

The Road To **Justice** Starts Here

Small enough to care, experienced enough to win.



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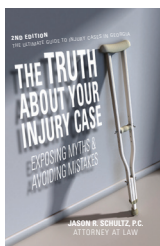
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Request my book
“The Ultimate Guide to Injury Cases in Georgia—The Truth About Your Injury Case.”
by scanning the QR code.



‘BUT COFFEE’S SUPPOSED TO BE HOT!’ — a retrospective

In “frivolous lawsuit” conversations, the McDonald’s hot coffee case is frequently spotlighted — mistakenly, in our view. Distortions and key omissions of fact skew public perception.

In 1992, 79-year-old Stella Liebeck, a passenger in her grandson’s car, purchased coffee at a McDonald’s drive-thru. Upon exiting the drive-thru, her grandson stopped in the parking lot so she could add sugar to her coffee. The cup tipped over between her legs as she was removing the lid, and 190-degree coffee spilled onto her lap.

Liebeck suffered severe burns to her inner thighs and other sensitive areas that necessitated a hospital stay, painful wound-cleaning procedures, and skin grafts.

Liebeck filed a claim against McDonald’s, contending the coffee was dangerously hot, and offered to settle the case for \$20,000 to cover medical expenses. McDonald’s countered with \$800. The case went to trial.

At trial, it was demonstrated that the McDonald’s operations manual required its employees to serve coffee at 180°–190°F, which can cause near-immediate scalding. Recommended serving temperatures are in the 130°–150°F range, giving spill victims a roughly 5-second escape hatch from severe burns.

Equally damning, it was revealed that over 700 complaints, claims, and suits had been filed against McDonald’s in the prior 10 years over the same issue. McDonald’s changed nothing — didn’t even print warning labels.

Liebeck’s \$200,000 damages award was reduced to \$160,000 since she was found 20% at fault. The judge cut the jury’s \$2.7 million punitive damages award to \$480,000. Upon the defendant’s appeal, a confidential settlement amount was reached.

Truly frivolous lawsuits rarely take flight. Judges can immediately dismiss cases that have no basis in law. Personal injury attorneys can be sanctioned for squandering a court’s time and taxpayer money. *And attorneys don’t get paid unless they win their cases.* Frivolous cases don’t tend to be winners. ■



whole-wheat Irish soda bread

Yield: 2-lb. loaf (12 servings); cook time: 10 min.; additional time: 1 hr. 20 min.; total time: 1 hr. 30 min.

Soda breads are hearty, healthy, and tasty. They're versatile, too, as the dough can be shaped into scones or a round loaf, depending on the occasion.

Ingredients

- 2 cups whole-wheat flour
- 2 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for dusting
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2¼ cups buttermilk

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 450°F. Coat a baking sheet with cooking spray, and sprinkle with a little flour.
2. Whisk whole-wheat flour, all-purpose flour, baking soda, and salt in a large bowl. Make a well in the center and pour in buttermilk. Using one hand, stir in full circles (starting in the center of the bowl, working toward the outside of the bowl) until all the flour is incorporated. The dough should be soft but not too wet and sticky. When it all comes together, in a matter of seconds, turn it out onto a well-floured surface. Clean the dough off your hand.
3. Pat and roll the dough gently with floury hands, just enough to tidy it up and give it a round shape. Flip over and flatten slightly to about 2 inches. Transfer the loaf to the prepared baking sheet. Mark with a deep cross using a serrated knife, and prick each of the 4 quadrants.
4. Bake the bread for 20 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 400°F, and continue to bake until the loaf is brown on top and sounds hollow when tapped, 30 to 35 minutes more. Transfer the loaf to a wire rack and let cool for about 30 minutes.

Recipe courtesy of www.eatingwell.com. ■



message in a bottle

NASA's Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 spacecraft were launched 16 days apart in 1977 to explore the four outer giant planets of our solar system. (Fun fact: Voyager 2 was launched first.) By 1989, the mission's goals were largely achieved. Since then, both Voyagers have exited our solar system and continue gathering valuable scientific information.

Both craft also contain a "Golden Record": a gold-plated copper disk mounted in an aluminum container. Each disk carries a tapestry of images, sounds, and music to convey Earth's rich diversity of life to potential extraterrestrials who happen upon it. Like a eulogy, only good stuff is featured.

The Golden Record includes a 90-minute music compilation. There's no Van Halen concert, but it does feature 28 tracks ranging from Beethoven and Mozart to traditional songs from across the globe to Chuck Berry's "Johnny B. Goode" — music that evokes emotion and connection.

There are spoken messages in 55 languages. "Take me to your leader" is not among them. Astronomer Carl Sagan's young son gave the English language greeting. Sagan was part of the Golden Record content team.

Analog-encoded photographs (115 of them) include a page from a book, the Taj Mahal, illustrations of DNA's complex structure, Olympic sprinters, and a woman licking an ice cream cone. In general, pictures of people, animals, landscapes, and structures dominate.

Natural and human-made sounds of Earth are covered, too, such as whales singing, children laughing, fire crackling, and waves crashing. (Fortunately, loud gum chewing was excluded.)

Voyager 1 and 2 will need over 38,000 and 40,000 years, respectively, to come within two light-years of another star. But that's OK. The Golden Records have all the time in the world cosmos. ■

roused from hibernation

Spring has arrived, and that means the reemergence of bicyclists in many parts of the country. But the winter-to-spring transition can be perilous.

Motorists sometimes let down their guard in watching for bicyclists since they've been sparse for a few months — that's not a good excuse, just reality. As with motorcyclists, visibility issues loom large. Spring showers can further limit visibility, as can early-morning and twilight lighting, rendering bicyclists more vulnerable to harm.



Some simple precautions can help keep bicyclists from becoming an accident statistic:

- **Wear a helmet!** Laws vary from state to state, municipality to municipality. According to National Institutes of Health studies, wearing a helmet reduces the likelihood of a serious head injury by 60%; traumatic brain injury, 53%; facial injury, 23%; and fatalities and overall serious injuries, 34%.
- In all 50 states, bicycles are either classified as vehicles or bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as motorists. Obey all traffic laws, and move to the far right of the road when motor vehicles are passing.
- Ride sober! In 2022, over 20% of bicyclist fatalities included bicyclist impairment (NHTSA).
- Never assume a motorist sees you.
- Wear a brightly colored helmet and clothing that are also reflective to improve visibility.
- Equip your bike with lights and reflectors, properly inflate the tires, and practice good maintenance.
- Avoid distractions: music, podcasts, cell phones, etc.
- Check the weather forecast before heading out.
- Give proper clearance to parked cars to avoid “dooring” — you’re riding along, a door suddenly opens in your path, you hit it (or swerve left), and mayhem ensues.

If you suffer a bicycling injury due to someone else’s negligence, contact our firm to protect your rights. ■



Jason’s photo gallery

Big Ben is the nickname for the Great Bell in the Elizabeth Tower at the north end of the Palace of Westminster in London. The bell weighs over 13 tons and was named after Sir Benjamin Hall, who oversaw its installation. The tower itself was completed in 1859.

March 2025 – Mark Your Calendars

- Mar. 4 — Mardi Gras
- Mar. 5 — Ash Wednesday
- Mar. 9 — Daylight Saving Time begins
- Mar. 17 — St. Patrick’s Day
- Mar. 20 — First day of spring
- Mar. 28 — Weed Appreciation Day
- Mar. 31 — Bunsen Burner Day



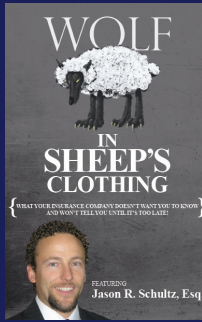
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WHAT ARE

ultra-processed foods lawsuits?

Ultra-processed foods (UPFs) are industrially manufactured products containing additives and artificial ingredients. Manufacturers use these substances to enhance flavor and shelf life, but recent evidence has shown a different motive for adding these ingredients as well.

Recent lawsuits allege that major food companies have intentionally engineered these products to be addictive. Claims also state manufacturers target children with advertising related to these products. The ultra-processed foods lead to serious health issues like type 2 diabetes and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease.

Legal claims argue that these companies have used marketing strategies similar to those used by tobacco firms in that they:

- Aim to create dependency on their products
- Do not adequately warn consumers about potential health risks

These corporations have prioritized profit over public health. They stand accused of negligence and deceptive/fraudulent practices. Legal actions seek compensation for affected individuals and families. Please contact our firm to protect your rights. ■



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