



HODGES TRIAL LAWYERS, P.C.

*A quarterly newsletter for friends and clients of our firm.*

## General Motors ignores Deadly Defect on Seven Models for over a Decade

Engineers at General Motors (GM) discovered an ignition switch defect in 2001. This defect has been linked to at least 12 deaths and 17 injuries dating back to 2005.

Finally, in February 2014, GM recalled over 1.6 million vehicles. The affected vehicles are 2005-2007 Chevrolet Cobalt and Pontiac G5; 2006-2007 HHR and Pontiac Solstice; 2003-2007 Saturn Ion; 2007 Saturn Sky vehicles; and the 2005-2006 Pursuit sold exclusively in Canada.

The ignition switch is loose which causes it to move from "run" to "accessory" or "off" while the vehicle is driving. Complaints have indicated that the switch can change positions

from events as simple as a person's knee can bump a dangling key ring, hitting a bump in the road, trying to tilt the steering wheel, or even the slightest touch of the ignition switch by the driver.

When the ignition switch moves the driver experiences sudden loss of power, including power steering and antilock brakes and airbags are disabled. This means that a driver, without warning, will have to try and control a car that has no power, limited steering and braking abilities, and the threat of being without airbags if a crash occurs. If you feel you have experienced this type of event in your GM vehicle, contact our office to discuss your options.



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## Kourtney's Korner

### "CAN MY RECORD BE CLEARED?"

Recent changes in the Alabama legislature can provide a way for persons charged, but not convicted, of non-violent felonies or misdemeanors to expunge or essentially erase those charges. Historically, all criminal charges, including dismissals and acquittals, remained on your public record. With the new expungement laws, traffic violations, municipal ordinances, misdemeanors and violations may be erased if the charge was dismissed with prejudice, the person was found not guilty, the charge was dismissed without prejudice and two years have lapsed or the charge was given a no-bill by the grand jury. Additionally, non-violent felonies may be expunged if the charge was dismissed with prejudice, the person was found not guilty, the charge was given a no-bill by the grand jury, the person successfully completed a diversion program or the five years have lapsed after the charge was dismissed with prejudice. For more information on this procedure, please contact us.

## Jeremiah named to Super Lawyers!

For the fourth straight year, Jeremiah Hodges has been named as a Super Lawyer Rising Star. Mr. Hodges was quoted as saying, "it is always an honor to be recognized for your work by your peers and these type of accolades do make you feel good. But the work we do in getting satisfactory results for our clients is much more meaningful than any award that can be given."

## Jack's Pool Safety Rules

1. Always swim with a buddy; never swim alone!
2. Never leave a young child like Jack unattended near water.
3. Take a CPR course and learn how to spot the signs of drowning.
4. Avoid alcohol use when swimming. Alcohol impairs judgement, balance, and affects swimming ability.
5. Be as serious as Jack about pool safety.



*Jack McFalls, Tim's son*

## WE APPRECIATE YOUR REFERRALS

There is no higher honor than being recommended by a former client. Please feel free to refer us to your family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors for their legal needs. We would welcome the opportunity to help people that you know.

## Love for Ansley - By Jeremiah M. Hodges

I had the privilege recently to meet a sweet little girl that is raising money for her beloved friend Ansley. Haven Hill, and her mom Scarlett Frost-Hill, are selling t-shirts and pink bracelets to help Ansley, a beautiful young lady diagnosed with Stage 3 Rhabdomyosarcoma. You really cannot say no to Haven.

I met Haven at a fitness fundraiser to help raise money for Ansley. I thought it would be a chance to get some exercise and help a worthy cause. But something about Haven really touched me. She was incredibly matter of fact about her goals to help her friend and why it mattered. I truly appreciated her initiative and compassion. Perhaps we could all learn lessons from both of these young women about tenacity,

caring for others, and getting involved.

Please help Ansley if you can. You can learn more by contact me, "Love for Ansley" on Facebook, or going to <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/ansleyabigail/mystory>.



## Upside-down strawberry pie

Pastry for one single crust pie

- 2 egg whites
- 1/2 tsp of vanilla
- 1/4 tsp cream of tartar
- 3/4 c sugar
- 3 c fresh strawberries
- 3 tbsp cornstarch
- 1 c whipping cream

Line a 9-inch pie plate with crust, flute; bake at 450 degrees for 10-12 minutes. For meringue, beat whites, vanilla and cream of tartar till soft peaks form, add 1/4 c sugar and beat till stiff peaks form. Spread on crust. Bake at 350 degrees for 12 minutes. Mash berries, add water to measure 2 cups. Combine 1/2 c sugar and cornstarch, add berries. Cook and stir over medium heat until bubbly, cook 2 minutes more. Cool, spread over meringue, chill. Spread whipped cream and top with sliced strawberries.

## Our Attorneys



**JEREMIAH M. HODGES**

Jeremiah graduated from the University of Alabama School of Law. He has concentrated his practice in the areas of severe personal injury and civil litigation.



**TIMOTHY M. MCFALLS**

Tim graduated from the University of Alabama School of Law. He focuses on helping people who have been injured, people hurt at work, and those denied social security disability benefits.



**KOURTNEY I. BALLEW**

Kourtney graduated from the University of Mississippi School of Law. She focuses her practice on representing those facing divorce and family law issues and those accused of criminal conduct.

## Testosterone Treatment & Risperdal

Our firm is investigating claims of men who experienced a stroke, heart attack, pulmonary embolism, blood clots and other dangerous side effects as a result of taking testosterone supplements. Testosterone treatment increases the risk of heart attack for men under 65 with a history of heart disease, and for men 65 or older regardless of heart history. Supplemental testosterone medications include: **Axiron, Bio-T-Gel, Delatestryl, Forestra, Testim, Androderm, Depo-Testosterone, Striant, Testopel, and Androgel.**

We are also investigating claims relating to side effects after using **Risperdal**, a drug linked to breast tissue enlargement. **Risperdal** has been associated with an increase in levels of a hormone called prolactin. In females, this can

cause galactorrhea, or production of milk. In males, excessive prolactin can cause a condition called gynecomastia.

Our attorneys are looking into these types of claims and want to help. Please call if you or a loved one has been affected.



Alabama Bar Association rules require the following disclaimer: no representation is made that the quality of legal services to be provided is greater than the quality of legal services to be performed by other attorneys.



HODGES TRIAL LAWYERS, P.C.

200 West Side Square, Suite 309

Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Phone: 256-539-3110 | Fax: 256-539-3212

Outside Alabama: 888-539-3110

[www.Twitter.com/injurylawyerAL](http://www.Twitter.com/injurylawyerAL)

[www.Facebook.com/HodgesTrialLawyers](http://www.Facebook.com/HodgesTrialLawyers)

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