



## ***Back On Track***

### **Health & Safety E-News Alerts and Blog News**

*Supplied By: Shapiro, Cooper, Lewis & Appleton Law Firm*

**1-800-752-0042**

#### **Table of Contents:**

- I. It's a Bird, It's a Plane, Wait...It's John Cooper**
- II. Rick Shapiro Receives "AV" Rating from Martindale-Hubbell**
- III. Jim Lewis Joins the Teaching Ranks**
- IV. Insurance Company Accuses Customer of Stealing and Burning Their Vehicle**
- V. Teens are Out of School, So Watch Out for Distracted Drivers**
- VI. Railroads Clash with Engineers Over Surveillance Cameras in Locomotive Cabs**
- VII. From the Desk of Investigator Donnie Case**
- VIII. From the Desk of Investigator Herb Wooten**
- VIII. Free Consumer Reports**

#### **(I.) It's a Bird, It's a Plane, Wait...It's John Cooper**

John Cooper was named a [Virginia "Super Lawyer" in the 2010 Edition](#) of Law & Politics Magazine. Less than 5 percent of all superb lawyers receive this distinction. John joins Rick Shapiro and Jim Lewis in the firm's "Super" group.

---

#### **(II.) Rick Shapiro Receives "AV" Rating from Martindale-Hubbell**

After 26 years of practicing law, Rick Shapiro received an ["AV" rating from Martindale-Hubbell](#), a prominent legal rating service. The "AV" is like the black belt of legal ratings from Martindale-

Hubbell and means Rick has attained a reputation among other lawyers and judges as being highly ethical and of being very high to pre-eminent in his legal ability.

---

### **(III.) Jim Lewis Joins the Teaching Ranks**

William and Mary Law School invited our law partner Jim Lewis to become an [Adjunct Professor teaching Trial Advocacy](#). Jim, who is an alumnus of William and Mary Law, will begin teaching the course in the evenings during the fall 2010 semester.

---

### **(IV.) Insurance Company Accuses Customer of Stealing and Burning Their Vehicle**

Don't trust your insurance company because, apparently, they don't trust you. That was the overarching theme for a State Farm Insurance customer in Virginia Beach, Virginia (VA) who had their pickup truck stolen. State Farm sent their customer a letter accusing him of stealing and burning the vehicle, [according to The Virginian-Pilot](#). The insurance company asserted that, since the pickup truck had a transponder system, it was impossible for someone else to gain access to the vehicle, despite the fact that no full-proof security system for a vehicle has been created at this point. This case exemplifies the lengths to which an insurance company will go to deny a claim. Accusing a customer of stealing and burning their own vehicle with very little substantive evidence defied logic. [To learn the outcome of the case, click here.](#)

---

### **(V.) Teens are Out of School, So Watch Out for Distracted Drivers**

Teenagers, on average, send and receive 2,722 text messages every month, [according to a report by the Nielsen Company](#). Some of these texts are invariably sent and received while the teens are behind the wheel of a car. This leads to distracted driving which could put you at risk of getting hit by one of these texting teens and suffering a serious injury.

---

### **(VI.) Jones Act Helps Port and Boat Workers in Hampton Roads**

The Jones Act, also known as the [Merchant Marine Act of 1920](#), was passed to help injured seamen and their families. This is extremely important for residents in the Hampton Roads region of Virginia since it is home to some of the largest ports in the country. The Jones Act serves to protect U.S. interests within its own waters and ensures that the United States maintains a fleet of merchant ships. While the Act protects seamen hurt on-duty, it is different than workers' compensation. A seaman must prove negligence or fault on the part of the vessel's owners, operators and/or fellow employees by reason of defect, for a worker to recover under the Jones Act. [To learn more, check out this article.](#)

---

### **(VII.) From the Desk of [Investigator Donnie Case](#):**

The United Transportation Union hopes to create a collaborative safety and security plan to address the concerns of rail workers after a CSX conductor was murdered in New Orleans by a gunman. According to [the UTU web site](#), this tragic loss of life “accelerates an already urgent need for better workplace safety and security measures for rail, transit and motor coach facilities and operations.” For example, the UTU would like to address the fact that federal regulations do not require bullet-proof glass in locomotives, tamper-proof and functioning locomotive door locks, "keyed" or electronic safeguards that limit locomotive operation to licensed train and engine workers, or train scheduling and dispatching that restricts the stopping of trains to well-lighted and protected areas. CSX is starting to respond by helping coordinate a cooperative security venture with other carriers and law enforcement agencies to increase security around interchanges and loops in New Orleans.

---

**(VIII.) From the Desk of [Investigator Herb Wooten](#):**

Secretary of Rail and Public Transportation, Thelma Drake, is hopeful the new train from [Norfolk to Richmond, Virginia](#) will be a success when it gets going in 2013. The \$93 million rail project [will connect Norfolk to Richmond for the first time in over three decades](#). The train would leave Harbor Park early in the morning, with Richmond as the first stop at the Staple Mills Station. The train would continue to Washington and beyond, eventually all the way to Boston. A train would return to Norfolk later in the day.

---

**(VIII.) Get one of our Free Consumer Reports/Guides Free Via Email Today!**

Our attorneys are consistently adding new consumer guides/reports in our website library devoted to relevant injury law topics. Order one or more today...

- [Best Guide to Car Accident Injuries in Virginia, A Book Telling What You Need to Know if Hurt in a Car](#)
- [Best Guide to Car Accident Injuries in North Carolina, A Book Telling What You Need to Know if Hurt in a Car](#)
- [What You Must Know About Claims on Behalf of An Injured Minor/Child](#)
- [Best Guide to Truck Accident Injuries: Read Before Talking to Any Adjuster](#)
- [Top Ten Tips from Experienced Medical Malpractice Lawyers](#)
- [Dangerous Drugs: Yaz, Yasmin, and Ocella Birth Control Pills Cause Blood Clots, Stroke, and Even Death](#)
- [Surgeries Gone Wrong: The Top 5 Surgical Errors and how NOT to Become a Victim](#)
- [What You Need To Know About Uninsured/Barely Insured Drivers: Secrets To Protecting Yourself If They Injure You In A Car Accident](#)
- [Eyes on the Road: Common Factors Leading to Distracted Driving](#)
- [What You Need To Do If You Are Hurt in an Airplane Accident](#)
- [What Railroad Claim Agents Won't Tell You \(But You Must Know\)](#)
- [Do's & Don'ts When Injured at a Railroad--The Railroad Worker's FELA Rights](#)

**About the Editors:** "All We Do Is Injury Law" at [Shapiro, Cooper Lewis & Appleton](#) . We have a proven track record of success for our injury clients, and you can review our [case results](#) to see for yourself. Our personal injury law firm has the highest rating of AV from Martindale-Hubbell, a national lawyer ranking organization, which means we have a reputation for preeminent legal skill. In addition, two of the firm's injury attorneys are listed for injury law practice areas in "[The Best Lawyers In America](#)" (2010) and three lawyers are listed as Virginia "[Super Lawyers](#)" (2010).

We provide FREE injury case consultations, so call us toll free at 1-800-752-0042. We edit the [Virginia Beach Injuryboard](#), [Norfolk Injuryboard](#) and [Northeast North Carolina Injuryboard](#) blogs as a public information service. We also host other focused injury law blogs: [Virginia Trucking Accidents/Injury Lawyers Blog](#), [Railroad/FELA Injury Attorneys Blog](#), [Virginia-North Carolina Medical Malpractice Lawyers Blog](#), and [Eastern Shore Virginia Accident Attorneys Blog](#). [Our injury attorneys also host an extensive injury law video library on Youtube](#).

