

SOUCIE LAW NEWS

OCTOBER 2009

We Care and We Can Help

ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR • FIRM NEWS • MOTORCYCLE TIPS

FRED SOUCIE NAMED AN ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR BY *Minnesota Lawyer*

Fred Soucie walked off the deck of a clam boat and into an office to start practicing law in Anoka in 1978. Last year, *Minnesota Lawyer* named Fred an Attorney of the Year in Minnesota. Fred was selected because of his outstanding reputation in the legal community, and his track record of obtaining multimillion dollar verdicts and settlements for accident victims in 2008.

Several verdicts and settlements recognized by *Minnesota Lawyer* were: an \$8 million dollar verdict against a drunk driver; settlements of \$2.8 million, \$1.8 million, and \$1 million for victims of motor-vehicle collisions; and a \$2 million settlement for the victim of an assault. *Minnesota Lawyer* also recognized the pro bono work that Fred did for the victims of the 35W bridge collapse.

Fred is caring and compassionate with each of his clients. He takes his work as a *Warrior for Justice* very seriously. The result he achieves shows the quality of the work he does for each of the firm's clients.



FRED SOUCIE OBTAINS \$8,000,000 VERDICT FOR CLIENT INJURED BY DRUNK DRIVER

After a three-week trial, an Anoka County jury returned a verdict for Ron and Rosa Jones. Ron was seriously injured when a drunk driver crashed into another car, which then struck Ron while he was riding his motorcycle. Ron sustained life threatening and disabling injuries in the crash. The jury awarded more than \$8,000,000 to compensate the Jones' for their losses.

Ron went from being a black belt in karate to using a black cane to get around. His recovery was long and arduous. Rosa remembers, "Ron was in the hospital for basically six months, and then after that he went back for many surgeries. Over the next three years he was in and out of the hospital." Everyday tasks like driving and walking up stairs are a challenge for Ron.

Fred understood the issues the family would face, and made every effort to

hold the wrongdoers responsible for their actions. Reflecting on the experience with Fred, Rosa remarked that, "he was in this with us to be an advocate for us. He wasn't in it just to promote himself. He wasn't in it just for a paycheck. He was in it because he really cared. And he wanted to do whatever he could do to make our lives less hassle."

Ron and Rosa were glad they found Fred and would recommend him to anyone that needed a personal injury attorney. Rosa felt like "we were not just a client, we were people." Rosa observed "for someone who never desired to be in a legal situation, I am so happy that we had Fred instead of someone where you're another case number."

The case is now in the appellate phase.

SOUCIE LAW
FOR THE INJURED

FIRM NEWS

For over 30 years, Fred Soucie has been serving the community as a humble servant of justice. During that time, we've all experienced change and growth. With those thoughts in mind, Fred is pleased to announce the transformation of the firm to Soucie Law.

Attorneys Fred Soucie, Terry Peterson, and Matt Steinbrink will provide unparalleled legal representation for the injured through hard work, tenacity, and compassion. Fred's contributions and accomplishments to the legal profession and the community are replete with successes and acts of kindness. Terry has over 26 years of experience in personal injury litigation, and is tenaciously committed to serving the firm's clients. Matt is a brilliant young lawyer with several years of experience representing the injured and an Iron Range work ethic.

Our attorneys couldn't do the work they do without a first-rate team supporting them. The firm is fortunate to have paralegals Shannon Frakie, Sandy Seim, and Angela Wandersee on its side supporting the fight for the injured. Maureen Obitz, Sharyl Shaw, Julie Seckler, and Anita Velasco also provide support services that make sure the cases at the firm progress steadily and smoothly. We are blessed with this wonderful staff, all of whom truly care about our clients.

Thanks to all of you that have allowed us the privilege of representing you. We look forward to the opportunity to provide you and your loved ones with the best legal representation in obtaining justice for the injured, and for those who have lost a loved one.

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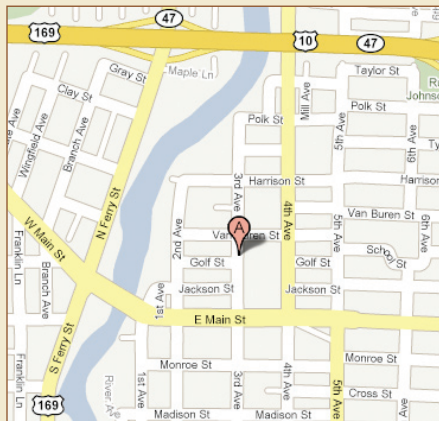
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We Care and We Can Help

MOTORCYCLE TIPS AND SAFETY

Some of the worst injuries we see at Soucie Law are motorcyclists hurt by inattentive drivers. It's important to follow Minnesota motorcycle laws and practice safe riding practices. Please wear your helmet.

All motorcyclists must:

- Have a motorcycle instruction permit or endorsement.
- Register their motorcycle and display a valid license plate.
- Carry liability insurance for the bike and proof of insurance when riding.
- Wear eye protection—either a face shield, goggles, or glasses. Windshields alone do not meet the requirements.

Motorcyclists rights and responsibilities:

- Riders are entitled to the full use of their lane and have the rights and responsibilities of other drivers.
- Riders can use the high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes.
- All laws pertaining to driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol apply to riders.
- Passengers under 18 must wear a DOT-approved helmet.
- Passengers must be able to reach both foot pegs while seated.



- Operators and passengers must face forward with one leg on each side of the motorcycle.
- Motorcyclists must not carry anything that interferes with holding onto the handle bars.

Insurance coverage for motorcycles:

- In most cases, your auto policy **WILL NOT** afford you coverage for injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident.
- Ask your insurance agent if you can purchase **personal injury protection (PIP) benefits on your motorcycle policy.**
- Make sure your motorcycle policy has **UM/UIM coverage of at least \$250,000.**
- If you have an umbrella policy, ask your agent if it provides coverage for you if you are injured in a cycle crash.