

PHSM



Experienced Trial Attorneys Who Will Fight for You

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PHSM

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Pierce, Hems, Sloan and McLeod, LLC

Mission Statement

It is our goal to provide superior legal services to each client in a professional and efficient manner. Through our trial experience, extensive legal knowledge and association with experts in the field, we are able to provide concise solutions to complex problems.

Importance of Truck Drivers to Properly Maintain Brakes

Every time a truck driver gets behind the wheel of an 18-wheeler, he has a responsibility to thoroughly check his brakes to ensure they are in a safe condition. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations require that an 18-wheeler cannot be operated unless the driver is satisfied that the brakes and other accessories are in good working order. It is both the driver and the trucking company's duty to ensure that all brakes are in a safe and appropriate condition.

One of the most crucial elements in brake maintenance is proper adjustment of the slack adjusters. The use of proper slack adjusters is vital to ensuring that the truck's brakes are working properly despite the inevitable

South Carolina Trial Lawyers

Founded in 1999, the law office of Pierce, Hems, Sloan and McLeod, LLC, is a boutique litigation law firm that is dedicated to serving the needs of its clients. We represent clients ranging from injured individuals to insurance companies and corporations.

Although we are based in South Carolina, we provide qualified legal services and advice to clients in all state and federal courts nationwide. We have represented individuals and corporations in at least 30 different states. For experienced assistance, contact our Charleston, South Carolina, lawyers today.

deterioration of brake linings. If brakes, and slack adjusters in particular, are not properly maintained, they can cause serious instability to an 18-wheeler.

If one or more of the truck's brakes are not working properly, the other brakes are forced to over-compensate creating instability in the truck, if the brakes on the right side of the truck are not working, but the brakes on the left side of the truck are working, it creates a substantial imbalance. Often this results in the extremely dangerous, and many times lethal, situation in which the truck rolls onto its side putting the truck driver and all other motorists at extreme risk.

The attorneys at PHSM are able to evaluate and analyze all aspects of your trucking claim to ensure it is positioned for an optimal outcome.

PHSM



M. Todd Rainsford

COLLECTION CASES

At Pierce, Hems, Sloan and McLeod, LLC, attorney Todd Rainsford is experienced in all types of collection cases, including mechanics' liens. He currently represents large and small companies obtaining judgments and collecting judgments for accounts receivable. If you are a business owner and need assistance collecting outstanding bills, please let us help you. Todd is a graduate of USC Law School and was a clerk for the honorable John C. Hayes III. For help with a collections case, please contact Todd Rainsford at Pierce, Hems, Sloan and McLeod, LLC.

Tire Defects

Many tire defects and tire tread separation failures at highway speeds can cause a car, truck, van or SUV to lose control and roll over. Serious injuries and deaths resulting from these rollover accidents are the basis for many tire failure lawsuits against the manufacturers of the defective tires.

Tire manufacturers have known that a leading cause of tread separation is due to the design and placement of certain belts, safety piles and the overlying tread. Tread and belt separations can also occur from poor adhesion of the tire components during the manufacturing process. Tire failures resulting in blowouts, tread separations, belt separations and sudden loss of tire pressure drastically increases a vehicle's chance to roll over. This danger is compounded even further in top-heavy vehicles, such as SUVs,

because they sit higher above the road than other cars. Sport utility vehicles are far more prone to rollovers for having a higher center of gravity.

Whether in a car, truck, van or SUV, vehicle rollovers are often the most dangerous crashes to be involved in. Many single vehicle wrecks and rollover accidents occur each year due to tire tread separations, blowouts, tread loss, sidewall failures, detreading and other types of tire failures. Some tires fail due to poor design or manufacture and from common road hazards. Sadly, when a tire failure occurs at highway speeds, it can lead to a crash or rollover wreck with catastrophic results.

If you believe your tire failure and wreck were due to a defective tire, then contact Jason A. Daigle at Pierce, Hems, Sloan and McLeod, LLC.



Nursing Home Neglect: Tarnishing the Golden Years

Nearly everyone has been there: A friend or loved one has become too ill to care for himself or herself. The family cannot afford home health care, but there is a nursing home down the street waiting with open doors to accept the sick individual and his or her personal money or health insurance money in exchange for care. The administration and staff promise to take care of the aging loved one—they are engaging and compassionate during orientation, but what goes on once the family leaves and entrusts their loved one's care to them?

Many nursing homes follow through on their word and take quality care of their residents. Sadly, in other cases, the loved one receives care that is far from

adequate. This inadequate care results in unnecessary falls, hideous bed sores, improper nutrition and abuse, which could all result in paralysis or death. Many nursing homes tarnish the golden years of our loved ones through inadequate care by: routinely being understaffed, underpaying employees, resulting in poorly qualified health care providers and making poor decisions in life-threatening situations—all while the nursing home company is making millions in profits. The attorneys at Pierce, Hems, Sloan and McLeod are dedicated to representing those harmed by nursing home neglect and seek to deter future nursing home neglect through aggressive litigation. At Pierce, Hems, Sloan and McLeod, we feel it is important that this billion-dollar industry be held accountable for inadequate care and hope to raise the level of future care through our efforts.

Pierce, Hems, Sloan and McLeod, LLC
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Business Disputes

In the world of business, disputes involving two entities or more sometimes cannot be avoided. There will be times when a disagreement takes place and a need for compromise between parties comes about.

Failure to come to an agreement between partners or clients can be fatal to a business. This could mean loss of income or even bankruptcy. When a disagreement takes place, it is usually beneficial to contact a lawyer. There are various methods being used by lawyers to solve business disputes without going to court. Two of these methods are mediation and arbitration.

Mediation requires the parties to sit down and meet with a third party who guides them in achieving the proper solution to their dispute. The mediator only helps by weighing the strengths and weaknesses of both parties' arguments, and has no authority to decide for them. A high percentage of business disputes that go through the mediation process end up being resolved at the mediation.

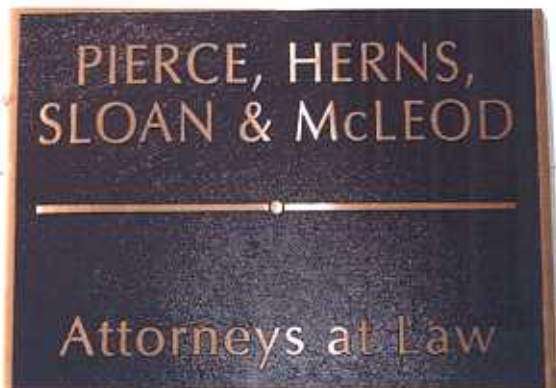
In arbitration, the arbitrator acts like a judge. In this method, parties submit to the arbitrator, a third party, their conflicting arguments and claims. After the hearing, the arbitrator makes a decision based on the law and usually chooses the solution given by the party who presented the strongest case. Parties are bound to follow the decisions of an arbitrator.

The attorneys at Pierce, Hems, Sloan and McLeod, LLC, are experienced and skilled at handling business disputes through mediation and arbitration. If you need assistance regarding a business dispute, contact David L. Barnes Jr. at Pierce, Hems, Sloan and McLeod.



Pierce, Hems, Sloan and McLeod, LLC, located in Charleston, South Carolina, serves clients in Charleston, Moncks Corner, Columbia, Myrtle Beach, Florence, Beaufort, Hilton Head, Greenville, Spartanburg, Anderson, Hartsville, Florence, Graniteville and Mount Pleasant. We also serve clients in the Tri County Area of Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester, as well as Aiken County, Beaufort County, Greenville County, Georgetown County, Colleton County, Jasper County, Horry County, Williamsburg County, Anderson County, Florence County, Sumter County, Richland County and Orangeburg County.

While based in South Carolina, we practice law in all State and Federal Courts throughout the United States. Our attorneys are licensed in South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Colorado and Washington State.



TRUCK ACCIDENTS

Partner Chip Sloan has handled over 45 serious truck accident cases against trucking companies involving a personal injury or wrongful death. He is the author of *Trucking Company Compliance with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations* which appeared in the *South Carolina Trial Lawyers Journal*. He teaches the continuing legal education course *Truck Accident Litigation from Start to Finish* in South Carolina to other members of the South Carolina Bar. Chip has appeared on *Charleston News Talk 94.3 FM* for a program entitled *Truck Driver Fatigue and the New DOT Hours of Service Rules*.

Please call us if you or someone you know is injured in an accident by any type of commercial vehicle.



Partner Allan P. Sloan III