



DON R. WILLIAMS  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

**CAR ACCIDENT ATTORNEY**

***Involved in an 18 Wheeler Accident  
or Commercial Vehicle***

***CALL US TODAY!!!***

***225-907-2673***

## **TIMELY TOPICS**

### **THE DEATH OF THE BENCH TRIAL AND HOW IT MIGHT HURT YOU**

**January 2021**

***(Car Wreck Clueless Series)***

Unless you read the Baton Rouge Advocate on January 2, 2021, you are likely totally unaware of this, but in Louisiana, the bench trial may be a thing of the past. We will ALL be learning how to deal with these changes together if this becomes a reality. As I have shared with you in previous newsletters, a bench trial merely means a judge is deciding the outcome of a case instead of a jury, whether the matter be civil or criminal.

I can hear you now saying to yourself “Don, what does this have to do with me? That sounds like a “Don and all the other lawyers’ problem.” Well that might be what you’re thinking at the moment, but just wait until you are stopped at that red light and a 20-year old with her head buried in her cell phone rear-ends the daylights out of you in her Honda Accord. Unfortunately for you, that young lady found the recent post on her Instagram feed, Snapchat, or whatever, more interesting than paying attention to your vehicle stopped at the red light. And now you have to get on the phone to call and tell me all about it.

When you get to my office, finish the intake forms, sign the medical authorization forms, and complete the fee agreement, I will then have to explain to you how different things are today than they were in the past. I will have to show you that before January 1, 2021, we would be guaranteed a bench trial when a case’s value was south of \$50,000.00. This also meant that each month of treatment had a value based on case law, and we could usually depend on the judge to apportion the medical bills to the verdict amount as well.

But as of the beginning of this year, we are now at the mercy of a jury formed of twelve (12) human beings any time our case value exceeds \$10,000.00 (which is basically every case that comes through the door, with a few exceptions). Our only glimmer of hope in avoiding this predicament is that the new law will also require the insurance company of the Instagram-obsessed 20-year old to pay a \$5,000.00 cash bond on each of those bite-sized cases in order to receive this jury trial. When you add the cost of preparing for trial to the cost of deposing each expert witness, the 20-year old’s insurance company just might opt for a bench trial after all... or even better - settle the case with us the way they usually do when the treatment demands it.

If not, I will have to explain to twelve (12) strangers why you are entitled to a certain amount of damages in excess of your medical bills, and hope they are not too upset over missing work to allow you to be paid. Not to mention, while doing that, I will also be tasked with attempting to control the budget of your case when we are likely only pursuing a \$15,000.00 policy of the 20-year old's vehicle, and perhaps a \$15,000.00 policy of Uninsured Motorist (UM) Bodily Injury coverage. Hopefully, you've read my newsletters and purchased at least a \$50,000.00 UM Bodily Injury policy, but I know that is wishful thinking on my part.

Despite how harsh this sounds, this will be our reality in 2021. The only remedy I can think of is having you purchase a policy large enough to make a jury trial a more favorable proposition. Get on the phone with your insurance sales agent today and ask whether a \$100,000.00 policy of UM Bodily Injury coverage would be affordable. If the answer is yes, tell your agent to bump up that UM coverage immediately to \$100,000.00. That way, when the 20-year old living her life through her phone smashes into the rear of your vehicle, we will not be concerned about how much the doctors and experts will charge us for their deposition testimony or to appear at trial, because the policy size will be large enough to absorb it. And when we make it to the finish line, there will be sufficient money left over if the jury provides a verdict in your favor to compensate for your injuries. Navigating the jury will be my problem to tackle, and it is not always pretty depending on where your wreck occurred within the state. But that's another story for another day...

Speak with you again soon, client family.

Your Truck Wreck Lawyer,

**Don R. Williams**

*If this article left you with unanswered questions, please share them with us via email at [drwlawyer@gmail.com](mailto:drwlawyer@gmail.com).*



**Involved in an 18 Wheeler Accident  
or Commercial Vehicle  
CALL US TODAY!!!  
225-907-2673**

**NOW ACCEPTING REFERRALS OF  
DELIVERY TRUCK/VAN ACCIDENTS!**



**FREE DOWNLOADS - Visit [www.drwlawyer.com](http://www.drwlawyer.com)**

**6 Reasons Your Car Accident May Be Worthless**

**Visit [www.drwlawyer.com](http://www.drwlawyer.com)**

**Scroll down to Click Here, Complete Form and receive your Free Download**

**IF YOU, YOUR FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER  
WAS HIT BY ONE OF THESE:**



**CALL US TODAY!!! 225-907-2673**  
**WITH YOUR HELP, CLIENT FAMILY, IN 2021 WE INTEND TO  
REPRESENT 36 OR MORE INDIVIDUALS INJURED BY ANY  
OF THE ABOVE VEHICLES!**



**DON R. WILLIAMS**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

**YOUR DELIVERY TRUCK  
ACCIDENT ATTORNEY**

### TESTIMONIAL



Hi, My name is Latorria Ross and I used Don Williams for all three of the accidents that I was involved in. He's very good at what he does and he got me a lot of money.

Thank you, Don Williams.

*Latorria Ross  
Denham Springs, Louisiana*

*The receipt of this newsletter does not constitute legal advice or representation. Its purpose is to provide general information and entertain. Always seek competent counsel before making a final legal decision.*

### TESTIMONIAL



If you guys are looking for someone who is going to work hard and is going to think outside the box and not just focus on law, but also the practices that are affiliated with your case and get the job done quickly and efficiently, then Don is your man. All I can say at this point, is "Case Closed"!

*Theodoris Thyssen and her daughter Tori of  
Baton Rouge, LA by way of Plaquemine, LA*

**FREE DOWNLOADS - Visit [www.drwlawyer.com](http://www.drwlawyer.com)**

**"Your 18 Wheeler Wreck Is Worth  
Nothing Without The Big Three"**

**Visit [www.drwlawyer.com](http://www.drwlawyer.com).**

**Scroll down to Click Here, Complete Form and receive your Free Download**



**DON R. WILLIAMS**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

### **CAR ACCIDENT ATTORNEY**

2435 DRUSILLA LANE, SUITE K  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70809

(CENTURY21 BUILDING)

(225) 907-2673 • CELL: (225) 312-6804

WWW.DRWLAWYER.COM

**18 WHEELER  
ACCIDENT  
VICTIMS, CALL US  
TODAY!!!**

**225-907-2673**

OTHER PRACTICE AREAS:

CAR ACCIDENTS

AMAZON VAN WRECKS

FEDEx TRUCK WRECKS

UPS TRUCK WRECKS

**"Your 18 Wheeler Wreck Is Worth  
Nothing Without The Big Three"**

Visit [www.drwlawyer.com](http://www.drwlawyer.com).  
Scroll down to Click Here, Complete Form  
and receive your Free Download



**CAR WRECK  
CLUELESS?**

**NOW ACCEPTING REFERRALS OF  
DELIVERY TRUCK/VAN ACCIDENTS!**

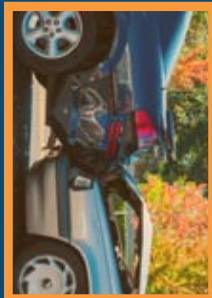


**6 Reasons Your Car Accident May Be Worthless**

Visit [www.drwlawyer.com](http://www.drwlawyer.com)

Scroll down to Click Here, Complete Form and receive your Free Download

ADVERTISEMENT/NEWSLETTER



**CAR WRECK  
CLUELESS?**

**SEE  
INSIDE**

**THE DEATH OF THE BENCH TRIAL  
AND HOW IT MIGHT HURT YOU**

Visit online: [www.drwlawyer.com](http://www.drwlawyer.com)

You can view my free informational videos at the following:

(Other legal issues are also covered.)



Find us on:  
**facebook®**  
THE LAW OFFICE OF  
DON R. WILLIAMS



See  
videos  
at:  
**You Tube**  
THE LAW OFFICE OF  
DON R. WILLIAMS