



LEGAL NEWS YOU CAN USE

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Matthew Lathrop
Trial Attorney

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HOW WE CAN HELP

At the Law Office of Matthew A. Lathrop, we don't focus on obtaining quick settlements. Instead, we concentrate on doing right by each client, even when that means taking a case all the way to trial. We bring experienced, skilled, and aggressive representation to personal injury and wrongful death claims throughout Nebraska and Iowa and are dedicated to helping you obtain justice. Learn more at www.LathropLawOmaha.com



Who Pays When You're Not At Fault For a Car Accident?

To hear Matt Lathrop's answer to this question, go to:
www.LathropLawOmaha.com/video



The Open Road!

by Matthew Lathrop

Summer is here and it is time to start traveling! I personally am very much looking forward to some time out of the house. Working from home, travel restrictions, social distancing – it all added up to some prolonged “cabin fever.” Let’s hit the road!

But when we do, let's consider who will be sharing the road with us. (My kids say my job as a lawyer has taken the fun out of everything.)

There are currently 80,000 more job openings for drivers holding a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) than there are drivers to fill them.

And the current pool of drivers includes CDL holders who aren't safe. In 2020, approximately 40,000 drivers were taken off the road because of failed drug tests.

And a study conducted by the ATRI found that a CDL driver's past driving record does predict the probability of a crash. (Table 1¹)

If a Driver Previously had:	Likelihood of Future Crash
Failure to Yield Right of Way violation	101%
Failure to Keep in Proper Lane conviction	83%
Improper Lane/Location conviction	72%
Reckless/Careless/Inattentive/Negligent Driving conviction	69%

Not enough drivers, plus unqualified drivers means there are too many dangerous drivers running these huge machines. It sounds like the buzzkill lawyer is saying, “The pandemic is over, but really, just stay in your basement. It's safer down there!”

What can I do?

There are steps we can take that will keep us, and our families safer on the road. It all goes back to some smart things our driving instructors told us:

- 1 Cooperate, don't compete.** What is your attitude behind the wheel? Allow others to merge, pass, drive slowly or drive fast. You'll get there, regardless. And less stress!
- 2 Be Alert!** (“the world needs more ‘lerts’.” Sorry, dad joke). Keep an eye out, down the road. We can get stuck staring at the end of our hoods. At 70 miles per hour, our car will travel over 100 feet every second. Trouble for us will likely start a full football field down the road.
- 3 Don't get trapped.** Be aware of the traffic around you. Make sure you can be seen and can see everything. Make sure you aren't in a blind spot, and make sure nothing is in your blind spot.
- 4 Separate hazards.** Do you speed up, in the right lane, to catch up to a slow car or truck, so you can pass that car on the left and get in front? (Guilty). This is a classic move that combines hazards rather than separate. One thing at a time.

Of course, my drumbeat reminder is always: **Eliminate distractions behind the wheel.** Eat at rest stops. Put down the cell phone. Study your route before you leave, then use hands-free, talking GPS. Be SAFE, and have a great summer! ●

¹Adapted from, Predicting Truck Crash Involvement: 2018 Update; American Transportation Research Institute, July 2018.



Jheri's Apple Bread

Stuff Ya Need:

- 1 pound ground beef
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 3 cups shredded, peeled cooking apples (4 medium)
- 2 cups sugar
- 2/3 cup cooking oil
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Directions:

- 1 Grease and flour three 7½ x 3½ x 2-inch or two 8 x 4 x 2-inch baking pans. Set aside. In a medium bowl combine flour, soda, salt, cinnamon, and baking powder; set aside.
- 2 In a large bowl combine eggs, apples, sugar, oil, and vanilla. Stir in flour mixture just until moistened. Pour batter into prepared pans. Bake in a 325 degree F oven for 45 to 55 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool in pans on wire racks for 10 minutes. Remove from pans. Cool on wire racks. Wrap and store overnight before slicing. Makes 30 servings. ●

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Superstar Spotlight

I was pre-law for a little while in college and have always loved anything legal. The transition into an Executive Assistant, after my kids were older, was made so much easier by being virtual. I was used to juggling chainsaws and kids, so this was a natural progression! I have been virtual for 10 years, (I was virtual before virtual was cool!) The chance to do what I do in the best Law Firm in the world is the perfect fit for me!

I have 4 adult children, 2 boys and 2 girls, who are no longer the babies I see when I look at them. (I have lots of baby pics if anyone wants to see them!) Not so empty nesting (they keep coming back), I have 2 dogs and a tiny house in a small farming town. I have an extensive little succulent garden going, and love to “garden” in my yard. Let’s be honest, I really just like cute boots and gloves, I feel so southernly maternal, every southern woman has a garden. For fun, I enjoy the wonders that Florida has to offer, the beaches, sports teams, the warm sun and the endless theme parks. I am a roller coaster enthusiast, so you will find me upside down with my arms in the air, yelling with the kids. ●

GOOGLE REVIEWS



“Matthew Lathrop worked with me diligently for over a year. Listening to my thoughts and needs and building a game plan accordingly. I was wary of all attorneys given my prior experiences with them, but I was absolutely blown away by the attentiveness and quality of service that I received from the Law Office of Matthew Lathrop. The outcome of the case was incredibly favorable. All the collection calls have stopped And the resolution of this case under Matt's stewardship has now become the foundation of a very bright future for myself and my family. I could not possibly recommend this law office highly enough. I realize that this review sounds so positive that it might seem like a bot review. But to go from death's doorstep to where I am today? I'm incredibly pleased and I hope this review helps prospective clients.”

– Trent Lee Kutchara

CASE RESULT: **Woman Suffers Traumatic Double Leg Amputation After Catastrophic Car Crash**



Our client worked as a supervisor for a local garbage collection company. It was her responsibility to pick up the trash that fell off other garbage trucks. One day, she was doing her work on the side of the expressway, where she stopped her pickup truck to collect trash bags that had fallen off another truck.

As she was standing behind her pickup truck, another vehicle came up behind her and crushed her between that vehicle and her truck.

The driver got out of the car without putting on his hazards so that he could attend to her. Unfortunately, another collision soon occurred. A second car crashed into the back of the first vehicle to hit our client—causing further harm to our already seriously injured client.

Our client suffered a traumatic amputation of both legs.

Workers' Compensation and Four Insurance Recoveries

Typically, workers' compensation is a worker's only source of recovery after an on-the-job accident. In this case, workers' compensation paid our client's medical bills and total disability benefits.

However, it wasn't enough to compensate our client for her

catastrophic injuries. Accordingly, attorney Matthew Lathrop pursued cases against:

- **The driver of the first vehicle to hit our client.** That case settled for insurance policy limits.
- **The driver of the second vehicle to injure our client.** That case also settled for insurance policy limits.
- **The auto insurance our client's employer had on the pickup truck she was driving at the time of the crash.** Matthew convinced the insurer to settle not just one but two claims—one for each collision—pursuant to underinsured motorist coverage. Both claims settled for the policy limits.

The insurers argued that workers' compensation was our client's exclusive legal remedy. Matthew fought back and won four insurance policy limits in addition to workers' compensation benefits for our client.

Our Client Recovered Almost One Million Dollars and Medical Expenses

In the end, our client recovered just under one million dollars plus accident-related medical expenses for the rest of her life. Workers' compensation paid for extensive modifications to her home, so she could get around much easier. Her injuries left her totally disabled from work, but she felt inspired to become active in a support group for amputees at the university hospital in Omaha.

Nothing could undo the devastating and life-changing injuries our client suffered. However, our client was able to live the rest of her life knowing that her medical bills would be paid. She had the necessary money to live comfortably and pursue volunteer work that she felt passionately about doing.

Approximately \$1,000,000 ●



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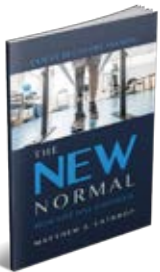
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Get to know our entire team and learn what we are doing in the community

A Personal Message From Matthew Lathrop

In this month's issue, I share tips and statistics to help us all drive safer as we hit the road this summer. Read the inspiring story of our client who found a way to help others, in spite of the life-changing injuries she suffered. Below, meet Jheri Scott in the Superstar Spotlight. And don't miss Jheri's delicious apple bread recipe!



Help for the Injured: *The New Normal*

If you or someone you know has experienced any type of injury, request this valuable guide to help you and your lawyer keep track of your recovery. To get a FREE copy of "The New Normal," call (402) 614-7744 or go to www.LathropLawOmaha.com/contact.cfm

SUPERSTAR SPOTLIGHT



JHERI SCOTT

Matt's Executive Assistant

Jheri's role in the firm is the Executive Assistant to Matt Lathrop and master of the calendar. She is also head of client and employee appreciation and does a fabulous job.

In Jheri's own words:

I am a self-proclaimed Southern Midwesterner. I have lived all around the county, but was raised by a southerner, and therefore, always a southerner. I grew up mostly in Oklahoma and call that home. (Even though I live in Florida...). I attended Oklahoma State University (Go Pokes!) for my first two years and then moved with my family to Florida, where I transferred into and graduated from the University of South Florida (Go Bulls!). I have an education degree and enjoyed teaching gifted kids before deciding to stay home and raise my family.



Jheri Scott with 3 of her 4 children.

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