

LEGAL BRIEFS

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FIGHTING FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE INJURED FOR 30 YEARS

The condition of American roadways gets worse as states spend more on expansion than repair

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Think Houston has a pothole problems on its roadways?

The condition of roads across the U.S. continue to worsen, and a recent study found that states continue to neglect repair and routine maintenance of existing roads in favor of costly expansions and widenings that create new financial responsibilities.

In its report "Repair Priorities 2019," the group Transportation for America, a nonpartisan organization dedicated to investment in transportation, detailed the worsening condition of American roads.

The report estimates that between 2004 and 2008, states spent \$21 billion per year on road expansion and just \$16 billion per year on repair and preservation.

Even though states increased spending on repair and preservation to \$21.4 billion per year between 2009 and 2014, they still spent almost as much, \$21.3 billion, each year on expansion of roadways.

When a state redirects its spending away from stretches of road in desperate need of repair and allocates it to expanding and widening roadways, it increases the annual spending requirement for upkeep in future years.

Identifying sections of roadway that are most in need of repair becomes essential, and one company has developed an innovative way to give cities and states real-time data on the conditions of its roads.

Ex-tesla engineers founded the company, lvl5, to produce HD maps for self-driving vehicles.

To analyze the condition of roads in a given area, the company uses a dashcam app called "Payver" and pays users, typically Uber and Lyft drivers, five cents per mile to record the roads they are driving.

With such immediate data, states can make more informed decisions on how to allocate funding.

Although convenient, keyless ignitions have led to 28 carbon monoxide deaths

Upgrades in technology has continually made operating our vehicles easier and more convenient as we get closer to driverless cars.

One of those conveniences that is becoming more prevalent in all makes and models of vehicles is the keyless ignition.

The vehicle can be powered on and off with the push of a button. Or the vehicle can be started remotely with a key fob.

For convenience and security, key fobs make it possible to start a car or SUV without getting inside. The fob transmits a radio signal that turns your vehicle on and off. And makes it much easier to exit your vehicle and accidentally leave the engine running, something that is less likely to happen with an ignition key.

In 2008, traditional ignition systems using a key were standard in 89 percent of new cars. Now they come in just 38 percent. Keyless ignitions are now standard in more than half of all new vehicles sold in the

United States annually.

In the meantime, as more ignition systems have been replaced by keyless devices, the number of incidents in which people died from carbon monoxide poisoning after leaving their keyless vehicles running has steadily risen.

Since 2006, 28 people have died in their homes after leaving a keyless-ignition vehicle running in the garage. At least 45 more have been injured, some left with brain damage. Since May, 2018, there have been five fatalities.

In 2011, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) issued a warning about the possibility of carbon monoxide poisoning, but nothing was done until now to address the problem.

In 2019, the PARK IT Act (standing for "Protecting Americans from the Risks of Keyless Ignition Technology") was introduced in both houses of Congress to create new rules governing keyless ignitions.

Pedestrian deaths increasing across Texas and U.S.

Motor vehicle collisions involving pedestrians is on the rise in Houston as well as the rest of Texas and the U.S.

Last year, 66 pedestrians and 95 cyclists died as a result of vehicle collision in Houston. Across Texas, 298 pedestrians were killed in traffic accident in the first six months of 2018, 32 higher than for the first six months of 2017, tying Georgia for the largest increase in pedestrian fatalities.

Altogether, 6,227 pedestrians died in traffic accident in 2018 across the U.S., the highest total in nearly 30 years.

Many of these deaths occurred in big cities like Houston and Miami. Five states had nearly half of all the nation's pedestrian fatalities in 2018 -Georgia, Texas, Arizona, Florida, and California.

Although several of these states had significant population increases, transportation experts point to other factors as the main case.

One is a transportation system designed for cars and not pedestrians.

And two key factors are distraction from smartphone use and the greater number of SUVs on American roads.

If DeSimone Law Office has successfully represented you on your injury case, please go to "Google Maps," type in our firm's name and write a review!

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DeSimone Law Office handles a variety of injury cases

DeSimone Law Office has been serving Houston and the greater Gulf Coast area for 30 years. From the start, the firm has focused on representing persons injured because of the negligence of someone else - whether it is a person, a business, or a unit of state or local government.



Ronald DeSimone

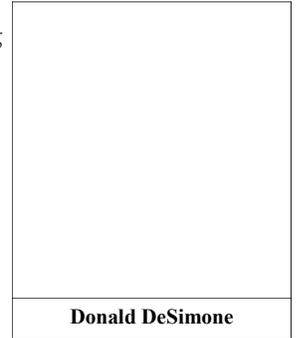
Attorneys Ronald DeSimone and Donald

DeSimone handle the following types of personal injury cases:

- **AUTOMOBILE AND TRUCKING ACCIDENT**
- **SHOOTINGS AND ASSAULTS AT APARTMENTS/BUSINESSES**
- **RAILROAD WORKER INJURIES**
- **BOAT ACCIDENTS/ DROWNINGS**
- **OFFSHORE ACCIDENTS**

Ronald DeSimone graduated from the University of Florida with a chemistry degree in 1984. He entered the University of Houston Law Center the following fall and received his license to practice law in 1987.

Donald DeSimone graduated from the University of Florida with a business degree in 1986, and, after graduating from the University of Houston Law Center, he was licensed to practice law in 1989.



Donald DeSimone

DeSimone Law Office has won in courts throughout Texas, at Texas courts of appeals and the Texas Supreme Court.



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