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INJURY ATTORNEYS

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WELCOME
TO OUR
QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER

HIGHLIGHTS

02 Crosswalk Safety

Sign our petition to reintroduce a new bill to Florida Legislature for safer pedestrian crosswalks

04 Perenich Law Events and Sponsorships

U.S. Pro Women's Clay Court Championships and Florida Bicycle Month

05 Perenich Law is Expanding

Perenich Law announces new office location in Trinity, FL

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Legalese



Res Ipsa Loquitur

Literal translation: "that which speaks for itself"

In the law, the doctrine providing that, in some circumstances, the mere fact of an accident's occurrence raises an inference of negligence required for proof.

Colloquially, when an accident is so obviously caused by another's negligence we term it "res ipsa loquitur!"

SAFETY FIRST TAMPA BAY: PHB'S AND CROSSWALK CALAMITIES

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines “calamity” as 1. a disastrous event marked by great loss and lasting distress and suffering; and 2. a state of deep distress or misery caused by major misfortune or loss. Both such meanings aptly describe the Tampa Bay region’s ongoing battle of designing and maintaining safe crosswalks for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Sadly, Tampa Bay is one of the most dangerous metropolitan areas for pedestrians and bicyclists in the U.S. An average of one pedestrian and one bicyclist suffers injuries or death each day in our region. Statistically, more pedestrians die in Tampa Bay area due to car accidents than in most other major cities. ¹

Indeed, the spate of crosswalk accidents and fatalities have recently become a growing concern for safety professionals in Tampa Bay. Take for example, the crosswalk installed on Skinner Blvd. and the Pinellas Trail in Dunedin. A 78-year-old pedestrian crossing the Pinellas Trail was struck and killed by a motorist on November 1, 2021. According to the Pinellas County Sheriff’s crash report, the motorist simply did not notice the flashing yellow lights as she drove through the crosswalk and fatally struck the pedestrian. Following this tragic incident, safety engineers made changes to the crosswalk to improve pedestrian safety. But the question still begs: why wait for another person to be killed or severely injured before making the needed safety improvements to these crosswalks?

Pedestrian hybrid beacon-controlled crosswalks (PHB’s) typically use flashing yellow lights to

warn motorists of the presence of pedestrians and bicyclists. According to the Florida Department of Transportation, installation of PHB’s have proven effective at safely managing vehicle and pedestrian traffic at such crossings where a full traffic signal is not warranted. ²

However, the FDOT may not be accounting for certain human factors that account for PHB crosswalks being more dangerous for pedestrians, not less. First, motorists are unfamiliar with PHB’s and don’t appreciate the meaning of the flashing



yellow lights. Years of habit and custom may wrongly convey to drivers that they are merely required to slow down when flashing yellow lights are illuminated, instead of stopping and yielding to pedestrian and bicycle traffic. Many drivers have been brought up to understand that flashing yellow lights mean to use caution and safety, not to stop.

Second, pedestrians may also mistakenly assume that flashing yellow lights cloak them with an aura of safe passage. This is clearly not the case. Pedestrians and bicyclists should only proceed though crosswalks being fully attentive to approaching vehicles throughout the entire crossing and should proceed cautiously with the anticipation that motorists will fail to yield despite the duty to do so.

Better education and awareness of PHB crossings and the potential for accidents, blind spots, and hazards, among both motorists and pedestrians,



Perenich Law Announces New Office Location in Trinity, Florida

Effective April 4, 2022, Perenich Law has expanded to the Trinity, Florida area. Our office address is 10015 Trinity Boulevard, Suite 100, Trinity, FL 34655. Due to our firm’s recent client expansion in that area, we have decided to staff an office to meet the demand. Perenich Law services clients in the entire state of Florida who have been injured due to someone else’s negligence. We have offices to service our clients in Clearwater, Trinity, St. Petersburg, and Tampa.

For more information about the new Trinity location, go to 3brothershelpingothers.com or call 727-669-2828.



GREGORY PERENICH JOINS THE CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY



We are proud to announce that Greg joined the Christian Legal Society (CLS), where he now stands with others who live out their faith and calling in the legal profession as they trust and follow Jesus Christ. Christian Legal Society is a nationwide fellowship of Christians committed to acting justly, loving mercy, and walking

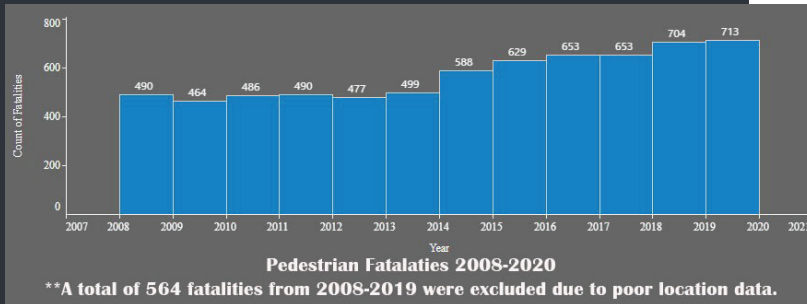
humbly with their God. (Micah 6:8).

CLS inspires, encourages, and equips Christian lawyers individually and in community to proclaim, love, and serve Jesus Christ through the study and practice of law, the provision of legal assistance to the poor and needy, and the defense of the inalienable rights to life and religious freedom.

Founded in 1961, the Christian Legal Society defends the religious liberties of all Americans in the legislatures and the courts and serves those most in need in our society through Christian Legal Aid.



Florida's Pedestrian Fatalities



will help in reducing calamities. Still, more needs to be done from the standpoint of additional precautions which is why Florida should enact new traffic regulations to require RED flashing lights for drivers to stop and then safely proceed after yielding to pedestrians and bicyclists in PHB crosswalks. Indeed, such an effort was underway by at least 2 Florida lawmakers last year.

Among those lawmakers, State Senator Keith Perry representing the 8th District of North Central Florida, proposed HB 1113 to require the FDOT to ask the federal government for permission to replace yellow flashing lights at crosswalks with red ones, which the federal government currently does not allow. An additional bill, SB 1412, would also do the same if the federal government opts not to give permission. If signed into law, these provisions would go into effect in 2025. In addition, the bills would encourage local governments to invest in new high intensity activated crosswalk beacons (HAWKS) that look like standard three-color traffic signals but instead have two red lights and one yellow light.

Our firm fully supports these efforts and is currently circulating a petition on our social media channels to enact this needed legislation. Please go to <https://chng.it/QBKkSkJCLC> to sign the petition we started to make Florida's crosswalks safe!

Let's work together with lawmakers, municipal and county planners and traffic engineers to make CHAMPA BAY SAFE!

Gregory J. Perenich, Esquire

¹ <https://www.makeroadssafe.org/tampa-road-safety-overview/yc>

² <https://www.cflroads.com/news/article/52392/new-pedestrian-hybrid-beacons-increase-pedestrian-safety-by-stopping-traffic>

International Women's Day

In honor of International Women's Day, Perenich Law recognized all the hard-working women that hold our firm together. We appreciate all of you and your hard work!



Perenich Law Welcomes Nicole!

Nicole is our new receptionist at Perenich Law and comes to us with over 15 years of law experience.



Nicole is a St. Petersburg local who married her high school sweetheart. Together, they have one daughter and a dog named Ivy. She loves all Tampa Bay sports teams, especially the Lightning. When she isn't at work, she enjoys sporting events, shopping, and family time. **Welcome aboard, Nicole!**

PERENICH LAW SPONSORS U.S. PRO WOMEN'S CLAY COURT CHAMPIONSHIP

Our firm was a proud sponsor of the U.S. Pro Women's Clay Court Championships this year at Innisbrook Golf Resort. This tournament attracts some of the top names on the WTA/ITF Tour. 86 players from 21 countries competed in the Qualifier and Main Draw Event. This event typically produces a \$10-million economic impact across the St. Pete/Clearwater area!



Florida Bicycle Month Bike & Helmet Giveaway

In honor of Florida Bicycle Month, Perenich Law raffled off 8 bikes and 18 helmets to promote bike safety in our community. We always encourage safety and awareness to avoid potential dangers on the road. Thank you to everyone who participated! There were over 100 entries for this event.

