

## Words we live by

The late U.S. Supreme Court Justice William H. Rehnquist had immense respect for each American's right to trial by a jury of peers. Here are some of his words we can all live by:

★ The right to trial is *"so fundamental and sacred to citizens, where guaranteed by the Constitution or provided by statute, [it] should be jealously guarded."*

★ *"Those who oppose the use of juries in civil trials seem to ignore [that] the founders of our nation considered the right of trial by jury in civil cases an important bulwark against tyranny and corruption, a safeguard too precious to be left to the whim of the sovereign, or, it might be added, to that of the judiciary."*

★ *"The guarantees of the Seventh Amendment [right to civil jury trial] will prove burdensome in some instances...but as with other provisions of the Bill of Rights, the onerous nature of the protections is no license for contracting the rights secured by the Amendment."*

**In short, our firm is committed to preserving the right to a jury trial for each of our clients, just as we are dedicated to battling large corporations, which, every day, try to whittle away rights protected by our Constitution. If you are a victim of personal injury from another's negligence, please call us.**

## Assisted-living RESIDENCES

When concerned family members search for a care residence for a beloved grandparent or parent, they need to look past pleasant decor.

They should investigate resident-care assessment and planning, medication treatment, dressing and bathing assistance, nutrition needs and dining experiences, discomfort assessment, and social engagement and activity plans.

### Bed side rails

A 66-year-old nursing home resident suffering from Parkinson's disease fell from her bed and was asphyxiated after becoming wedged between the bed and a wall. Her two children, individually and on behalf of their mother's estate, sued the nursing home, alleging the facility failed to provide their mother with a bed equipped with side rails, in contravention of her care plan. A jury awarded damages and court costs.



## Recreation product LIABILITY

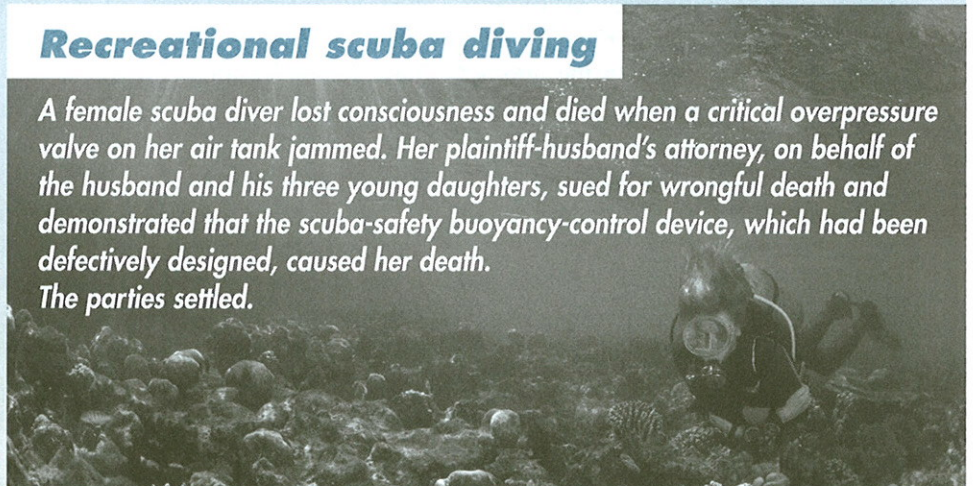
Our nation's civil justice system can hold manufacturers of defective products liable for harming users. Consumers injured by products with serious defects in design, manufacture, or improper or incomplete explanation of dangers or proper use can hold manufacturers and marketers accountable.

The long list of recreational products that have harmed consumers include all-terrain vehicles, bicycles, boats, campers, helmets, playground equipment, pools, snowmobiles, swing sets, trampolines, and many more. Children, who may assume products are always safe and who may impulsively take risks, are in particular jeopardy.

### Recreational scuba diving

*A female scuba diver lost consciousness and died when a critical overpressure valve on her air tank jammed. Her plaintiff-husband's attorney, on behalf of the husband and his three young daughters, sued for wrongful death and demonstrated that the scuba-safety buoyancy-control device, which had been defectively designed, caused her death.*

*The parties settled.*



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**If you or someone  
you know has  
been injured in  
an accident,  
please mention  
this newsletter  
and receive a  
DISCOUNTED FEE  
of 25%.**

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The information included in this newsletter is not intended as a substitute for consultation with an attorney. Specific conditions always require consultation with appropriate legal professionals.

## *Introducing...* **Claudia Rodriguez**



*At Phillips & Lyon, I saw a difference. I saw from my first day that our clients were the priority and are treated with respect.*

My name is **Claudia Rodriguez**. I have been in the legal field for approximately five years and now work as a legal assistant for **Phillips & Lyon**. My job as a legal assistant consists of many duties, such as communicating with clients, opening claims with insurance companies, troubleshooting liability issues, requesting medical records, helping clients resolve property-damage claims, and assisting the attorney with client communication and meetings. I also assist with on-call intake interviews, screen calls for new cases, and meet with potential clients to talk about their cases.

I enjoy all aspects of my job; however, I find it most rewarding to be able to guide our clients as they go through such a difficult time. For most clients, it is their first time dealing with an accident. When you come to a place

in your life with some experience and you begin to look for that one job you may possibly retire from, you begin to look for qualities that will fulfill you for the long run. I wanted to find a place where I could feel I was making a difference, where I felt the most important thing was our clients and what we can do for them. I have worked at other firms; however, at Phillips & Lyon, I saw a difference. I saw from my first day that our clients were the priority and are treated with respect.

I am grateful I am able to work for such a company where I not only feel a sense of accomplishment as I work my way through the legal field, but where I also have the opportunity to pursue my passion of helping others. I have always attempted to be a part of my community and have volunteered for different

organizations throughout the valley. I have been a youth counselor, a drug and alcohol counselor for a local rehabilitation home, have assisted at a resource center for battered women, and at one point founded a youth athletic league.

Beyond my work, my interests are few and simple. Like most women, I love shopping. If there is a shoe sale, you will find me there. I also enjoy basketball—I'll watch any game but, of course, I am a SUNS fan. I believe this year we are going to the finals. GO SUNS!