



MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT GUIDE

TRUSTED LEGAL ADVICE TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS

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BELAL HAMIDEH LAW

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TURN YOUR INJURY INTO A **VICTORY**

All gone in one moment: your health, all the money in your bank account, and the overall well-being of your family. You could lose everything in a motor vehicle accident because someone else was reckless and negligent, injuring you or even killing someone you love.

This may be hard to imagine, but it happens every single day. Vehicle accidents can happen in the blink of an eye, but they can leave devastating consequences for your family, such as injuries or even death.

After receiving medical attention for your injuries, you may feel angry, afraid, sad, confused, and uncertain about what's going to happen next. It's normal to be overwhelmed by so many questions: "What can I do? How am I going to be able to work? Is there any way to afford these bills? Will I recover from these injuries? What's going to happen to my family?"

You may feel powerless in that moment, like there is nothing you can do. However, **you are not powerless.** You can take action. You can protect your family as well as your bank account - it is possible to receive compensation for all that you've been through.

But, you only get one chance. If you don't go about it the right way, you may not receive the compensation you and your family deserve. We have helped many who are in the same position you are right now to **receive maximum compensation.**

SERIOUS INJURIES DEFINED



These injuries harm your body as well as your life. These can be just about any kind of injury. If you're in a fender bender and your head jolts forward, hopefully, you just have some aches and pains that subside shortly. However, you could experience whiplash, suffering spinal issues that plague you the rest of your days.



Serious injuries aren't just physical. They can be emotional and psychological as well. Some injuries are physical, emotional, and psychological.

SERIOUS INJURIES DEFINED

Some of the serious injuries that we've helped our clients to receive compensation for include:

Amputation Injuries

Wrongful Death

“TBI” - Traumatic Brain Injury

Internal Damage/Damage to Organs

PTSD - Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

Nerve and Neurological Damage

Broken Bones and Fractures

Paralysis and Spinal Cord Injuries

Heavy Scarring

Anxiety

Depression

Burns

Infection

Ligament/Tendon Damage

SERIOUS INJURIES DEFINED



Even the smallest, most minor injury can cause serious problems in your life. What seems like “no big deal” after an accident could later become a major injury. Just as no two people are the same, neither are the injuries they suffer. A teenager who suffers a hand injury may return to their normal life quickly, whereas a longshoreman may not be able to work their job in the same capacity ever again, and thus need to be trained to do something else.



There are no set rules for what does and does not constitute a “serious” injury. A serious injury is one that harms you and your life.

WHAT IS A MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT?



Any accident where a motor vehicle collides with another object is a motor vehicle accident. One motor vehicle colliding with another motor vehicle qualifies, as does if a motor vehicle hits a house, a guard rail, a pedestrian, a bicycle, and so forth.

WHAT IS A MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT?

Motor vehicle accidents can be caused by many different factors. These include:

SPEEDING

Maybe the most common cause of accidents, excessive speeding makes it more likely that the driver will lose control of a vehicle and it can also make the injuries in an accident more severe.

DISTRACTED DRIVING

Texting, eating, talking on the phone, watching a video, playing with the radio- if a driver is engaged in any activity that takes their attention from the road, they're driving distracted and thus more likely to crash.

DUI

Driving drunk or under the influence of drugs reduces a driver's ability to make decisions and react quickly. This is a serious crime and must be treated as such.

RECKLESS DRIVING

Even if a driver is driving the speed limit, they could be driving recklessly if they run a stop light/red light, shift in and out of lanes without signaling, tailgate other drivers, and so forth. Reckless driving is unsafe driving.

ENVIRONMENT

Rain, fog, mud, snow, and other environmental factors can make it harder to drive and thus increase the likelihood of an accident.

MALFUNCTIONING VEHICLE

If the brakes, tires, engine, and other parts of the engine don't work as they should, accidents can occur.

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT TYPES

Motor vehicle accidents can occur in any number of ways. Some common types of motor vehicle accidents include:

HEAD-ON COLLISIONS

If one vehicle hits another “head on,” the front of one vehicle hits the front of another, that can be one of the most devastating types of injuries.

ROLLOVER

When a vehicle hits another vehicle (or sometimes without doing so), the vehicle can flip over, rolling end over end.

REAR-END

Perhaps the most common accident type, one vehicle hits the back of another, leading to potentially serious injuries for all involved. These can lead to “chain reaction” accidents on a highway or other crowded road.

T-BONE

This is the kind of accident where the front of one vehicle hits the side of another vehicle, putting both drivers at serious risk.

BROADSIDE

If the sides of both vehicles strike each other, it’s considered a “broadside” injury.



Serious injuries can result from any of these accidents. No matter how minor it may have seemed that your accident was, if you were hurt, it’s worth it to reach out for medical care.

Follow These Steps **No Matter What**

1. Make sure that you're safe.
2. Seek immediate medical care.
3. Call 911. Request paramedics if there's the slightest chance anyone was hurt.
4. If possible, talk to witnesses, get their information, take pics and videos of the accident as well as any injuries.
5. Never provide a statement to insurance representatives/investigators/adjusters.
6. Contact an experienced motor vehicle accident lawyer.



By following these steps, you can protect your well-being as well as the potential compensation for your injuries.

**NOTE EVERY PAIN, HURT, AND SYMPTOM, NO
MATTER HOW SMALL**



In the wake of suffering an injury in an accident, make sure to tell your medical providers everywhere it hurts as well as every symptom you're dealing with. Do so no matter how minor they are. Internal, external, from head to toe and everywhere in between – mention everything. Mention this even if they don't "hurt" exactly but feel weird, different, or off.

Don't wait to do this. Tell your first responders, EMTs/paramedics, emergency room nurses, doctors, and every other medical professional.

But, don't stop mentioning your pains or symptoms. Update your doctors about any new changes in your physical and mental condition, no matter how minor they may seem. Tell your attorney, too.

**NOTE EVERY PAIN, HURT, AND SYMPTOM, NO
MATTER HOW SMALL**

Why do this?

Because if you don't tell your medical professionals about every injury or symptom from the moment you first experience it, it becomes that much more difficult to recover all of the compensation you deserve for those injuries.

This is because it could introduce doubt as to whether or not the accident caused your injuries and symptoms. The other side's attorneys can use this to attack your credibility, alleging that you're making up the pain and suffering you've endured. Report any and all injuries to each of your medical providers when they arise.

Additionally, never miss a medical appointment. Again, if you do, the other side can say that you must not be hurt if you miss an appointment.

So often over the years, we've seen that, understandably, injury victims and their doctors focus so much on the most severe injury that lesser symptoms or injuries are forgotten or overlooked. However, you'll be better off when, from the very beginning, all of your injuries are properly addressed.

INJURIES CASES CAN REQUIRE PATIENCE



Unfortunately, when you've suffered a serious injury, your case can take longer than a case involving a minor injury. This is because serious injuries are, in comparison to minor injuries, much more challenging to fully evaluate, diagnose, treat, and then figure out a future prognosis and healing plan.

INJURIES CASES CAN REQUIRE PATIENCE

Another factor that can extend the length of your injury case and test your patience: insurance companies and their lawyers. They will, most likely, do everything they can to drag out the process, hoping that you give up and they don't have to pay.

When they attempt to delay the process, all in the hopes that you'll just quit and let them win, remember: you only have one opportunity at receiving the compensation you deserve. This compensation can help both you and your family.



Being patient and trusting that your lawyer as well as your doctors always have your best interests at heart can be frustrating, but it's true.

The last thing the other side wants is for you to be patient, to wait them out, and for your attorney to secure you the compensation you deserve.



**CONTACT AN EXPERIENCED MOTOR
VEHICLE ACCIDENT LAWYER**



The first step towards getting the compensation and justice that you deserve is to reach out to a law firm with motor vehicle accident experience. Insurance companies know which lawyers are going to be a challenge, and which will be easily rolled over. They'll respect your case if you hire the right law firm, and they'll begin counting their money if you don't.

CONTACT AN EXPERIENCED MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT LAWYER

Many lawyers claim to have experience, to have helped clients through motor vehicle accident cases. The truth is that many have not. They're exaggerating. When you research attorneys, make sure to click through their websites extensively. When you talk to an attorney, ask detailed, specific questions. Ask them about what they've accomplished, what they've won for their clients, and so forth.

As mentioned, you have one opportunity to receive the maximum compensation for your injuries. Sure, you can change attorneys, but picking the right attorney the first time gives you the best opportunity for success.



"This was my first time using/needing an attorney for a car accident I was in. I was referred to Belal Hamideh Law and I had a great experience. Belal and Mattalyn communicated very well and consistently throughout the process. Mattalyn provided and set up appointments for all my medical/physical therapy needs. She was very efficient with updating me about every detail on the case. They were also able to close a very fair settlement. Overall I am completely happy with the outcome."

Briana Sabago

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CONTACT AN EXPERIENCED MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT LAWYER



Here at Belal Hamideh Law, Mr. Hamideh has successfully handled more than 1500 cases, securing more than \$100 million for his clients. Rated as a “Rising Star” by the Super Lawyers, he was also named to the “Top 40 Under 40” by the National Trial Lawyers. With five star ratings on Google and Avvo, Mr. Hamideh has many years of experience helping clients through every stage of the process.



Super Lawyers
RISING STARS



Beyond that, if applicable to your case, it's possible we could arrange for a monetary loan. That way, we can assist you while you recover from your injuries and it's just secured with the proceeds of your case.

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FIND THIRD PARTY WITNESSES - THEY CAN HELP

Belal Hamideh Law has investigators ready to go at any time, day or night, to acquire any evidence that might be time-sensitive.

If someone witnesses your accident (as well as anything before or after the accident), you want to get a statement from them as quickly as possible.



That said, there are witnesses that can help your case which didn't witness your accident. Third party witnesses that establish who you were before the accident as well as after the accident can be invaluable. These include your partner, your kids, your parents, colleagues, bosses, friends, pastor, or just about anyone else you see consistently.

Since they have a different perspective on you, they may notice details about you, your behavior, and your life that you aren't even aware of. We have experience in using this powerful testimony to demonstrate to a judge, jury, mediator, or even the other side why you deserve your compensation.

EXPERT WITNESSES CAN HELP YOUR CASE, BUT BE WAR Y OF THE OTHER SIDE'S

An expert witness is exactly that: a trained professional with years of experience in a certain field that any side of your case can use to not just evaluate the evidence, but to provide opinions, conclusions, testimony and more.

Most commonly, there are two kinds of expert opinions: liability and damages. For example, a surgeon could testify about the damage you've suffered and what you deserve, while a professional Accident Reconstructionist could testify about which party was liable in your crash.



Experts are important because they can explain even the most complicated topics to the judge/jury in a way that's as easy to understand as it is compelling. In fact, expert witnesses can make or break a case.

That said, the services of an expert witness do not come cheap. They are expensive, which is just one more reason that no one should represent themselves in a motor vehicle accident case. A law firm with significant financial resources can take the risk, paying for an expert witness who can make a difference in your case.

EXPERT WITNESSES CAN HELP YOUR CASE, BUT BE WARAY OF THE OTHER SIDE'S

In the past, we've spent tens of thousands of dollars just to get an expert witness for our clients. That was worth it, however, as we were able to secure far more compensation than that for our clients.

That said, we can find the expert witnesses that will help your case while the other side will have expert witnesses that will do everything in their power to harm your case. The most common example is the other side's "medical expert." Allowed by law to examine you, this person may be as nice and pleasant as can be, but, they're being paid very well to say that your injuries aren't that bad and you deserve less (if any) compensation.



The right law firm should prepare you for this examination, so that you're ready for anything that can happen. This can include, as we've done in the past, sending a medical expert with you to ensure that their doctor does only what they're allowed to and nothing else. We see it as one more way to help our clients.

USE YOUR PREP SESSIONS WISELY

Actors, before they go on set, learn their lines. They study the characters they're portraying, they practice their lines, their blocking, and so much more. That way, they're prepared. Instead of just showing up on set and hoping for the best, they prepare so as to be ready for anything, come what may.

The same goes for your deposition and/or testimony. To continue the analogy, you, the plaintiff, are, in a real way, the star of the show. You don't want to get up there without knowing your lines, so to speak. Yes, something unexpected can happen, but, the more you prepare ahead of time, the better off you'll be.

This is especially true for your deposition, since a strong majority of cases end after depositions. At Belal Hamideh Law, we hold in-person prep sessions. During these, we go over all aspects of testifying, so that you know what to expect at every step of the way, including what the attorney for the other side will do.



"I gave 5 stars because that is the most that was allowed. Mr. Hamideh and his team took on our case without hesitation. My daughter sustained a bodily injury and Hamideh's firm was able to get my daughter the compensation she deserved for her injuries."

Martin Sanchez

ALWAYS BE HONEST, AUTHENTIC, AND AMIABLE

It may sound superficial or even unlikely, but the truth is, being amiable, pleasant, and likable is important to your case. More important than you may realize. This is because if the jury or judge likes you, the odds of you receiving what you deserve significantly increase.

You've probably heard any number of attorneys say that they'll "fight for you" or they'll "take on the big boys" or something like that. Yes, that's true, but it's also true that so often, the reason that people on a jury/other mediating body decide to give victims the award they deserve is because they relate to you, they like you, and they believe you should be compensated.

Deep down, most people want to help others. Should you come across as warm, polite, trustworthy, and authentic, then it's more likely that jurors will like you, yes, but so will attorneys, judges, and the like.

The opposite holds true, too. If you come across as cruel, lying, or fake, then they'll be likely to want to tell you no, deny you compensation, punish you, and so forth.

The attorneys on the other side are certainly aware of this. They'll do everything they can (up to and including tailing you, stalking your social media feeds, and so forth) to find something that can be used against you. We can help you to make the best decisions regarding your posting and more.



The more you communicate with your lawyers, the more open and forthcoming you are with your information, the more you listen to your lawyers and doctors, the better off you and your case will be. Your medical professionals and your lawyer have years of education, experience, and more, so they know what they're talking about.

While it is important to listen to your attorneys and doctors, to do what they say, always question them, too. Debate them, get specific, have lengthy discussions, challenge them - that can only help your case. Through that, they can provide greater context for what they're doing, which can help you to make the best decisions for your needs.

This is important for many reasons, not the least of which is that if you hide something, even something small, from your doctors or lawyers, it can hurt your case. Case in point: if you suffered an accident or injury similar to your case in the past, tell your attorneys and doctors. You may think you're helping your case by keeping that to yourself, but you can rest assured the other side knows. They'll be sure to use it against you.

The more upfront you are, the more your lawyers can prepare. The one thing that can destroy your case quickly is if you're caught lying. Honesty isn't just a good policy, it's one more way to make certain you have the best chance to receive the compensation you deserve.

PICTURES AND VIDEO CAN HELP YOUR CASE SIGNIFICANTLY



Any motor vehicle accident that causes an injury changes someone's life. Evidence displaying what your life was like before your accident and what your life is after the accident can be invaluable to your case.

To show the difference between these two, use pictures and videos. These are some of the most powerful tools at every step of negotiation. It's an example of "show, don't tell." Telling someone what your life is like isn't the same as showing pictures of joyful events in your life, dancing at your wedding, throwing your hat in the air at graduation, playing ball with your kids, climbing a mountain, or anything else. Show pictures and videos from before your accident to your attorneys.

Those aren't the only pictures and videos you should show to your attorney. Pics and videos of the accident scene, your injuries, and how you're recovering speaks volumes as well. Again, show don't tell. You can tell a judge how much your leg hurts, or you can show them pictures and videos that are incredibly powerful.

STAY INVOLVED IN YOUR CASE, BE POSITIVE

A motor vehicle accident case can be challenging. It's easy to feel "down." However, staying positive and hopeful can make all the difference. Should the other side/a judge/a mediator see that you've stayed positive despite everything you've been through, it's more likely that you will receive what you deserve.

Of course, it's not enough to just be positive. You also must be involved actively in your recovery, take the necessary steps to return to your life, and so forth.

We've found that people are less likely to give you the compensation you deserve if you're just feeling sorry for yourself, not making an effort, wallowing in self-pity, and just hoping for the money so that you can sit around and do nothing.

To that end, an insurance company is more likely to settle if they know that you're going to use that money to heal, to take care of you and yours, to make things right. By that same token, if they feel that you're lying, exaggerating, and so forth, the odds are quite low that they're going to give you what you should deserve. Being positive, hopeful, and upbeat isn't always easy, but it's best for your case and for your life.



"Belal Hamideh Law Firm helped me through a difficult time for not one but two auto accidents. They kept me informed and guided me through each process which enabled me to focus on my recovery."

Alyssa Burns

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WHAT TO REMEMBER

If you're hurt in a motor vehicle accident, you have the right to seek compensation for your medical care, income you lost, pain, suffering, and everything else you've had to endure.

It's natural and understandable to feel anxious and depressed after your accident. But, you're not powerless. Contact an experienced law firm that has a proven track record of helping victims who were in the same position you are now. By doing so, you'll feel empowered, yes, but you'll also have the best opportunity to live your life how you want. You have one opportunity to turn your personal injury into a personal victory. To shorten what's been written above, we offer this recap to follow:

Motor vehicle accidents can result in serious injuries that impact your life negatively.

There are many different kinds of motor vehicle accidents. Each can be devastating.

California's civil litigation process takes anywhere between one year to 18 months.

TIPS SUMMARIZED

Report any pain, ache, or symptom, no matter how minor after your injury.

The more patient you are, the better a chance you have of receiving the compensation you deserve.

An experienced law firm gives you the best chance at success.

Your attorney should be able to provide expert witnesses while preparing you for the other side's expert witnesses.

Prep sessions with your lawyer are a crucial tool that can help prepare you.

TIPS SUMMARIZED

People, whether they're attorneys, jurors, or anyone else, are more likely to want to help those who are pleasant, kind, and upbeat.

Family, friends, partners, and colleagues can make for invaluable witnesses.

Your lawyers and doctors are on your side, so you want to listen to them while always making sure to discuss your case with them.

Pictures and videos of your injuries, your accident scene, and even your life before the accident are important.

Being positive and upbeat about your case, your life, and your future gives you the best chance at the most successful outcome.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Belal Hamideh has guided clients through more than 1500 personal injury and workers' compensation cases, achieving a success rate of 99%. His commitment and experience have helped recover more than \$100 million in compensation for his clients all across California.

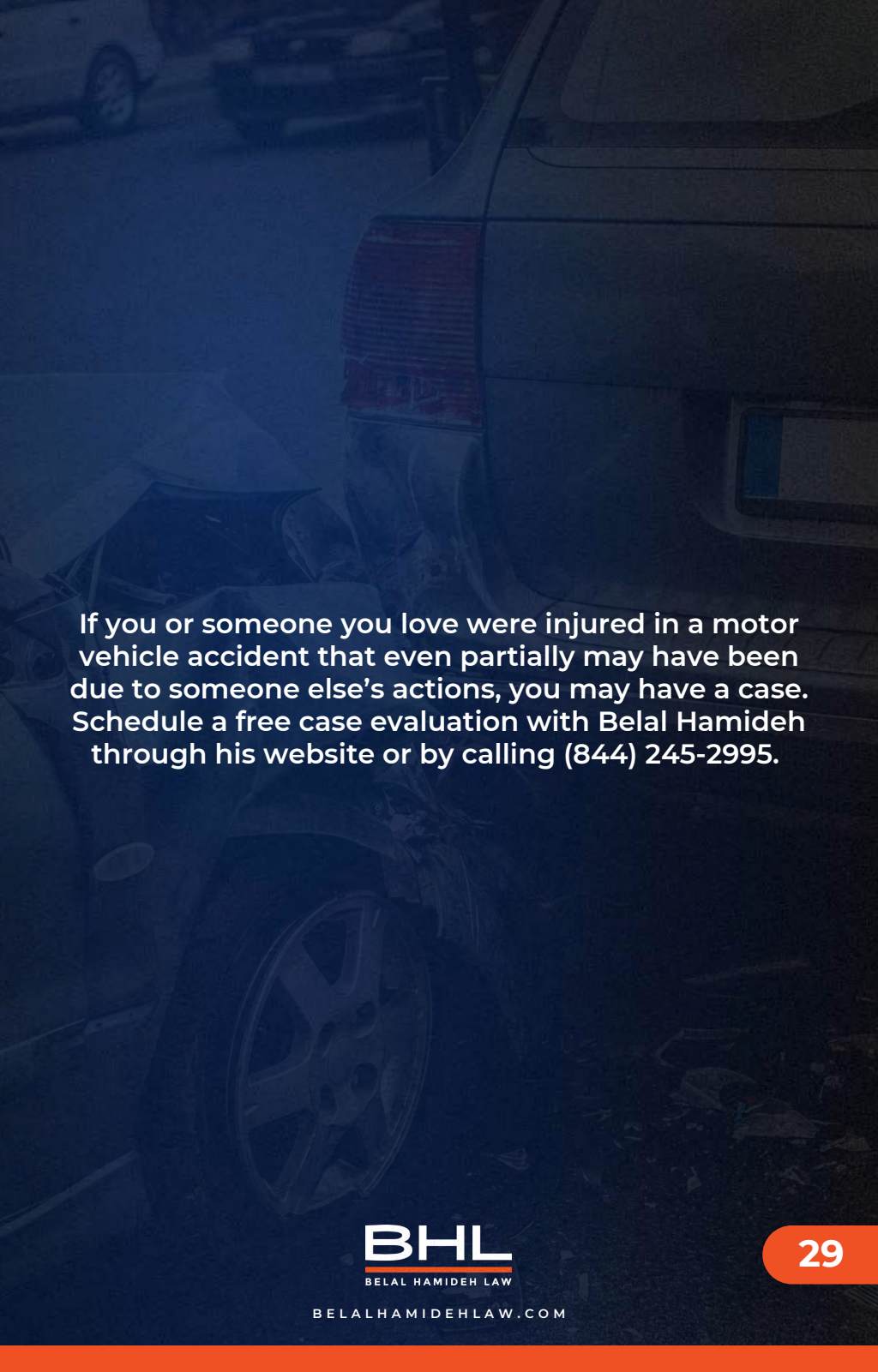
Mr. Hamideh's academic journey began at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), where he earned Dean's List distinction. He then attended the Pepperdine School of Law, graduating within the top third of his class.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Throughout his career, Mr. Hamideh has received notable recognition, including being named one of the "10 Best Personal Injury Attorneys for Client Satisfaction" by the American Institute of Personal Injury Attorneys (AIOPIA).

Additionally, he has been selected as a member of The National Trial Lawyers: Top 40 under 40, an exclusive group of top trial attorneys under 40 years of age. This membership is reserved for attorneys who demonstrate excellence in leadership, reputation, and overall qualifications according to objective standards set by both state bar associations and national guidelines.

Mr. Hamideh's commitment to his clients goes beyond case outcomes. He prioritizes responsive, attentive service, making himself available to answer client calls and provide clear updates throughout the legal process. Supported by a knowledgeable and friendly legal team, he works diligently to ensure that each client receives the best possible support and guidance. By handling cases on a contingency fee basis, Mr. Hamideh ensures that clients are not charged unless their case is won, making high-quality legal representation accessible to all.



If you or someone you love were injured in a motor vehicle accident that even partially may have been due to someone else's actions, you may have a case. Schedule a free case evaluation with Belal Hamideh through his website or by calling (844) 245-2995.

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