



# The Road To Justice Starts Here

Exclusively Representing Women in Divorce, Custody and Support Matters and the Injured through No Fault of Their Own.

## what's inside

### page 2

Shrimp in green sauce

Precautions when divorcing an abusive spouse

### page 3

Dog-cat intelligence debate—science renders a verdict

Ghost peppers . . . be careful what you're dealing with

### page 4

A trucker's perspective

## THE COMPLEXITIES OF school bus accident claims

For children injured in school bus accidents for which the school district may be at fault, liability and compensation issues can be trickier than normal. For example, a public school is considered part of the local government.

Because a government entity is involved, you are required to send the school district—within a short time frame—a “notice of claim,” which alerts them to your claim and offers them a chance to respond. If they deny your claim (likely), you are free to file a lawsuit in civil court to recover compensation. In addition, recovery may be limited, and punitive damages are generally off the table.

A school district is typically responsible for the actions of its employees. However, if a school bus driver is found guilty of an egregious action, such as driving under the influence, he/she may be fully liable for damages. If the school district had prior knowledge of similar incidents, they may share liability.

When a private transportation company is hired by a school district to bus students, the company may

be responsible for all injuries sustained in an accident, or at least partially responsible. School bus owners must also properly inspect, repair, and maintain their vehicles.

Other potential liable parties in a school bus crash include manufacturers of defective vehicle parts; the local or state government (e.g., failing to fix a hazardous road condition or faulty traffic signal); and other drivers who are negligent in their actions.

The stakes are high in school bus accident cases. If your child has been injured due to negligence, contact a school bus accident attorney to protect their rights. ■



# shrimp in green sauce

## FOR GARLIC LOVERS!

This is a great easy weeknight meal. But, you must love garlic and shrimp. You can use already peeled and deveined shrimp. You'll want to confirm the shrimp are either wild, or if farmed, they are saltwater shrimp. Shrimp raised in fresh water are missing the taste of the sea.

6 cloves garlic  
1/3 cup extra virgin olive oil  
6 scallions, chopped  
1 cup flat-leaf parsley leaves and thin stems  
2 pounds medium shrimp, peeled, deveined if desired  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper  
4 dried chiles, crushed, or a few pinches of crushed red pepper flakes, or to taste  
1/3 cup broth (shrimp, fish or chicken)  
Dry white wine, or water



1. Heat the oven to 500 degrees. Combine the garlic and oil in a small food processor and blend until smooth, scraping down the sides as necessary. Add the scallions and parsley and pulse until minced. Toss with the shrimp, salt and pepper, and chiles.
2. Put the shrimp in a large roasting pan. Add the broth and place the pan in the oven. Roast, stirring once, until the mixture is bubbly and hot and the shrimp are all pink, 10 to 15 minutes.

Serves 4. ■



## PRECAUTIONS WHEN DIVORCING an abusive spouse

Domestic violence intrudes on the lives of approximately 4 million people each year, 95 percent of whom are women. Children, other relatives, friends, and employers suffer the ripple effects as well.

Protect your and your children's lives and well-being when the threat of violence and abuse looms by calling the police if necessary. Then immediately contact a domestic violence relief agency for direction to a safe shelter.

If divorce is an option you want to pursue, be aware that domestic violence changes the entire equation. In divorce proceedings devoid of violence, just up and leaving with the children in tow without what the court considers a good reason may negatively impact alimony payments and the ability to return to the house until property is divided by the court.

When domestic violence is in play, however, safety is the overwhelming objective. Leave for a safe haven; focus on legal matters when you are safely situated. A court order may be obtained on the fast track for measures such as keeping possession of your home and car, and temporary custody of the children. It might also require your spouse to stay away from you and the kids, with violation of the order resulting in arrest.

Do not agree to mediation in place of a court trial. Mediation is for couples who have a somewhat amicable relationship. In cases of domestic violence, mediation may open the door to further intimidation and giving up what you're entitled to.

If you have been a victim of domestic violence, get to a safe location and contact a domestic-violence or divorce attorney to protect your rights and well-being. ■

# dog-cat intelligence debate —

## SCIENCE RENDERS A VERDICT

An article published recently in the journal *Frontiers in Neuroanatomy* covers research over the past 10 years that measured the cognitive function of land mammals by counting neurons from the brain's cerebral cortex. Neurons are basic information processing units. The cerebral cortex is the outside layer of the brain that collects sensory information from outside stimuli and weaves it together to drive decision-making and problem-solving.



In the past, an animal's intelligence was determined by brain size and structural complexity, which were somewhat controversial. For instance, two animals from different species can have similarly sized brains but widely varying intelligence. Researchers involved in the *Frontiers* study believe that counting neurons from the brain's cerebral cortex provides a more accurate rendering of an animal's intelligence.

Although many land-based mammals were studied, let's skip to the dog-cat intelligence matchup. The brains of a cat, a golden retriever, and a small mixed-breed dog were used in the study. Two dog brains were studied since dogs can vary greatly in size. Despite the size gap, each dog possessed approximately 500 million neurons. The cat weighed in with roughly 250 million neurons. So according to this study, dogs are twice as intelligent as cats.

In case you were curious, humans have an estimated 16 billion neurons per person. The silver medal goes to orangutans and gorillas, at 8–9 billion. Dogs are on par with raccoons and lions; cats are on the level of bears.

If dogs could comprehend science's verdict, they'd likely be ecstatic. Cats, on the other hand, probably couldn't care less. ■

# ghost peppers . . .

## BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU'RE DEALING WITH



Ghost peppers have a storied reputation. According to the Scoville heat scale, ghost peppers are over 300 times hotter than jalapeños and five times as fiery as orange habaneros. Amazingly, a handful of chilis are even hotter.

The compound that gives ghost peppers their scorching heat is capsaicin. It attaches to pain receptors whose job is to send temperature information to the brain. The mouth's temperature does not actually rise (it just feels that way), but the brain is fooled and triggers a cooling response: perspiration and dilated capillaries, which reddens the face. In response to capsaicin, the body also stimulates mucous, salivary, and tear glands, resulting in watery eyes, a runny nose, and a digestive system eager to defend itself.

Before cooking with ghost peppers, keep in mind that capsaicin is an active ingredient in military-grade pepper spray. If you're still not deterred, these guidelines may help:

- Read up on ghost peppers before proceeding.
- Wear gloves, long sleeves, goggles, and a kitchen mask—the whole nine yards—when handling ghost peppers. The oils can cause intense chili burn and be transferred if you're not careful.
- Use only tiny amounts of ghost pepper. Get a feel for it with simple recipes before graduating to more exotic dishes.
- Label all leftovers with a bold warning to others (and yourself). Homemade salsas and hot sauces will get even hotter with age.
- Milk can help alleviate the burning sensation caused by ghost peppers. Avoid water.

**Ghost peppers can cause extreme discomfort if not prepared carefully.** Nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and burning diarrhea are distinct possibilities.

Bon appétit! ■

September 2018 – Notable Dates

September 3 — Labor Day  
September 10 — Rosh Hashanah (begins at sunset, Sept. 9)  
September 11 — Patriot Day  
September 19 — Yom Kippur (begins at sunset, Sept. 18)  
September 22 — First Day of Autumn



540 Pacific Ave., San Francisco, CA 94133  
72A Main St., Tiburon, CA 94920  
Telephone: 415.341.1144  
Facsimile: 415.341.1155  
www.NathanLawOffices.com

## THE COMPLEXITIES OF school bus accident claims



SEE PAGE ONE

This publication is intended to educate the general public about personal injury, medical malpractice, and other issues. It is for information purposes only and is not intended to be legal advice. Prior to acting on any information contained here, you should seek and retain competent counsel. The information in this newsletter may be freely copied and distributed as long as the newsletter is copied in its entirety.

# a trucker's perspective

Most car and light-truck drivers do not drive tractor-trailers and may not be aware of the driving challenges truckers face. Here are a few things truck drivers want other drivers to know to improve roadway safety for everyone.

Trucks use air brakes, which differ significantly from a car's hydraulic brakes. When a trucker hits the brakes, air needs to build up and reach every area of the truck before braking kicks in, amounting to a slight lag time. That increases a truck's stopping distance and time, as does its weight, which can be as much as 20 times more than a car's. Give truckers the space they need to operate safely.

Tractor-trailers need room to make right-hand turns. If a truck has its right turn signal on but is veering to the left, the driver is creating the angle to successfully navigate the turn, not inviting the car behind it to squeeze by on the right.

A truck's blind spots are larger than you might realize due to the length and height of the truck, and the lack of a center rearview mirror. Don't follow too closely, and don't meander alongside one. If you are passing, do it quickly.

When merging onto a highway, vehicles on the on-ramp must yield—even if it means coming to a complete stop. Truckers will try to move over one lane if it's safe to do so to accommodate a merging vehicle, but it's not always possible. Do not cut in front of them.

The goal is for trucks and cars to safely coexist on the roadways. That's more easily done if everyone is on the same page. ■



Visit us at [www.NathanLawOffices.com](http://www.NathanLawOffices.com)