



## Seufert Law Offices, PA

*We'll Get You Through It*

### From the Captain's Log Friends Make a Person



I have had many friends over the years, some last and some don't. This article is about (2) friends who are the same in some respects and exact opposites in others.

Let's talk about Bill, he and I met in 1999 while we both were attending a specialized "trial lawyers college" in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. It was a month-long course, and each year 50 lawyers are selected from around the country. Bill from Portland, OR and myself from Franklin, NH were part of that 50 group in 1999. Each morning and each evening there was some down time, so groups would get together and chat, or take walks around the vast wilderness that surrounds Jackson Hole. Most times Bill and I were in the same group, as we found out that each of us were avid sailors, so had much to talk about. During the morning walks we would climb a local mountain and Bill, and I, made a habit of carrying old, discarded, pasture fence poles up the mountain and on the last day we had a bonfire on the top of the mountain. Fortunately, we did not start a forest fire. Bill and I have stayed in touch over the past 25+ years and see each other at least (2) times per year at the trial lawyer conventions that we both attend, and talk and text in-between. Each time the conversation starts as if it never ended the last time.

Now let's talk about James. I met James through Bill and his wife, Carol, about 10 years ago. Carol practices in Seattle and James in NYC, but both practice in the same area of the law, they each represent children who have been victimized by child pornography. Sometimes these children just took prank "sexting" photos to send to each other, which the pedophiles somehow intercept and then rebroadcast these photos repeatedly on the dark web. Carol and James are part of a new technology that "codes the pixels" of these photos, and in essence creates a unique "fingerprint" by this coding, so each photo then can be positively identified. They then use other sophisticated technology that scours the dark web for that "fingerprint" and then chases, like a fish upstream, every internet user's IP address who has viewed, or disseminated those photos, then a warrant is served on the internet provider to gain the owner of that IP address. There is a federal law that awards the child victim in that photo a minimum of \$150,000.00 in damages against the pedophile for each and every download, or dissemination. The trick is not catching these pedophiles but in the collecting the \$150,000.00 as many of these pedophiles are 30-year-olds living in their parent's basement, and unemployed. But sometimes they find a "big fish". James is an interesting character, he loves the "hunt" more than collecting the damages as he has "family money", so if he collects a contingency fee, so be it. And while my friend Bill, and his wife Carol, live a rather quiet life on the west coast, James is single and lives a more flamboyant lifestyle in NYC, and likes to live it up and be the center of attention at our semi-annual conventions, often seen dancing on the bar tops.



Two very different personalities, but both friends just the same. I don't judge. •

May 2025 News







# Work Zone Safety: Looking Out for Each Other

Work zones can be hazardous — to workers and motorists alike. According to the National Safety Council, 891 people were killed and over 37,000 injured due to U.S. work zone crashes in 2022.

Sometimes, motorists are to blame due to distracted driving, inattentiveness, driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs, speeding, or failing to maintain a safe following distance. The safety of passengers, other motorists, construction workers, pedestrians, and bicyclists is jeopardized.

Liability for work zone crashes might also fall on construction companies/contractors/subcontractors or a state or local government agency. Reasons include:

- Insufficient or confusing signage, lack of proper warning for lane shifts and merging lanes, and poorly marked detours.
- Lack of visible cones or barriers to direct traffic.
- Debris on the roadway or equipment jutting into a driving lane, prompting sudden braking or swerving.
- Dust, smoke, or dirt kicked up that impairs visibility.
- Inadequate or improperly positioned nighttime lighting.
- Uneven road surfaces.
- Driver error by a construction worker.
- Poor construction zone design.

It is important to note that a work zone does not need to be occupied by an active workforce in order for a crash to be considered a work zone accident.

When a local or state government agency heads up a work zone, “sovereign immunity” laws may limit or restrict claims against them; however, for acts of gross negligence, they will typically be subject to liability claims. Government agencies can also be held liable for lack of oversight of a construction company or contractor, or for hiring one that is unqualified.

If you are injured by someone’s negligence, contact our firm to attain proper compensation for your injuries. ●





2025 Notable Dates

**May 3**  
Kentucky Derby

**May 4**  
Star Wars Day

**May 11**  
Mother's Day

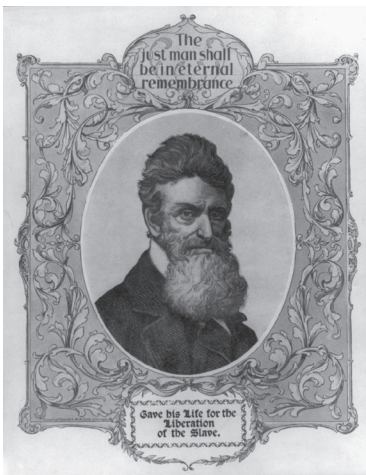
**May 13**  
Leprechaun Day

**May 18**  
World Baking Day

**May 20**  
Amelia Earhart Day

**May 26**  
Memorial Day

## Ends and Means



John Brown, a devout Christian and white abolitionist, was born on May 9, 1800. Growing up he was influenced by his minister father, who believed black people should be free and deserved equal rights — a view contrary to even many white abolitionists who regarded slavery as an injustice but still considered blacks second-class citizens. Brown aided the Underground Railroad and helped establish the League of Gileadites, an organization dedicated to helping runaway slaves escape to Canada.

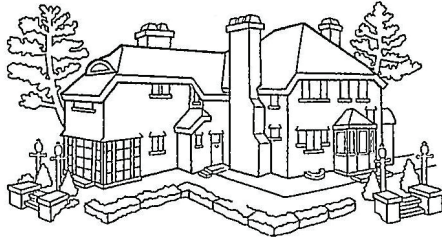
In 1849, Brown moved to a black settlement in Elba, New York, a 120,000-acre property donated by a wealthy abolitionist to black families who were willing to clear and farm the land. Brown taught his neighbors the necessary skills to adjust to a new way of life.

In 1854, the Kansas-Nebraska Act established Kansas and Nebraska as territories, and voters there would determine the fate of slavery. Many migrated to the territories, attempting to influence the outcome, often through violence. Brown joined four of his sons and a son-in-law in Kansas in 1855.

On May 24, 1856, Brown led a raid on pro-slavery settlers along the Pottawatomie Creek. Five targets were dragged out of their homes in the middle of the night, whisked to a preplanned location, and cut down by swords. Brown saw himself a righteous dispenser of God's justice, not a murderer, and became a national figure.

On Oct. 16, 1859, Brown and 19 others attacked the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia, with the goal of arming a slave revolt. They met little resistance initially but were soon captured or killed by federal troops led by Robert E. Lee. Brown survived, rejected an insanity plea, and chose to put slavery on trial. He was hanged for treason on Dec. 2, 1859. A polarizing historical figure, Brown was a major catalyst for the Civil War that erupted in 1861. •

Seufert Law Offices, PA  
Attorneys At Law



59 Central Street, Franklin, NH 03235  
(603) 934-9837

[www.seufertlaw.com](http://www.seufertlaw.com)

*Protect Your Family, Protect Your Rights*



Friends Make  
a Person  
SEE PAGE ONE

This publication is intended to educate the general public about personal injury, medical malpractice, and other issues. It is for information purposes only and is not intended to be legal advice. Prior to acting on any information contained here, you should seek and retain competent counsel. The information in this newsletter may be freely copied and distributed as long as the newsletter is copied in its entirety.

## Workers' Comp vs. Personal Injury Claims – Or Both

Although workers' compensation claims and personal injury claims both provide compensation for injuries, there are stark differences.

Workers' compensation (WC) is a "no-fault" system that provides benefits to employees who suffer a work-related injury or illness. Employees receive benefits without having to prove that their employer was negligent or at fault for their injuries.

**Typically, an employee cannot file a personal injury claim against their employer if their injury is covered by WC.** There are a few exceptions, which we'll get to later.

WC provides for medical expenses, partial lost-wages replacement 60%, benefits during recovery, and disability benefits if the employee cannot return to their previous job. For complete medical expenses coverage, employees may be temporarily limited in which doctors they can see in they are part of the "managed care" program, which few are.

Personal injury (PI) claims are "fault" based. A plaintiff must prove that another person's negligence was the cause of their injuries. PI claims encompass a wider range of damages than WC claims, including damages for pain and suffering, and may require a trial if a settlement cannot be reached. Plaintiffs in PI claims have more freedom in their choice of medical providers and care. Lost wages are paid only after a settlement/verdict is reached.

In some instances, an injured employee may be able to file a PI claim instead of, or in addition to, a WC claim. Examples include intentional acts by an employer to harm an employee, gross negligence, and third-party claims (e.g., a delivery driver who in the course of their job is struck and injured by a negligent motorist).

If you are injured by another person's negligence, contact our firm to protect your rights. •

