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"Super Lawyer" Stan Jacobs
 recognized as a "Super Lawyer" by
 Los Angeles Magazine and
 Law and Politics
 2005 through 2009

Representing only PLAINTIFFS - the people and their families who have been seriously injured or wrongfully died by an accident, a defective product, negligent act or bad faith.

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE

A timely investigation of an accident can make the difference between a winning or losing case. My firm was retained by a pedestrian who was struck by a motor vehicle when he stepped off the curb at an intersection to enter a crosswalk and cross the street.

The intersection was controlled by stop signs at each corner and the driver claimed he had made a full and complete stop, checked for vehicular and pedestrian traffic and, seeing none, began making a right turn when the pedestrian suddenly ran out into the intersection and jumped off the curb into the crosswalk, causing him to strike the pedestrian with the passenger side front grille of his motor vehicle in the area of the passenger side front headlight.

The pedestrian claimed he stopped at the curb, looked in both directions, saw no traffic, and then walked off into the crosswalk and had taken three or four steps when he was suddenly struck by the motor vehicle making a fast right turn into the crosswalk. The pedestrian said the middle to the driver's side of the motor vehicle front grille struck him on his left side and leg causing him to be thrown to the pavement.

The pedestrian suffered from a fractured left pelvis, fractured left femur (upper left leg) and a ruptured intervertebral lumbar (low back) disc. All of those injuries required surgery to repair and he was left with permanent residual limitations and pain even after receiving excellent medical care.

There were absolutely no eyewitnesses to the accident. However, the pedestrian's brother contacted me the day following the accident and authorized me on behalf of his brother to investigate the case. My investigator immediately canvassed the area and although he could not locate anyone who admitted to witnessing the accident, he did observe the coffee shop located on the corner of the intersection. He noticed it had a video surveillance system, and he obtained permission to review the video taken the day before at the time of the accident. To our delight, he discovered that the accident reflected up on the large window of the coffee shop and the videotape recorded the happening of the accident.

Using enhancement techniques, we were able to clearly prove what had really happened. The motor vehicle never stopped for the stop sign. Instead, it rolled through the stop sign and went into the right turn entering the crosswalk at about 8-10 mph. The pedestrian had already stepped off the curb into the crosswalk and had taken two steps to cross when the motor vehicle drove past the stop sign. When the pedestrian was struck, he was four to five steps into the crosswalk and was hit in the area of the front grille between its middle and driver's side headlight.

Had we not secured the video, it would have been the driver's word against the word of the pedestrian. At best, the settlement would have been a compromise, and had it gone to trial, the outcome would have been uncertain. Instead, a full, non-discounted settlement was eventually negotiated on behalf of the pedestrian. Of importance is the fact that the video would have been lost soon after the accident since it was set on a cycle that retained images for a maximum of 48-60 hours.

The lesson is clear, you cannot retain a competent lawyer too soon if you or someone you care about is involved in a serious accident causing substantial injuries. If you know of a situation that needs to be reviewed you can call us at 1-877-LAW-SHOW (1-877-529-7469) at anytime or submit the facts of your case on our website at www.1877LawShow.com

**We can't help until you call 1-877-529-7469
 . . . and you won't pay a dime unless we win!**