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*Our firm has been dedicated to serving injured persons for over 50 years.*

### Ted Warshafsky

- Law Journal Lifetime Achievement Award
- Int'l Academy Trial Lawyers
- American College of Trial Lawyers
- Int'l Society of Barristers Superlawyers
- Past President, Wisconsin Academy of Trial Lawyers
- Named in "Best Lawyers in America"

### Mert Rotter

- Wisconsin Law Review
- Past officer and director of Wisconsin Academy of Trial Lawyers

### Mike Tarnoff

- Past President, Wisconsin Academy of Trial Lawyers
- SuperLawyer
- Best Lawyers In America

### Werner Reis, M.D., J.D.

- Fellow: American College of Legal Medicine
- Board-Certified in Pathology

### Gerald Bloch

- Past President, Wisconsin Academy of Trial Lawyers
- Wisconsin SuperLawyer
- Best Lawyers in America

### Victor C. Harding

Wisconsin SuperLawyer

### Frank T. Crivello II

- Wisconsin SuperLawyer
- American Board of Trial Advocates

### Ann S. Jacobs

Voted one of 25 Top Women Superlawyers

### Eric Knobloch

Admitted to practice in Wisconsin and Illinois

## Consumer and Health

**Muscle Relaxant Warnings.** The European Medicines Agency has proposed removing the widely prescribed, dangerous muscle relaxant **Carisoprodol** because the risks of this medicine outweighs its benefits. The EMEA concluded there is increased risk of addiction and impairment, especially driving, associated with the use of this drug.

Another muscle relaxant, **Tizandine**, sold as "**Zanaflex**," is another muscle relaxant which works by affecting the central nervous system, causing muscles to relax. If you are taking it, be sure to remind your doctor that it inhibits liver enzymes that are necessary to metabolize the drug, which can permit a dangerous build-up.

**Diabetes Drug "Avandia".** Researchers for Public Citizen report that this popular diabetes drug can cause liver failure, including deaths; heart failure; bone fractures; anemia; and retinal swelling. They suggest that you ask your doctor to switch you to an existing safer and more effective drug which is far less toxic.

**Not All MRIs Are Equal.** Magnetic Resonance Imaging machines can vary enormously. The quality of the imaging coil and the computer programs that analyze the images can differ. There is a huge variability in skill among technicians doing the scans. If you need an MRI, it should be done at a hospital or outpatient facility that is accredited by the American College of Radiology. Another good idea is to make sure that the equipment used is up-to-date. The difference between old and more recent MRIs can be like the difference between black and white and color photos.

**Rheumatic Drugs.** The Journal of Hospital Medicine finds that 49% of hospital patients over 65 have been prescribed one or more drugs unsafe for the elderly that cause unnecessary adverse reactions, hospitalizations, and illness and should be used only if absolutely necessary. If you are in that age group, it is smart to ask your physician if any of the medications you are taking are contraindicated for the elderly.

**Thyroid Medication.** It is not uncommon for one to develop a deficiency in the thyroid hormone for which the prescription **Levothyroxine (Levo-T; Levoxyl; Novothyrox; Cynthroid; Thyroid Tabs; Unitroid)** is prescribed. This drug, which may be appropriate for your condition, can also cause interactions with other drugs, some as common as Tums or Rolaids. If medication is prescribed for you for hypothyroidism, be sure to closely inquire of your doctor as to what other medications are contraindicated.

**It Pays to Talk to Your Pharmacist.** The prescription that you receive from the drug store will always have a package insert. It pays to read it and go over anything about which you have any questions with your druggist. Often, the pharmacist is better trained in keeping up with contraindications than your treating doctor, as pharmacists' being aware of drug safety problems is specifically in their field. Don't be bashful. Ask.

## Recent Results

Janice suffered a whiplash injury to her neck when her car was rear-ended. A day later, she went to the emergency room, whose doctor referred her to a neurologist, and he in turn sent her to a neurosurgeon, who did a disc operation on her neck. At trial, the insurance company for the defense had witnesses who testified that the surgery was unnecessary because the injury was not serious and it would have resolved in a few weeks by itself. Over objections of **Mike Tarnoff**, the judge permitted the jury to consider the defense arguments. It compromised and awarded a total of about \$50,000. The Wisconsin supreme court reversed, agreeing with Mike that the question of whether the doctor should or should not have operated was not relevant, since if our client had not been injured in the auto accident, she never would have seen the doctor. There was \$150,000 in insurance, but with interest on the claim and the threat of a bad faith case for not settling, Mike obtained a \$200,000 award.

**Frank Crivello's** 16-year-old client was hit by a vehicle that lost control in a parking lot, causing serious injuries including pelvic fractures, body and rib injuries, a lacerated spleen, and significant scarring across her legs. He brought suit against the driver that hit her and recovered \$1,125,000.

## What's New

**Ted Warshafsky** was named in 2008 by the American Trial Lawyers as one of the 100 top trial lawyers in the United States.

**Ann Jacobs** was elected to the board of the Wisconsin Justice Society, an organization that raises funds and provides legal counseling for persons in poverty who lack funds to obtain advice for civil law problems.

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