

**SPECIAL
EDITION**

DIG Disparti Law Group

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Disparti Law Group

1041 U.S. Hwy. 19
Holiday, FL 34691
727-934-7862
800-633-4091
FAX: 727-937-8324

Web site:
www.dispartilaw.com

OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

PERSONAL INJURY PRACTICE

- Free consultation
- Home appointments available
- 24-hour emergency service
- No recovery. No fee. We do not get paid unless you do.
- Trial attorneys

Referrals

We want you to think of us as your law firm.

If you have legal matters that need attention, please let us know. If we cannot handle the matter, we will refer you to a competent firm that can.

Please feel free to refer us to your family, friends, and neighbors for their legal needs. We welcome the opportunity to help.



**CALL US.
YOU'RE
GOING TO
FEEL A WHOLE LOT
BETTER ABOUT THINGS.**

Social Security Disability

Those who cannot work due to serious physical or mental conditions have the right to file Social Security Disability claims for one or more of several kinds of benefits. These may include cash disability insurance benefits, supplemental security income, disabled widow or widower benefits, and disabled adult child benefits.

Many claimants seek the assistance of attorneys to help them in several ways. The first is to identify and present their records, documentation, and other evidence of disability as clearly and effectively as possible. Attorneys can also guide claimants through a potentially complicated process, which may include appealing claims denials.

Here's how the claim-filing process works.

■ An individual files an initial claim for disability. The Social Security Act requires the claimant to demonstrate that he or she cannot work due to serious physical or mental conditions that will result in death or have lasted for 12 or more months.

■ A Social Security examiner and a physician then review

the claim and decide to grant it or refuse it. Social Security refuses roughly two of every five claims.

■ If granted, disability insurance benefits are calculated on how much the claimant, a late husband or wife, or parent has worked and earned in the past, but current income is also figured into the formula.

■ If an initial claim is denied, a claimant can request reconsideration. The petition then goes to a different examiner at the Disability Determination Agency for another review to assure appropriateness and fairness.

■ If the claim reconsideration is rejected, the claimant can ask for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge, who will provide an independent decision upon the claim. The claimant's lawyer can again help present the case for review.

■ Further denials may be appealed to Social Security's internal Appeals Council, or an attorney may file a civil action in court. These actions are rarer, however.



We take your family's safety and security personally.

When should a driver obtain legal

➤ Driver rights

Drivers have important rights that can protect them if they are injured or their property is damaged by others' negligence. These include the right to...

- Exercise personal legal rights to...
 - obtain immediate medical attention.
 - demur, oppose, or decline blood, breath, urine, or agility testing.
 - refuse to answer questions.
 - turn down a request to search a vehicle.
 - collect evidence at accident scenes.
- Legal representation by an attorney.
- Investigate and determine the true causes of accidents.
- File a lawsuit in court to hold negligent drivers and others responsible for paying for property damage, physical pain and suffering, mental pain and suffering, medical and rehabilitative expenses, past and future lost income, permanent impairment, or permanent disfigurement.



➤ Police stops

If a police officer pulls you over

For your own safety, be courteous and compliant in dealing with police.

- Pull over to the shoulder immediately.
 - Remain in the vehicle until asked to do otherwise.
 - Turn on interior lights at night.
 - Keep hands in sight.
 - Tell the officer if you are armed.
 - Ask permission to reach for driver's papers.
 - Turn over documentation.
 - Wait for an explanation about why you were pulled over.
 - Ask questions but don't argue.
 - Promptly exit the vehicle when asked.
 - Never touch, threaten, or behave defiantly towards a police officer.
 - Keep a respectful distance from the officer at all times.
 - Politely refuse permission for the officer to search your vehicle.
 - Accept a traffic ticket. **You and an attorney can contest it in court.**
- If at any time an officer is rude or otherwise makes you feel unusually uncomfortable, note his or her name and badge number. Mention it when you contest the summons.

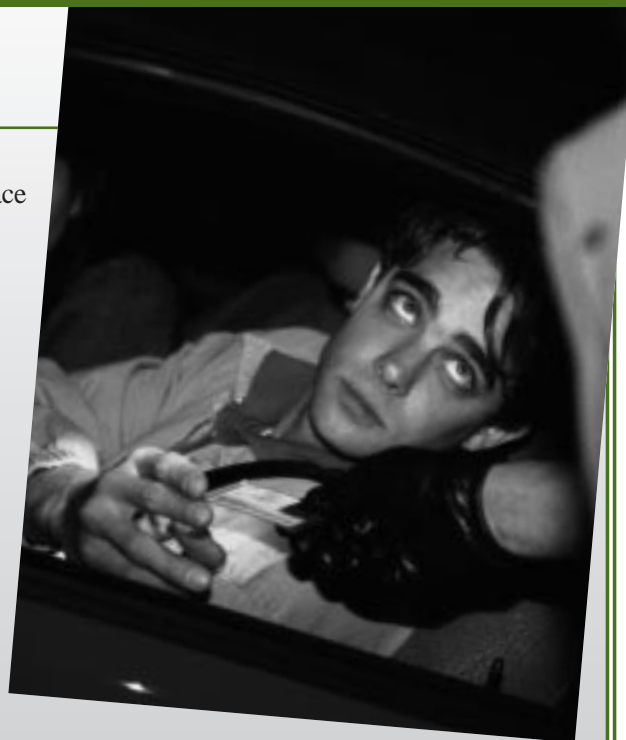


counsel to protect his or her rights?

➤ Traffic citations

Police stop drivers for suspicion of speeding, running traffic signals or signs, or violating other traffic regulations. Anyone pulled over who may face a significant potential traffic infraction should take the following steps:

- Comply with requests to show driver's license, registration, and proof of insurance.
- Answer questions directly and clearly.
- Do not admit guilt.
- Do not volunteer information.
- No matter how upset you are, avoid arguing or protesting.
- Officers may lawfully check your vehicle exterior for code violations.
- Sign the citation. You're not admitting guilt, only accepting the charge.
- **Immediately contact a traffic-law attorney** to argue your case in court, where you are presumed innocent. An attorney may successfully contest a ticket, obtain a reduced judgment, or keep the incident off your driver's record.



➤ Driving under the influence

Driving under the influence of alcohol, illicit drugs, or strong medications is wrong. No one should ever do it.

Those convicted of impaired driving may go to jail, face severe financial challenges, have difficulty obtaining rehabilitative treatment or purchasing auto insurance, or may become community pariahs.

Impaired-driving arrests are not always impartial or evenhanded. For instance, officers may apply due process unfairly. Police may not be able to justify their evaluation and arrest as proper and legal. Breath or blood testing may be inaccurate.

What can a driver do to minimize the potential of an impaired-driving arrest?

- Never drive when impaired by alcohol, illicit drugs, or strong medications.
- Designate someone who will avoid all alcohol consumption and drive others to and from parties and places of entertainment.
- Select no- or low-alcohol beverages for consumption.

What should a driver do if stopped or questioned by law-enforcement authorities for impaired driving?

Remember that almost all states impose penalties for refusing to take blood, breath, urine, or other tests.

- Never try to run or escape from police.
- Avoid making any statements to law-enforcement officials.
- **Obtain the counsel of an attorney as soon as you can after being stopped or detained.**

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Disparti Law Group, P.A.

Disparti Law Group (formerly Ward White & Associates) has a full staff of attorneys and legal professionals to represent you, your family, and your friends in a wide variety of areas. Many times, we can offer a free, no-obligation consultation to better enable you to decide whether or not you need representation. We have represented disabled persons for over 25 years and continue to handle Social Security Disability and SSI claims. Call us today for free information about us, or for a free consultation.

Our firm also can help you in the following practice areas:

- Auto accidents
- Personal injury claims
- Wrongful death
- Slip and fall
- Sinkhole claims
- Insurance disputes
- Criminal defense
- Negligence
- Dog bites
- DUIs
- Storm-damage claims
- Long-term disability disputes
- Motorcycle accidents
- Boating accidents



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SPOTLIGHT— Attorney Ken Brown

Kenneth Brown is an attorney with the **Disparti Law Group**. Mr. Brown focuses his practice on representing individuals in front of the Social Security Administration.

A Tampa native, Mr. Brown is a graduate of the University of South Florida and received his law degree from Stetson College of Law in Saint Petersburg. Ken is legendary in his “leave no stone unturned” approach in preparing our clients for their upcoming hearings. He enjoys antiques, listening to classical music, and spends a great deal of his time doing volunteer work in his community.

Ken also happens to be our main face on the DLG commercials you may have seen on your ABC channel. If you see Mr. Brown around town, be sure to say Hi.

