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COLORADO'S INJURY LAW FIRM

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SUMMER 2009

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2009 Walk Like MADD Breaks Fundraising Records

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) hosted Walk Like MADD 5K, a noncompetitive fundraising walk in Denver on Saturday, August 1st. The walk began at

lifetime. Walkers at this year's Walk Like MADD event who raised \$100 or more earned a red Walk Like MADD t-shirt that bears the words "One In Three" as a walk-

ing reminder of the people, families, and faces behind these grim statistics, and as a reminder of why we walk—to eliminate drunk driving.

Funds raised help further MADD's life-saving mission and the Campaign to Eliminate Drunk Driving, which calls for alco-



9 a.m. at Sloan's Lake to raise funds and rally support for MADD's Campaign to Eliminate Drunk Driving.

"We aim to eliminate drunk driving and we needed support from the community today to do just that," said Emily Tompkins, State Executive Director.

The 2009 Denver Walk Like MADD 5K raised an event record of \$110,748, a 12% increase from the 2008 event. The walk also set new event records for number of teams and attendees with 89 teams and 1,000 in attendance.

The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that one in three individuals will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some point in their

lifetime. Walkers at this year's Walk Like MADD event who raised \$100 or more earned a red Walk Like MADD t-shirt that bears the words "One In Three" as a walk- ing reminder of the people, families, and faces behind these grim statistics, and as a reminder of why we walk—to eliminate drunk driving.

Funds raised help further MADD's life-saving mission and the Campaign to Eliminate Drunk Driving, which calls for alcohol ignition interlocks for all drunk driving offenders; highly-visible, highly-publicized law enforcement; community support; and the development of advanced vehicle-based technologies. Approximately 1000 attendees signed the pledge to support the Campaign to Eliminate Drunk Driving after Colonel James Wolfinbarger, Chief of the Colorado State Patrol, signed one during his keynote address to the Walk Like MADD participants.

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Colorado Outlaws Texting and Teen Cell Phone Use While Driving

The Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration safety research estimated that cellphone use by drivers caused around 955 fatalities and 240,000 accidents over all in 2002.

Thinking of sending out a text message to your spouse while on your way home from work?

Think again. A new Colorado law that takes effect December 1, 2009, makes texting on your phone while driving illegal. This includes text messages, emails and tweets. This new law also bans anyone under the age of 18 from using a cellphone while driving.

Imagine driving the length of a football field at 55 miles per hour with your eyes shut! A study by Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI) highlighting the dangers of driving while distracted showed that text messaging was the most dangerous risk and was over 20 times worse than driving while not using a phone. Text messaging also caused the longest period of drivers' eyes off road with 4.6 seconds over a 6-second interval. This equates to a driver traveling the length of a football field at 55 mph without looking at the road.

Research from the Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that began in 2003 and has only now been released examines the dangers of using cellphones and other electronic devices while driving. The researchers recommended further

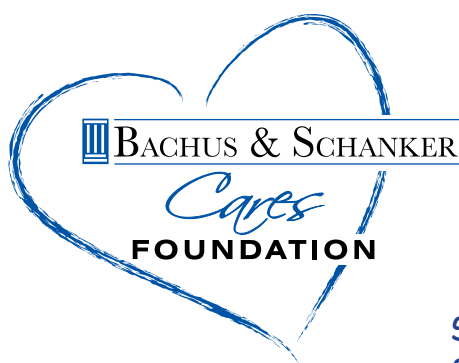


investigation based on evidence that multitasking was a serious and growing threat on America's roadways. This recommended further research has never taken place. To read the full report, visit our website www.coloradolaw.net and look in consumer alerts in the left sidebar.

Colorado Governor Bill Richards signed the bill in Fort Collins, where last year 9-year-old Erica Forney was killed by a driver who had been distracted while talking on a cell phone.

Violators of the law can expect a \$50 fine for the first offense (which is a class-A traffic infraction) and \$100 on a second offense.

Although the legislators who sponsored the bill are pleased with a renewed protection for the safety of Colorado people, they are also frustrated that it doesn't more aggressively address the problem of using a cell phone while driving. Supporters of the bill would like to see, in the future, all Colorado drivers who talk on a cell while driving to use a hands-free device instead of a normal phone.



Bachus & Schanker Cares Foundation 2009 Events Calendar

September 4: Habitat for Humanity Build Day for Bachus & Schanker • www.habitat.org

September 12: Pikes Peak Challenge • www.pikespeakchallenge.com

October 1: The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society • Light the Night Walk • www.leukemia-lymphoma.org

October 10: Walk to Remember • www.walktoremember.org

November: Dolls for Daughters Dolls and Donations Collection • www.dollsfordaughters.com

by being a role model for each other and our children by never drinking and driving and by not letting our friends and family drive drunk. If celebrating with alcohol, always have a designated driver. And, remember to always buckle up. You rock MADD Colorado!"

According to the NHTSA in 2007, Colorado had 170 people killed in traffic crashes involving a driver or a motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher. Nationally, NHTSA reported that 12,998 people were killed in crashes that involved a driver at or above .08 BAC in 2007. Each year, nearly half a million others are injured in alcohol-related traffic crashes.

On May 15, 2006 Jonni Conant came home from work to find her 20-year-old son in a hurry to go to softball game with his co-workers from Champ's Grill. Justin loved to be with people and was always on the move. He was a business student at the University of Colorado, Denver, a Denver Public Safety Cadet, a rock climber, a soccer player and an avid snow boarder. "At 11:30 that evening, the doorbell rang," said Jonni Conant, Walk Like MADD Steering Committee member. "It was the beginning of any parent's worst nightmare." A policeman, a victim advocate and a coroner's office representative stood at the Conant's door to let them know that their family had changed forever. Justin

had been killed in a drunk driving crash. He would have been 24 this past Tuesday.

Jonni, her husband Kirk, and their son Tyler have made Walk Like MADD a family effort. "It is our goal to support MADD so that one day no other family will have to experience the loss of a loved one because of the choice of a drunk driver," Conant said.

As the founding partners of MADD Colorado's 2009 Statewide Sponsor, Kyle Bachus and Darin Schanker participated in the opening ceremonies and presented the awards for Top Fire/EMS Team and Top Friends & Family Team.

"As a personal injury law firm we've seen not only the devastating injuries and trauma that victims of drunk driver crashes suffer, but we've also seen the financial toll due to costly medical expenses and lost wages that can be equally devastating to the victims and their families. It is our directive as State

Sponsor and as a returning Walk Like MADD sponsor to continue our support not only as a financial contributor, but by the firm's—not only the partners, but the associate attorneys, paralegals and support staff—participation at the walk to show our support of the invaluable programs and victim services provided by MADD," said Kyle Bachus.



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injured by
a drunk driver,
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***Mothers Against Drunk Driving
(MADD) Colorado fundraising
efforts continue.***

This year, Walk Like MADD events take place in over 30 cities across the country. Walk Like MADD is an opportunity for individuals and teams to improve their health and help their community at the same time by raising funds and awareness for MADD Colorado's efforts to eliminate drunk driving and support the victims of drunk driving crashes. Corporations

and families formed teams or participated as individuals and were asked to raise at least \$100 each through donations. All funds donated through the Denver Walk Like MADD event stay in Colorado for MADD's programs and services.

There is still time to support MADD Colorado's 5k, Walk Like MADD! Please visit www.walklikemadd.org to register, donate or get more information.

To learn more about MADD or to receive free victim services, please visit www.madd.org or call 1-877-MADD-HELP.

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As one of our newest attorneys at Bachus & Schanker, LLC, Charles "Chuck" Crispell comes with a wealth of insurance defense knowledge concerning the inner mechanisms of insurance companies. Mr. Crispell now focuses strictly on plaintiff personal injury cases including car accidents, product liability and premises liability.

Mr. Crispell was born and raised on a farm in upstate New York. He received his law degree from the Catholic University in Washington, D.C. and is licensed to practice law in the states of Florida and Colorado.

He made his home in Florida for more than 20 years while practicing law. He recently relocated to Denver because of the incredibly fresh air and the mountain climate which reminded him of growing up in his

home state of New York. Mr. Crispell is a member of both the Colorado and Florida Bars and is also admitted to practice in both the Federal District Court of Colorado and the Federal District Court of the Southern District of Florida. He is a well-seasoned attorney with almost 50 jury trials and 30 bench trials (non-jury) under his belt.

One of Mr. Crispell's satisfied clients describes him as a "down-to-earth lawyer and likeable guy who takes time to listen to details" and then "separates and sorts through the hearsay and facts" to solve a conflict.

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Read about our new associate attorneys Eric Pizzuti and J. Christopher Elliott in our next issue.