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## Rouda Feder Tietjen & McGuinn Fall Newsletter

As school starts and the days become shorter, road safety becomes increasingly important. Our firm is committed to both promoting awareness that prevents accidents from happening around schools and on busy city streets and advocating for those who have been injured when crashes do occur.

Whether you're navigating San Francisco or your community, we encourage you to consider sustainable transportation options while prioritizing safety for yourself and others.

In our fall newsletter, we're highlighting recent cases, showcasing our community initiatives, and sharing insights to safely share roadways. You'll also find updates on our team's achievements and recommendations on what we've been reading and listening to lately.

### Tips for a Safer Bike Ride



Our firm understands the importance of feeling safe and protected when riding your bike around the city, and we are proud supporters of the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition.

**We have even been included on the coalition's list of "bicycle-friendly lawyers."**

[Learn more](#) about bike safety tips and what to do if you've been in an accident.

As you get ready to hop on your bike, keep these suggestions in mind:

1. Always wear a well-fitting helmet. Always keep it fastened while biking. 📖
2. Follow the rules of the road. Make predictable choices, communicating when you are turning and merging. 📖
3. Be visible. Wear bright, reflective colors and ensure you have activated lights on the front and back of your bike, especially at dusk and at night. 📖

### Legal Updates

#### New Lawsuit Against Uber Over Tesla Crash Caused by Unsafe Vehicle Conditions

Partner June Bashant filed a lawsuit against Uber, exposing the company's failure to enforce essential vehicle safety standards after an Uber driver crashed a Tesla Model Y on a rain-slicked highway in Contra Costa County.

While heading to the airport in heavy rain, a couple sustained serious injuries after their rideshare driver lost control of the vehicle—later found to have dangerously worn tires. The case highlights the risks passengers face when rideshare companies do not properly inspect vehicles.

#### \$1 Million Settlement for Workplace Accident Victim

Partner Loren Schwartz secured a \$1 million settlement for a client who sustained a severe leg injury while helping relocate a large safe at work. The client, a father of three, suffered a shattered tibial plateau, resulting in significant pain, medical costs, and time away from work.

Through a thorough investigation, Loren uncovered critical safety failures and miscommunication on-site, allowing RFTM to hold the responsible party accountable and help the client move forward with meaningful financial support.

### Firm Happenings



#### Partner June Bashant in *Bloomberg Law*

Partner June Bashant published an op-ed in *Bloomberg Law* exploring how medical battery claims provide patients with recourse beyond the limitations of the California Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act (MICRA) when they are injured during a medical procedure. She explored the key differences between medical negligence claims, which are subject to the MICRA caps, and medical battery claims, which are not subject to the same limitations.

She also proposed reforms for medical providers that would help reduce instances of medical battery.

Read the piece here: [Medical Battery Claims Give California Patients Greater Recourse](#)

#### Partner Loren Schwartz in *The Daily Journal*

After speaking on the recovery of non-economic damages in survival actions at the [San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association's "Ski and CLE" event](#), partner Loren Schwartz published an op-ed in *The Daily Journal* addressing California's "death discount."

The legal paradox in California law once allowed negligent parties to escape full accountability when victims passed away. This paradox has been temporarily addressed, but the amendment ending the practice is set to expire after December 31, 2025. Loren highlights the urgent need for [Senate Bill 29](#) to permanently reform California's law and close this unjust loophole.

Read the piece here: [The "Death Discount": Ending an Unjust Legal Paradox](#)

### Staff Spotlight: Cynthia McGuinn



**Meet one of our name partners!** Cynthia McGuinn has built an extraordinary reputation as a trial attorney with a remarkable ability to connect with jurors and simplify complex cases. Her courtroom skills have resulted in numerous eight-figure verdicts, including the largest personal injury verdict in Sonoma County history.

Cynthia's experience spans from representing industrial workers and professionals to advocating for those with catastrophic injuries and families in wrongful death cases. Beyond her casework, she serves as a trusted consultant to attorneys facing challenging trials.

Her leadership extends beyond our firm—in 2018, she was elected National President of the American Board of Trial Advocates, and in 2022, she received ABOTA's Trial Lawyer of the Year award.

When not in the courtroom or teaching trial advocacy at institutions like UC Berkeley and Harvard, Cynthia enjoys biking, skiing, and horseback riding.

[Learn More](#)

### What We're Reading & Listening To

📖 Loren Schwartz: I just finished reading *The Summer of 1787: The Men Who Invented the Constitution*. The Constitution is often treated with near-religious reverence, but the reality is that, far from being divinely inspired, the document itself was a product of political necessity and compromise on a number of sensitive issues. The book goes beyond many of the surface level details we learned in high school, providing a deep dive into the people who participated in the creation of the Constitution, the creators' interpersonal dynamics, and the compromises that were ultimately necessary to create a document that – even if not ideal – was palatable enough to garner the support of enough delegates to send to the States for ratification and create a lasting government for the United States. Buy it [here](#).

🎧 Check out partner John Feder on the *Coopers' Code* podcast. Learn about John's career as a titan of consumer advocacy for over 40 years and how his experiences shaped him into the attorney he is today. His combination of professional excellence and personal warmth makes him one of the most respected voices in the plaintiff's bar. Listen on [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), and [YouTube](#).



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