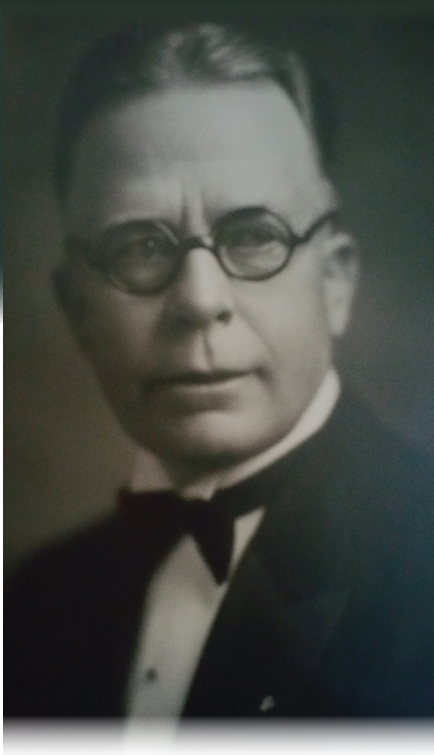




## Seufert Law Offices, PA

*We'll Get You Through It*



### From the Captain's Log Deep Roots

Ever wonder how you got here?

On my father's side, my ancestors were Scottish nobility from Aldnamond, Scotland and sat in English Parliament when King James established the Virginia Company, which eventually settled the 1st colony of Jamestown Virginia. The family then migrated to Ireland, sailing from Aldnamond, to the shore of County Antrim, settling on the Isle of Rathlin. From there my great-great-grandfather, an iron worker, immigrated to the US, settling in Pembroke MA. His son, my great-great-grandfather, Neil Lamond, then moved north to East Bay, ME. My great-grandfather, L.D. Lamond (whose picture hangs in the reception room at the law firm and whose old law books grace the bookshelves) was a graduate of Suffolk Law and an accomplished attorney licensed in MA and ME, with offices in Boston and Eastport, ME and ran as a Democrat for the US House of Representatives for the 2nd

District of Maine. His wife, my great-grandmother, Fedelia Best, was born on the **USS Amphitrite**, which fought in the Spanish -American war. My father was an iron worker, like my great-great-grandfather.

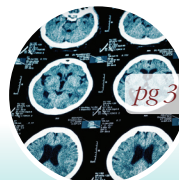
My mother's side, well that is equally interesting and heralds from France when my grandmother and other family members came from the Alsace-Lorraine province and sailed to the US when she was 6, settling in New Bedford, MA in the early 1900's. Family members who remained in France were killed by the Germans in WW I. After moving to New Bedford, the family worked in the textile and shipping industries. The history of the **USS Amphitrite** from my father's side, shows that it frequented the port of New Bedford in the late 1800's.

I am an attorney, licensed in MA and NH. I did my undergraduate at UMASS Dartmouth, on the outskirts of New Bedford, and am also a graduate of Suffolk Law. I started practicing in Boston, before moving north to Franklin, NH, eerily similar to the steps of L.D. Lamond. Franklin, NH as does New Bedford MA, has a long history in the textile industries. I am an avid sailor, and was also a petty officer in the U.S. Coast Guard, no doubt salt water in my veins from Fedelia Best.

I really never knew my ancestral history until I was well into my 30's and my grandmothers each sat me down and spoke at length about it. It is funny how life takes us down paths we believe are our own choosing, but unconsciously - we may just be following in the footsteps of our forefathers. •



August 2017 News



# Juvenile Delinquency Proceedings

In New Hampshire, juvenile delinquency proceedings involve persons age 18 and under. All juvenile cases are civil matters, not criminal.

In juvenile delinquency cases, instead of being charged with a crime, the juvenile is accused of committing a delinquent act. A prosecutor or probation officer typically gets the ball rolling by filing a civil petition, which states the charge and requests that the court determine that the juvenile has been delinquent.

Juveniles have the right to representation by an attorney at an adjudicatory hearing (where the judge weighs the evidence in a case), but they do not have the right to a trial by jury. If a delinquency determination is made, the court has broad powers as to what constitutes the best interests of the child and a suitable course of action.

Common delinquent acts include all of the crimes that an adult may be charged with, including theft, possession of a controlled drug, simple assault, and disorderly conduct, among others. Roughly three percent of cases involve charges of robbery, aggravated assault, rape, or murder. Sometimes a juvenile case involving a more serious offense or a repeat offender is transferred to adult court through a request by the state for the juvenile to be certified as an adult. The accused has the right to a hearing prior to the case being assigned to adult court.

Sentencing options include sending the juvenile offender to a juvenile detention facility, placing him/her under house arrest, or sentencing them to non-confinement corrective measures, such as counseling, curfew, or probation.

If you have a child who has been accused of a juvenile offense, a juvenile law attorney can help protect their rights. •



## “100 Deadliest Days”

The stretch of time between Memorial Day and Labor Day has been called the “100 Deadliest Days” by AAA, as the number of fatal car crashes involving teen drivers spikes during this time. Over 5,000 deaths have been reported over the summer for the past five years, a rate that is 16 percent higher than other times of the year.

Teens drive more over the summer than other times of the year since school is out. They frequently drive greater distances as well, traveling to summer jobs or heading to the beach or other vacation destinations. In addition, teen drivers are generally the least experienced drivers out there and are the age group that’s most likely to drive while distracted. All these circumstances make for a volatile combination.

The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found that a whopping 60 percent of crashes involving teen drivers were due to distracted driving. The organization conducted a study from 2007-2015 in which teen drivers’ cars were equipped with a camera system that recorded video, audio, and acceleration forces. The data gathered following approximately 2,200 crashes indicated the top three forms of distracted teen driving:

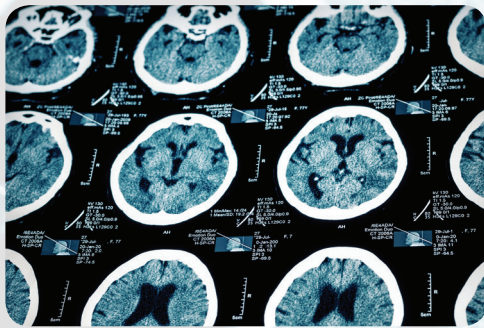
- Talking to or paying attention to other passengers accounted for 15 percent of crashes. The more passengers, the higher the risk.
- Cell phone activities, including texting and talking, contributed 12 percent. Texting alone creates a crash risk 23 times greater than undistracted driving.
- Tending to something inside the vehicle, such as the radio or GPS, checked in at 11 percent.

Education and improved parent/child communication play major roles in reducing deadly teen crashes. Stricter laws on texting while driving may be beneficial as well. •





# Auto Accidents and Traumatic Brain Injuries



Traumatic brain injuries (TBI) are responsible for the deaths of approximately 50,000 Americans each year and the hospitalizations of roughly 230,000 more. Many more victims go undiagnosed.

Auto accidents are one of the leading causes of TBI. Most TBIs are closed head injuries, which means that trauma sets the brain in motion inside the skull. The brain gets slammed against the interior surface of the skull, resulting in contusions and swelling.

Trauma can also initiate rotational forces that twist and stretch the brain, which can damage axons. Brain neurons send messages via electrical impulses; axons are the carriers of these impulses. When axons are damaged, brain function is diminished. A condition called diffuse axonal injury (DAI) occurs on a cellular level and leaves blood vessels and major brain structures intact. This type of damage cannot be detected by MRIs or CT scans, making DAI vastly underdiagnosed and undertreated.

Brain injuries are unlike injuries to other parts of the body. They not only have a physical component, they also affect the cognitive and emotional well-being of the victim. Impairments can be temporary or permanent, subtle or catastrophic.

It's important to note that low-impact auto accidents can result in TBI (e.g., concussion due to whiplash), not just high-impact ones. In addition, a person involved in a car crash may feel perfectly normal immediately following the incident; however, TBI symptoms might only present themselves hours, days, or weeks later.

If you have been involved in a car accident caused by the negligence of another driver, schedule a medical evaluation and contact an auto accident attorney to protect your rights. •

August 2017 Important Dates

**August 4**  
International  
Beer Day

**August 13**  
International Left-  
Handers Day

**August 26**  
Women's  
Equality Day

## Rideshare Companies... Consider All the Angles

Rideshare companies like Uber and Lyft offer more convenience and frequently less expense than taxicabs and limousines, but there are drawbacks, too.

Insurance-wise, taxi and limousine service passengers are covered in the event of a crash, with passengers able to pursue compensation from the taxi or limousine's insurance company. In addition, taxi and limousine drivers must undergo thorough background checks and are randomly screened for drug and alcohol use.

When you choose to utilize a ridesharing company, you may be subject to more risk/uncertainty concerning liability. Rideshare drivers are considered independent contractors, not actual employees of the ridesharing company. Ridesharing companies state that they only connect drivers with those who need rides, attempting to insulate themselves from legal responsibility for crashes and the actions of its drivers. The burden of responsibility may fall on rideshare drivers.

Rideshare companies typically provide liability insurance for passengers when the driver's app is on, from the time they enter the vehicle until they exit. If the driver's app is off, a passenger's situation may be murkier. If your driver was impaired or distracted and caused an accident, you may have to rely on the driver's personal auto insurance for compensation, which might not cover commercial activity or the full scope of your damages. •





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*Protect Your Family, Protect Your Rights*



## Deep Roots

SEE PAGE ONE

This publication is intended to educate the general public about personal injury, medical malpractice, and other issues. It is for information purposes only and is not intended to be legal advice. Prior to acting on any information contained here, you should seek and retain competent counsel. The information in this newsletter may be freely copied and distributed as long as the newsletter is copied in its entirety.

## Cathy's Corner

## Reflections, Part Two

Another year has passed in my time at Seufert Law. It's hard to believe it's been two years. I was meeting with someone the other day who had never been to the office before. He said to me that I must really appreciate coming to work every day in this beautiful building on this amazing property. I realized that after only two short years I was already taking both the building and the property for granted. It was a good reminder of how lucky I am. I still run when I can. I don't get out as often as I'd like, but do when I can.

I was running recently on the trails up by Webster Valve. I was alone, as is usual, on the trail. It's very peaceful. I was running along thinking of nothing. All of a sudden, I noticed a big black something in the middle of the trail. There are often tree branches that fall in the trail, so at first I didn't think anything of it. But then it moved. I realized that in the trail ahead of me, no more than thirty feet away, was a bear. A big black bear. I didn't know what to do. I was trying to remember what they tell you to do when you encounter a bear. I was pretty sure running at the bear was not one of them. So, I stopped running. The bear looked at me and I looked at the bear. But then I thought maybe you're not supposed to look the bear in the eye. Maybe bears take it as a challenge. So, I looked down. Looking down is hard to do when there is a bear in front of you that you want to keep an eye on.

I managed to keep an eye on the bear as I looked down. The bear picked its front paws up and stood part way up on its back feet. Now I was even more concerned. Why was the bear raising up? I kept still. I was hoping that no bear cubs were going to come out of the woods. I did not want to get that close to a mother bear worrying about protecting her cubs. The bear stood looking at me for a few more seconds then put its paws back on the ground and wandered across the trail into the woods on the other side of the trail.

Now I had a new dilemma. Ahead of me, where I needed to go to get back to the office, was a bear out of sight in the woods. Was the bear lying in wait for me? Were the cubs over there? I started walking VERY slowly up the trail. As I went I talked quietly to the bear. Now you might think that that's a little crazy. But I figured that if I walked up the trail without making a sound, the bear might think that I was trying to sneak up on it. So, I talked. "Hello, bear. How are you bear?" (The bear didn't respond.) I walked past the spot where the bear had gone into the woods. I looked. The bear was out of sight. I finished the rest of my run.

Now, my problem is: do I keep running that trail knowing that very nearby is a bear who may decide that I'm given one free pass, but don't push my luck? Tough call. ●

