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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*

### **Eric Knobloch**

*Admitted to practice in Wisconsin and Illinois*

## **Consumer and Health**

**MRIs - QUALITY AND COST.** The MRI is a necessary and worthwhile medical tool that can give your doctor important information without exposing you to unnecessary radiation. Unfortunately, all MRI scans are not created equal. You have a right to know: Is the MRI being done on the latest high-definition equipment? Are the technicians trained and certified in the use of that equipment? Are the radiologists who read the MRIs certified by the ACR--the American College of Radiology. The next issue is cost. The cost of the procedure varies with the area being scanned. It can run well over \$4,000, with the average cost being about \$2,300. Even with insurance, this leaves a substantial payment for deductibles, and if the MRI is for an injury involved in an accident, the cost is ultimately taken out of any settlement or award.

SmartChoice MRI is a new kid on the block that offers MRIs done on the latest equipment and administered and read by qualified technicians and radiologists, for a flat \$600, no matter what the scan involves. Their web site is [www.smartchoicemri.com](http://www.smartchoicemri.com). While our office cannot recommend a particular provider of medical care, we suggest that if the necessity for an MRI arises, you discuss SmartChoice with your doctor to see what he or she has to say. Saving money on your medical care is always a good idea.

**FIXING BAD HIPS.** Failures of hip joints, especially in people reaching their middle years, is a common problem. Recent research indicates that hip joints that are resurfaced in order to avoid replacement, have shown a much higher failure rate for women who undergo the procedure than for men. Such women are more likely to need a second corrective operation soon after the first, compared with women who get the full replacement hip. The same seems to apply to men over 55, while with men under that age, few problems have been noted. What to do? When a hip joint wears out (as opposed to a fracture), always get a second opinion before choosing which repair is better for your individualized situation.

**GIFT CARDS.** In recent years, shopping for "just the right gift" has to a large part been replaced by sending gift cards. In the past few months, numerous retailers who sell gift cards have gone out of business, making the cards worthless. Examples are Circuit City, Ann Taylor, Gap, Foot Locker, Zales, Sharper Image, etc. Some have closed their doors completely; others have shuttered local stores, making redemption difficult. Now would seem to be a good time to take advantage of the pre-Christmas sales that are prevalent, rather than doing it the lazy way--that is sending a gift card.

**RIGHT TO KNOW USED CAR HISTORY ORDERED BY COURT.** Although in 1992, Congress passed a law ordering the government to provide consumer access to the history of used cars (their true mileage; were they in previous serious accidents, etc.), this continued to be impossible to reliably get that information. In a case brought by Public Citizen, the federal court ordered the attorney general to immediately implement setting up a database available to the public by January 30th. The spokesman for Public Citizen said, "Countless people have unwittingly purchased rebuilt or stolen vehicles and have suffered injury or death as a result.

This database will centralize information from junk yards, insurance companies, and will help thousands of others avoid the same fate."

**COLD MEDS SHOULD BE BANNED FOR KIDS UNDER 12.** Despite the fact that mom always had cough syrup for the kids, most medical research has proven that children under 12 should not be taking pediatric cough and cold medications. Not only do they not work, but they put the kids at risk for adverse reactions. Hard to believe, but old standbys like Robitussin, Triaminic, and Pedicare should absolutely not be given to kids under 2, and are really unnecessary and don't work for kids up to 12.

## What's New

The state publication of Superlawyers magazine singled out two people for special recognition: Stephen Hurley, a criminal defense lawyer in Madison, and **Ted Warshafsky**, for his work in civil law. To read the article, [click here](#).

**Ann Jacobs** will be leaving our firm. She will continue her practice in Milwaukee, and we wish her the very best.

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