

# Some things just need a woman's touch...

...and legal counsel is no exception. Personal injury and medical malpractice suits can be wrought with delicate and emotionally charged issues. When these issues involve a woman, she often needs the comfort and compassion that can only be found in another woman.

"Granted, there are a lot of compassionate men out there, but we get it," states Colleen M. Quinn, attorney at the Women's Injury Law Center. "We understand the things that are important to women and their self-esteem. We understand what makes a woman feel good as she goes through her day."

Quinn and fellow attorney Stephanie Grana are the founding directors of the Women's Injury Law Center at Cantor Arkema. The center is dedicated to providing legal counsel for both women and men who prefer female representation. They also represent children who could benefit from a female attorney. With five children between them, the women feel very strongly about giving quality representation to mothers and children in need. "Both Stephanie and I are mothers," says Quinn. "As mothers, we have compassion and a motherly instinct in terms of making sure that if children are injured, we really go to bat for them."

The Women's Injury Law Center is a division of Cantor Arkema, and therefore has access to that firm's resources. The center has a full team of both female and male lawyers, paralegals, researchers, nurses and investigators at their disposal. With this type of backing, the Women's Injury Law Center has the depth and experience necessary to argue any type of personal injury or medical malpractice suit. Quinn and Grana represent clients in cases of wrongful death, auto injury, premise and product injury; medical malpractice, and sexual assault.

In many cases, there are situations unique to women. Studies have shown that women are more susceptible to head injuries and often have worse recoveries because of their multi-tasking abilities and emotional make-up. Also according to Quinn, "In auto injury cases, bodily injuries often are accompanied by cosmetic issues. Stephanie and I can understand the impact of a scar or some other disfigurement. We understand how that makes a woman feel."

Bernice Boone, an auto injury client of the Women's Injury Law Center, was thankful for that type of understanding. In 2001, Boone and her two small children were involved in a three-car collision that among other things left her with lifelong injuries to her wrist.

"When you are involved in a personal injury case, a lot of things come up and it can be very stressful," says Boone. "Of course you want it to end, but you know it is a long process. Having a woman there made it a lot easier. It was like Colleen knew how I felt. When I would get upset because the doctors couldn't find out what was wrong with me, Colleen was like a big sister telling me to hang in there. The combination of the injury, the depression and the depositions was very stressful, but with the moral support I got from Colleen, I made it through."



Stephanie E. Grana, Colleen Marea Quinn

## Legal Tips to Protect You in a Motor Vehicle Accident

- **Call the police.** Without an official police accident record, it is only one driver's word against the other's regarding what happened.
- **Collect and exchange information** with other drivers, passengers, and eye-witnesses. Too often the names and information regarding the most critical individuals are not obtained, making it difficult to prove what happened.
- **Take pictures of the damage.** Keep a disposable camera in your glove compartment and take pictures of the damage to the vehicles. All too often the pictures obtained are those taken by the wrong-doer's insurance company and the damage to the vehicle is not always very well depicted.
- **Get immediate medical attention.** It is much easier to justify personal injuries when treatment is obtained sooner rather than later.
- **As soon as possible after the accident,** write down the facts that occurred and what was said.
- **Notify your insurance company.**
- **Do not make statements such as,** "It was my fault." Do not consent to work out auto damage repairs or medical injury care.
- **Remember, don't settle too early.** Too often injuries from an auto accident have not fully resolved and the severity and extent of the injuries is not known.
- **Recognize that in every state there is a statute of limitations** governing the length of time after an accident in which you can file a personal injury claim (in Virginia it is two years). After that, your claim cannot be brought.
- **Consult an attorney.** To ensure your legal rights and protection, be certain to contact the Women's Injury Law Center at Cantor at Cantor Arkema for a free consultation. (804) 237-1800.

**You have a choice, you don't have to go to a traditional male law firm, as women, we understand. [www.womens-injury-law-center.com](http://www.womens-injury-law-center.com).**

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