



What Are We Celebrating on St. Patrick's Day?



St. Patrick's Day honors the accomplishments of a priest who, in the 5th century, dedicated his life to converting the Irish people from a nature-based pagan religion to Christianity. For hundreds of years, the Irish have observed St. Patrick's Day as a religious holiday. However, in recent decades, March 17 has turned into a secular celebration of Irish culture—complete with green beer and Irish whiskey. Today, St. Patrick's Day is one of the most alcohol-fueled days of the year, and drunk driving accidents increase dramatically as people overindulge and get behind the wheel. Learn more about [your rights after a drunk driving accident](#) here.

FMCSA Makes Groundbreaking Rule to Prevent Truck Crashes



The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) recently published a final rule to help ensure that commercial truck and bus drivers are safe and sober. This rule, which has a compliance date of January 2020, establishes a national [database to store drug and alcohol violations for commercial truck and bus drivers](#). Once the database has been created, carriers across the country will be required to identify drivers who have tested positive for drugs or alcohol, and to search the database before employing new drivers.

Bellwether Cases to Be Chosen for Bair Hugger Lawsuit



Patients who suffered serious infections caused by Bair Hugger blankets will soon know what to expect in court. Over 800 [Bair Hugger lawsuits](#) against 3M and Arizant Healthcare have been consolidated into a multidistrict litigation (MDL), and the judge in the case has ordered the selection of eight “bellwether” cases to be completed by March, 2017. Bellwether cases are used to establish the major issues and injuries associated with the claims, and often predict the outcome of the litigation.

Plaintiffs Granted MDL Status for Invokana Lawsuits



Victims who have suffered the [dangerous side effects of Invokana](#) will stand together against Janssen Pharmaceuticals. Over fifty cases have been consolidated into a multidistrict litigation (MDL) alleging that Janssen and its parent company, Johnson & Johnson, failed to test the drug and warn the public about its risks. Plaintiffs in an MDL can greatly benefit by consolidation, as it allows them to undergo pre-trial procedures in a single court while retaining all of their rights. In addition, an MDL allows each individual plaintiff to receive the full award of his or her case.