1984 with a double major in anthropology and psychology. He graduated from the University of Santa Clara's School of Law in 1987 and was admitted to the California State Bar in 1987. He and his wife, Camille, have five daughters and one boy and a nine-passenger Chevy Suburban to ferry them around town. Brian is an avid soccer fan and coach; he's coached over forty AYSO teams in the past ten years.

The whole Brandt family relishes the outdoors; they surf, fish, backpack, snowboard, dive, and hike whenever they can.

Learn More about Brian Brandt:

By all means please visit my website, **www.brianbrandt.com**. That's where you'll find video testimonials by my clients Michael, Jeff, Billie, Katie, and others, real people with real cases for whom I've won settlements and awards: **www.brianbrandt.com/video-center.asp**

The legal information site Avvo.com offers reviews of attorneys, and I'm listed there at: www.avvo.com/attorneys/91786-ca-brian-brandt-327625.html

My blog contains information and resources on accidents and injuries: www.brianbrandt.com/blog



OFFICE LOCATIONS:

Orange County

101 S. El Camino Real, Suite 107
San Clemente, CA 92672
Phone: 949-481-1468
Fax: 949-481-1469

Inland Empire

309 N. Euclid Avenue
Upland, CA 91786
Phone: 909-932-1162
Fax: 909-932-1161

AFFILIATIONS:



AMERICAN BOARD OF TRIAL ADVOCATES



Peer Review Rated
For Ethical Standards & Legal Ability™

PREEMINENT™

Martindale-Hubbell®
from LexisNexis®



BBB Rating: A+

Super Lawyers®

WA



Brian Brandt, a twenty-eight-year veteran trial attorney, knows the ins and outs of personal injury litigation.

A former Western San Bernardino County Bar Association President and holder of the largest wrongful death verdict in California history and the 2014 Orange County Personal Injury

Trial Lawyer of the year. Brian is also a graduate of Gerry Spence's Trial Lawyers College—think of a “boot camp” for trial lawyers and you get the idea of the training he's had there.

Always a defender of the little guy against the Goliaths—the insurance companies that work as hard as they can to limit, if not duck altogether, their responsibilities to victims of personal injury.

Brian, who specializes in car, truck, and motorcycle accidents, stresses the importance of preserving evidence. His expert investigators are masters at collecting accident-site information to assure you get the insurance settlement or verdict you deserve.

When someone is hurt due to the negligence or wrongful acts of others Brian steps in. A proven track record of success in his area speaks for itself, detailed in this book and on his Web site, www.brianbrandt.com. There you'll get to meet a number of Brian's more-than-happy clients in videos detailing what he's been able to achieve for them.

Inland Empire

309 N. Euclid Avenue
Upland, CA 91786
Phone: 909-932-1162
Fax: 909-932-1161

Orange County Location:

101 S. El Camino Real, Suite 107
San Clemente, CA 92672
Phone: 949-481-1468
Fax: 949-481-1469

www.brianbrandt.com



WORD ASSOCIATION
PUBLISHERS

www.wordassociation.com

1.800.827.7903

LAW \$16.95

ISBN 978-1-59571-819-8



51695 >



9 781595 718198