

THE WARREN REPORT

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August 2024

Physics Experiments Help Injured Client to Win Settlement

It's not often that a physics professor would figure into one of the Warren Firm's cases. But that is exactly what happened with one of our recently concluded cases, which reached settlement in part thanks to the expertise and experimental findings of Dr. Louis Bloomfield.

Our client was involved in a car accident in 2019. She was slowing down to stop at an intersection behind a stopped vehicle when a third vehicle collided with her car from behind, pushing her car forward and into the vehicle in front. Our client suffered multiple broken ribs and a heel fracture, and all told, her medical expenses for the injuries totaled nearly \$42,000. She was also out of work for three and a half months, missing out on \$13,000 of her regular income.

The Warren Firm took her case, but a complication developed: the driver of the stopped car testified that she felt our client's vehicle collide with her car two times, not just once. Attorneys for the driver of the car that rear-ended our client's car argued that this second collision was due to our client's failure to slow and stop appropriately and was not the

fault of their client alone. Under Virginia law, an injured person cannot make any monetary recovery if they did anything at all to cause their own injury. This meant that, if our client had been driving irresponsibly, her case would be dismissed, and she would not recover any of her medical costs or missed income.

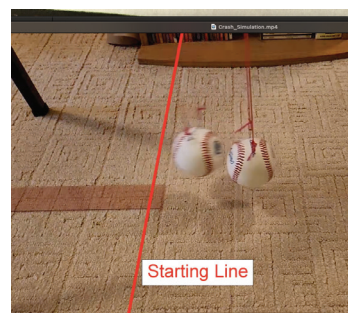
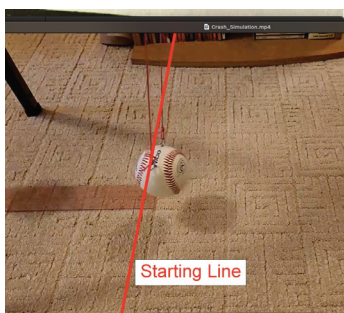
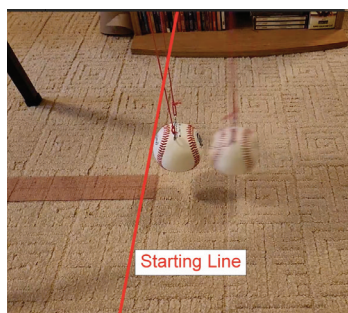
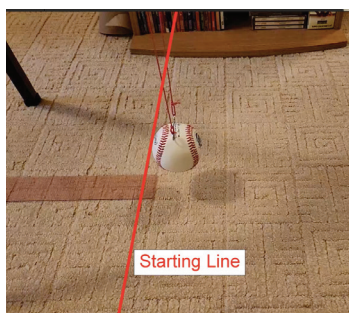
This threw a wrench into the case, but, in a stroke of luck, our attorneys were introduced to Lou Bloomfield, a physics professor who taught at U.Va. for decades and had recently retired. Dr. Bloomfield conducted a series of simple experiments that helped move our client's case along and show that, given the laws of physics, she had most likely not contributed to the accident.



Professor Lou Bloomfield

EXPERIMENT NO. 1

Dr. Bloomfield's first experiment used a pair of baseballs suspended by wires, such that they rest near each other at a Start Line. The first ball (on the left in the photos) was left hanging, while the second ball (on the right) was pulled back and released, striking the stopped ball and sending it forward. But the second ball also kept moving forward, ahead of the Start Line, leading to a second collision between the balls.

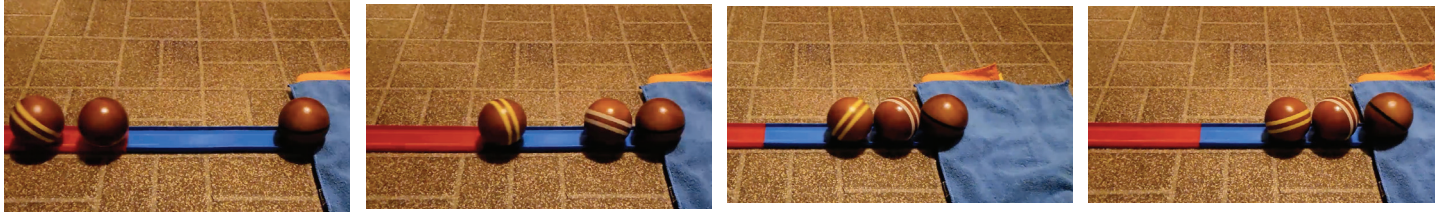


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Physics Experiments (Continued)

EXPERIMENT NO. 2

His second experiment used a trio of croquet balls on a track, with the front two balls spaced apart. When the rearmost ball was sent rolling into the middle ball, the middle ball hit the frontmost ball, then bounced off it. The middle ball rolled backward, striking the rear ball and then bouncing off and hitting the frontmost ball again.



These two experiments demonstrated how speeding by the rear car alone would produce a “double tap” collision between the front two cars, without the middle driver speeding or otherwise driving irresponsibly. This was also consistent with the testimony of the driver in the frontmost car, who said she felt a strong initial collision followed by a second, weaker collision.

With these experiments in hand, Dr. Bloomfield wrote an explanation of the 2019 car accident that supported our client’s claim to have been driving responsibly, applying the brakes at the time of the accident. He also agreed to serve as a witness when the case went to trial, to explain his findings and the

physics behind them to a jury of non-physicists. This happens to be something of a specialty for Dr. Bloomfield, who for decades taught a course called “How Things Work” to thousands of U.Va. undergrads, most of whom were not science majors, and many of whom had never studied physics before.

This expert analysis from Dr. Bloomfield encouraged the other side to settle the case without a trial. After years of waiting, our client was finally able to recover the costs of her medical care and lost wages.

If you’d like to learn more about physics, Dr. Bloomfield has many videos on his “lab3e” YouTube channel, many of which are from his legendary “How Things Work” course.

“So You’re 18” from the Virginia State Bar

This is the start of a new series of reviews of free stuff. The Warren Firm has their own free articles and books on handling personal injury, but other firms and organizations have their own free resources that can help you navigate important situations in life.

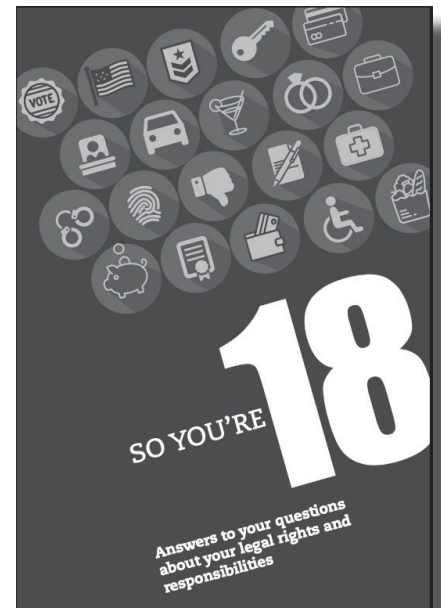
In the U.S., turning 18 is significant in many ways. It’s the age when citizens can vote in federal and state elections, the age when the military draft would apply, and generally the age when people are considered legal adults. It’s crucial to know exactly how your responsibilities, rights, and obligations change when you turn 18, and there are lots of rumors that circulate about those changes.

The Virginia State Bar (VSB) has put together a fabulous free booklet for just that purpose, appropriately titled “So You’re 18.” The VSB is

the professional organization for all attorneys who practice in the state, so the booklet is up to date with current Virginia laws and regulations.

The booklet holds answers to a ton of questions, including:

- Can I vote in the city where I go to college?
- Are all 18-year-old males still required to register with the Selective Service System?
- What happens if I get too many traffic tickets?
- When I apply for a job, can my potential employer review my social media listings?
- If I’m called to serve on a jury, do I have to go?
- When should I go see a lawyer?
- What are some general rules to follow when asked to sign a contract?



While it’s not a substitute for specific legal advice from an attorney, the “So You’re 18” booklet is a great reference. It’s one more tool in the adulting toolbox for young adults!

WATERMELON SANDWICHES

Yes! Watermelon sandwiches. Really. Watermelon is the sweet, juicy essence of summertime, and a lot of folks just eat it as-is, in slices or cubes. But online foodies have recently taken to promoting the “watermelon sandwich,” where sliced watermelon takes the place of bread. These preparations often involve some sort of cheese or spread, a leafy green, and a tangy element, usually some sort of pickle or sauce.

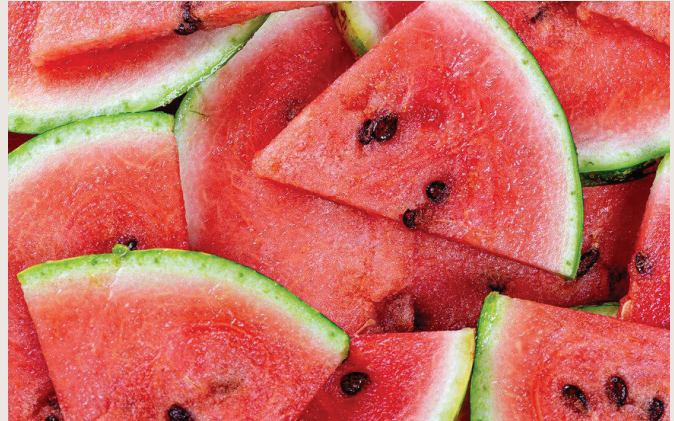
While there are dozens of watermelon sandwich recipes to be found online, this one comes from watermelon.org, the website of the National Watermelon Promotion Board (NWPB), an industry group for watermelon farmers and purveyors. As the NWPB notes, this recipe is gluten-free: there’s no grain-based bread!

Ingredients:

- 8 slices watermelon, white and green rind removed, ½ inch thick
- 2 cups bread and butter pickles, preferably sandwich-stacking-style
- 2 cups chopped fresh basil leaves
- 16 slices fresh mozzarella cheese, ¼ inch thick

Directions:

1. Divide the bread and butter pickles in an even



- layer over 4 of the slices of watermelon.
2. Sprinkle the basil over the pickles.
3. Place an even layer of cheese over the basil, using four slices per sandwich.
4. Place a second slice of watermelon atop each sandwich.
5. Using two decorative picks each, secure the sandwiches together such that you can cut them diagonally into 2 pieces.

If you want to get the very most out of your watermelon, the NWPB has an entire page of recipes that use watermelon rind! There’s watermelon rind slaw, rind stir-fries, baked items, candied rind, and, of course, multiple styles of watermelon pickle.



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5.0 ★★★★★

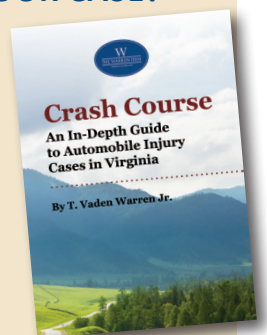
“Mr. Warren, thank you so much for your hard work and dedication! After my injury, I consulted with several local attorneys. Not one of them thought I had a case worth handling. I almost gave up. A final online search led me to [Vaden]. He gave me hope. He never stopped working for me. In my heart I know that I could search in my new home state for the rest of my life and never find another Vaden Warren.” – B. Nightingale

DO YOU EVEN NEED AN ATTORNEY FOR YOUR CASE?

This question, and many more, like, “What steps do I take after a car accident?” and “How will insurance companies try to take advantage of me?” are answered in my FREE book, *Crash Course: An In-Depth Guide to Automobile Injury Cases in Virginia*. Being informed could mean the difference between a six-figure settlement and no case at all. Simply point your smart phone’s camera at the QR code on the right and it will take you to a page on our site where you can request a free e-book or hard copy!

FREE BOOK!

Just scan this code with your phone.



We focus our practice on cases involving:
Personal Injury
Wrongful Death
Children's Injuries
Bicycle Accidents
Auto Accidents



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