



## NEWSLETTER TITLE

### Pontoon Boat Hazard Injures Many

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One of our clients was simply spending the day on the lake with her family on a pontoon boat. She opened the gate to jump into the water. When she did, her right pinky was caught between the gate and the safety railing. Her finger was ripped from her hand as she descended to the water. Was this a freak accident or a foreseeable occurrence? From our investigation, we found that pontoon boats may suffer from a design defect which cause such injuries.

In the picture above, the gate is open. Rounded



With the ineffective round ball guard, the pinky is vulnerable, as you can see in the picture below.

corners form a pinch point. Notice the round ball guard which is ineffective in preventing finger from contacting the hazard.



#### THE HAZARD & THE SOLUTION

**HAZARD:** Pontoon boats tend to have gates and railings with rounded corners. This design creates a pinch point, a condition with a wide throat or opening which narrows as it descends. Individuals tend to grab the railing for balance before they jump from the boat into the water. As they descend, their hand is guided by the railing to the pinch point. The pinky is typi-

cally the first finger to enter the pinch point. As the body lowers to the water, the pinky becomes entrapped in the narrowing gap. The velocity of the body's descent plus the entrapment by the pinch point is enough to sever the finger from the hand.

**SOLUTION:** A better guard!

In the two pictures to the right, an appropriate guard has been added

that completely fills the pinch point.

All pontoon boats would benefit from this safety device. We hope you take the necessary safety precautions if you find yourself on a pontoon boat with an ineffective guard.





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## We Have a New Look! Visit us on the web at [www.kassellaw.com](http://www.kassellaw.com)

Our firm recently made some upgrades to our logo and overall look and we are proud to showcase the new changes on our new website.

Many of you may know that our site has been absent for a while. It is back now with updated content, features and links.

We hope you will take a few minutes to visit us on the web and learn what's new with our staff and attorneys.

### **Who's Who In The Office**

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