

From the Desk of Mark Blane



Ah, I remember it like it was just yesterday! Everything that had to do with a personal injury case—appearances before a judge, depositions, meetings, and mediations—was live and in person. A lot has changed in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nowadays, the new normal is videoconferencing, and Zoom has exploded onto the scene.

Today, it's not uncommon for me to meet new prospective clients on Zoom or other video platforms. In the last few months, I have had a few in-person meetings with new clients, but the vast majority of them have been done through video, email, and phone calls.

The global pandemic has had a tremendous impact on our civil and criminal justice system. Jury trials are on hold, but the ingenuity of Americans will prevail. Right now, personal protective jury booths are being installed, and virtual jury trials are being tested. We are witnessing the cusp of change not only to our American system of justice but to our American way of life.

The courts in San Diego and throughout California have been doing their best to navigate these challenging times; I feel blessed when I see how the court system has embraced change. Whether it is anticipating how COVID-19 will impact our access to justice or just jumping on a Zoom call with a judge on an injury case, it is all too important not to embrace.

We've all have heard the phrase, "What does not break you will make you stronger." Well, I believe this crisis will only make us stronger and prepare us for any other future challenges. ***But I also believe in having a little fun whenever I can, so be sure to watch my video and see how I get ready for court these days. I'll bet you can relate!***

- Mark

PS. Don't forget to scroll down and check out my smoothie recipe. I share a different one each month.

[Watch My Video](#)

Success Story

Insurance Company Finally Agrees to Pay Up

Our client, an active-duty Navy member, was riding his Triumph motorcycle to work when a large pickup truck merged into his lane, striking his throttle hand and causing him to lose control of his bike; he crashed into the car in front of him. The accident left him with serious injuries and lost opportunities, so when the defendant's insurance company accused him of lane-splitting, we filed a lawsuit and went to work.

[Read More](#)

Feature Article

Common Injuries Caused by Dog Bites



According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, over 36 percent of households in the United States have at least one dog. These animals can be great companions, but they can also cause serious injuries. In California, dog owners are held strictly liable for the injuries that these canine companions cause.

[Read More](#)

Stay in the Know



What should I know lane-splitting?

Get the Answer



How soon after a pedestrian accident should I hire an attorney?

Get the Answer

Help for Accident Victims and Their Families



Attorney Mark C. Blane has written and published several legal help books for injured folks in California, and they're available to you for **FREE!**

These books are a great source of valuable legal information. They offer insider information on what you need to know before calling a lawyer as well as insights the insurance companies would rather keep to themselves!!!

Download a Free Book Today!

Smoothie of the Month



Dairy-Free Creamy Pumpkin Smoothie Recipe

You know the crispness that fall brings is just around the corner when pumpkin recipes start flooding the internet. Pumpkin is so delicious in baked goods, but it is also a powerhouse when it comes to nutrition, making it a perfect ingredient for a fall smoothie. This smoothie is like drinking pumpkin pie, except for a lot less sugar and a great boost to start your day! [Recipe courtesy of Super Healthy Kids](#)

Ingredients:

3/4 cup almond milk
1 cup coconut milk yogurt
1 cup pumpkin puree
2 tsp. pure maple syrup
1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice (you can add 1 tsp. more if you want more spice)
1 frozen banana
ice for desired consistency

Instructions:

Blend ingredients together until smooth.

Enjoy!

What Clients Have to Say About Working With Us

"I guess I sort of knew he was going to hit me...he did not stop or anything, he just slammed right into me. And, my car was totaled. It is a major situation in your life, and it can easily impact your life forever. Pain did not kick in until about a day or two later. I wanted to make sure that I was being treated fairly, and so that is why I hired Mark. We spoke right away, and he took over my case. He made you feel comfortable, and he made you feel like, you know what, I know what to do, and I am going to go do it for you. He cared—he cared about me as a person, and if you have any questions, feel free to ask. Email me or whatever, but I am going to be here. You know, and in which he was...that is what gave me the peace of mind."
—Robert Healy

