

SPRING 2024

TREMONT SHELDON P.C.



Rear End Collision Yields \$175,000 through Mediation



Attorney Tim Ramsey successfully recovered \$175,000 in a motor vehicle collision case. The plaintiff, a young woman, was at a stop for traffic when she was struck by two vehicles from behind. As a result of the collision, the plaintiff suffered injuries to her neck and back. The insurance company initially offered \$11,000 to resolve the case. After a lengthy mediation with a judge, the insurance company agreed to settle the case for \$175,000.

18 Times Initial Offer for Motor Vehicle Case



Tremont Sheldon P.C. successfully recovered over 18 times the amount of the insurance company's initial offer in a case involving the negligent operation of a motor vehicle. In this case, the plaintiff had a long history of prior spinal and neurological disorders. She suffered aggravations to these conditions when an oncoming vehicle turned directly into her car as she was driving in a parking lot. The insurance company initially offered only \$3,000 to resolve the case. Attorney Frank Bailey was able to distinguish our client's pre-crash condition from her current condition and the insurance company ultimately agreed to settle the case for \$56,000.



Case Was Settled in Less Than One Week After Receiving the File

In this case, the plaintiff injured in a motor vehicle collision originally had another law firm handling his case. However, he was not happy with the lack of progress in his case. He came to Jason Tremont for a second opinion and hired Tremont Sheldon. Jason reviewed the file and immediately knew it was worth the insurance policy limits. Jason filed an appearance in the court case and made a demand of the policy to the experienced defense attorney with whom Jason had gone against many times in over thirty years. In less than one week of getting the file, the insurance company settled for the full amount of the policy limits.

Car Insurance Costs – What You Need to Know and How to Protect Your Family

According to a CNBC article¹, skyrocketing auto insurance costs have significantly contributed to the acceleration of inflation in March and are negatively affecting consumers.

Car insurance prices are rising almost 3% per month or 22% compared year over year. The rising insurance costs come at a time when new and used car prices are at a historic high since the onset of COVID in 2020. Further, auto insurance rates have been steadily rising since December 2021 with a cumulative increase of 45%.

In addition, repairing vehicles has become more expensive due to additional technologies and advanced safety features (such as sensors and cameras) which have now caused even the most basic repairs to go through the roof. A simple bumper repair can now be over \$1000 due to these safety features.

“There’s not a single factor, but I think the biggest factor is a combination of new cars and more expensive, so if you total your car the replacement cost is really high and a fender bender is very expensive right now,” said Sean Tucker, senior editor at vehicle valuation and automotive research company Kelley Blue Book. “The technology in the cars, it’s a very specific problem.”

Instead of having to replace a plastic or steel bumper on many vehicles, a simple fender bender can now damage cameras, proximity sensors, and varying other technologies used for newer safety features and tools such as cruise control, parking, and emergency braking.

J.D. Power’s study found the cost increases have led to a more than 20-year low in customer satisfaction with auto insurance companies. “Overall customer satisfaction with auto insurers has plummeted this year, as insurers and drivers come face to face with the realities of the economy,” Mark Garrett, director of insurance intelligence at J.D. Power, said in a June release.



With the increased cost of insurance, consumers might be tempted to reduce their coverage to save money. You should always have enough uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage that will protect you and your family if you are the victim of a catastrophic collision. If you reduce these coverages to the minimal level (\$25,000/\$50,000) it may not be sufficient to compensate you and your personal assets may be at risk if you are seriously injured by an uninsured driver (hit and run, stolen car, non-permissive user of vehicle) or a driver without enough liability coverage to fully compensate you for your injuries. For the same reasons, you should never reduce your uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage to less than your liability coverage.

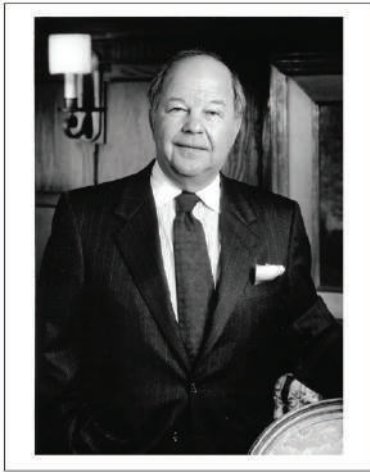
If you have any questions about auto insurance, please feel free to contact us.

¹ Why Car Insurance Costs are Skyrocketing, Leading to Higher Inflation (CNBC.com), Michael Wayand, April 11, 2024



Pedestrian Was Blamed at First for Accident – Until the Video Was Obtained by Tremont Sheldon

One day last June, Tom was struck by a car as he was legally crossing East Main Street at its intersection with Maple Street in Bridgeport, CT. The police thought that Tom had walked into the vehicle, so they did not take action against the driver. Attorney Frank Bailey filed suit to obtain a video of the collision which was recorded on a security camera of a nearby medical group. With the film, there was no doubt that the driver was completely at fault for the collision and the insurer quickly offered the full amount of the insurance coverage.



In memory of
T. Paul Tremont

August 20, 1933 – March 4, 1999

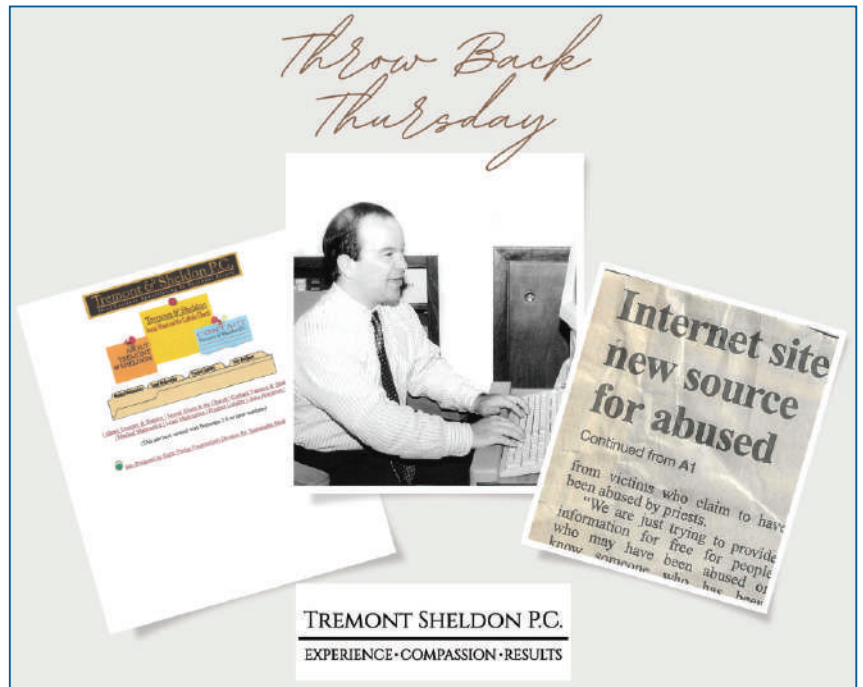
In memory of T. Paul Tremont, our founder, mentor, and friend who passed away 25 years ago. Although he is no longer with us, we still hold on to his lessons and teachings as they continue to guide us. T. Paul Tremont was a fierce litigator who took great pride in representing those who were not heard and in taking on cases that no one else would.

We remember him for his sharp wit, intellectual prowess (he finished Georgetown Law in 2 years), and his affection for his clients. Being a Greek immigrant raised in a cold water flat (with no running hot water) in Bridgeport, he excelled at Fairfield University before heading to law school in Washington D.C. and later returning to his hometown. Paul was not only an incredible attorney who received numerous awards and honors in his lifetime, but also an amazing cook who loved to entertain and welcome everyone into his home.

We continue his legacy by giving the T. Paul Tremont award through the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association, supporting a library fund at Fairfield University in his name and, most importantly, through our work with clients in the Bridgeport community.

Throwback to 1996!

Attorney Jason Tremont believed it was crucial to connect with and provide information to survivors of clergy abuse in the early '90s. However, at that time, the Internet was just beginning to be widely used and Facebook was still eight years away from its launch. To develop a tool for these survivors, Jason traveled to New York City to find a firm that could help. This was such an innovative approach that we were featured in many news articles and press releases. We continue to represent survivors and are proud to support them in feeling heard and validated.



CAR RENTAL TIPS –

Should you purchase the insurance? Yes if...

Your auto insurance does not cover certain vehicles, such as moving trucks. Or you are traveling for business and your company does not have rental car insurance. Here, your individual auto insurance policy won't cover you if you are renting a vehicle for business purposes.

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AREAS OF PRACTICE

All Personal Injury Claims Including:

- Car/Motorcycle Accidents • Child Sexual Abuse • Medical Malpractice
- Falls • Dog Bites • Workers' Compensation.

For a complete list, please visit our website.