

The Zackery Lystedt Law Reaches All 50 States!



Victor, Zackery, and Mercedes Lystedt at Seattle Sports Commission Awards.

On May 14, 2009, Washington State Governor Christine Gregoire signed into law the Zackery Lystedt Law. This first-in-the-nation law, known as the Zackery Lystedt Law, prohibits the return to practice or game of a youth athlete suspected of sustaining a concussion without a licensed health-care provider’s written approval. The new law was hailed as the “most enlightened law to prevent preventable brain injuries in youth athletes in the United States.”

In less than 5 years, all 50 states and the District of Columbia have adopted much of the core principals of the Lystedt Law. This is the fastest growing public safety initiative to become law in all states, ever. For example, many states still don’t have seatbelt or helmet laws.

In 2006, Zackery Lystedt suffered a life-threatening brain injury while playing football on his middle school team on October 12, 2006. School coaches returned him to play in the game after he sustained a concussion, without first obtaining an evaluation by a licensed health care professional trained in the evaluation and management of concussion. After collapsing on the field at the end of the game, the young football star underwent emergency life-saving brain surgery at Harborview Medical Center. Zackery and his parents, Victor and Mercedes Lystedt, made it their mission to ensure that no other family has to experience what they have gone through. The Lystedts, along with their attorney Richard H. Adler, began a tireless campaign for a return to play law by building community partnerships,

public speaking, and drafting the Zackery Lystedt Law. They did not stop with the passage of the law in Washington, and have continued to raise awareness on the dangers of concussion and have continued to get the word out until the laws passed, nationwide.

Zackery is now 21 years old. He is still dependent on his wheelchair and spends countless hours each week in rehabilitation. He is attending school at Bellevue College.

What’s next? The Lystedts are pushing to bring the law to the US Congress and make the return to play safeguards federal law. With the support of key national organizations, including the NFL, CDC, USA Football, and the United States Brain Injury Alliance, the Lystedts believe it will happen. The law is also spreading on internationally, with Canada and Australia calling for interviews with the Lystedts, Richard H. Adler, and Dr. Stanley Herring, and the United Kingdom looking at it as well.

Recently Zack was awarded the *Seattle Children’s Inspirational Youth Award* by the Seattle Sports Commission. The 79th annual awards ceremony took place at Benaroya Hall. KIRO news anchor and voice of the Seattle Seahawks Steve Raible presented the award to Zack.

In April 2014, Zack and his parents, along with Richard H. Adler and Dr. Stanley Herring, will be the keynote speakers at the Washington State Traumatic Brain Injury Conference. For more information on how to attend, please visit www.tbiwashington.org. ♦

State	Signed by Governor
Washington	5/9/09
Oregon	6/18/09
New Mexico	3/9/10
Virginia	4/11/10
Oklahoma	5/13/10
Connecticut	5/19/10
Rhode Island	6/9/10
Massachusetts	7/8/10
New Jersey	12/7/10
Wyoming	3/10/11
South Dakota	3/17/11
Utah	3/21/11
Colorado	3/29/11
Iowa	4/7/11
Nebraska	4/14/11
Arizona	4/18/11
North Dakota	4/22/11
Indiana	5/10/11
Maryland	5/19/11
Kansas	5/25/11
Alaska	5/27/11
Minnesota	5/27/11
Nevada	5/31/11
Alabama	6/9/11
North Carolina	6/16/11
Texas	6/17/11
Louisiana	6/29/11
Missouri	7/8/11
District of Columbia	7/27/11
Illinois	7/28/11
Delaware	8/31/11
New York	9/17/11
California	10/4/11
Pennsylvania	11/10/11
Wisconsin	4/2/12
Idaho	4/3/12
Kentucky	4/12/12
Florida	4/27/12
Maine	5/21/12
New Hampshire	6/18/12
Hawaii	7/3/12
Michigan	10/23/12
Ohio	12/20/12
Arkansas	4/12/13
Tennessee	4/12/13
Montana	4/22/13
Georgia	4/23/13
West Virginia	5/29/13
Vermont	6/4/13
South Carolina	6/7/13
Mississippi	1/30/14

March is Brain Injury Awareness month. To find out how to become involved with the Brain Injury Alliance of Washington or to donate, visit www.biawa.org.



Calendar

January 29, 2014 The attorneys of Adler • Giersch, ps presented to insurance agents at Hub International in Bothell. The topics included personal, auto, family, homeowners, and the appropriate insurance coverage and amounts that protect their clients from reasonable and foreseeable risks.

March 5, 2014 The Brain Injury Alliance of Washington hosted a fundraiser event at Pyramid brewery in honor of Brain Injury Awareness Month. Several Adler • Giersch, ps staff members attended the event, including attorneys Richard H. Adler and Steven J. Anglés, Practice Development Coordinator, Kristin Cruse,

and Legal Administrator Patrice Roney (also serves as BIAWA’s Board President).

March 13-15, 2014 Richard H. Adler delivered the keynote presentation at the Annual Pacific Northwest Brain Injury Conference in Portland, Oregon, “Concussion Laws in the United States and the New Era in Brain Injury Awareness and Research.” Attorneys Steven J. Anglés, Melissa D. Carter, Jacob W. Gent, and



March 15, 2014 Keynote Presentation by Richard H. Adler at the Brain Injury Alliance of Oregon’s annual conference.

Arthur D. Leritz presented a workshop, “How Insurance Companies Challenge and Deny Mild Traumatic Brain Injury Cases (as told by former insurance attorneys).”

March 22, 2014 The attorneys of Adler • Giersch, ps will be presenting “Navigating the Personal Injury Claim for Healthcare Professionals,” a Continuing Education seminar for licensed healthcare professionals. The all-day seminar was held at the Bellevue Club/Hotel Bellevue.

March 27, 2014 Attorney Richard H. Adler will present to a group of insurance agency managers on personal, auto, family, homeowners and commercial liability insurance to ensure that the manager can properly educate their agents on selling the appropriate type and amount of coverage to protect their charts from reasonable and foreseeable risks.

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ADLER • GIERSCCH, PS SPOTLIGHT: Patrice Roney

Patrice Roney started at Adler • Giersch, ps law firm in 1987 over 27 years ago, fresh out of paralegal school. Patrice was quickly recognized as a promising and shining star within the firm. By 1990, Patrice became Legal Administrator and has been overseeing the policies and procedures of Adler • Giersch, ps ever since. Patrice is a big part of cultivating a unique and healthy firm culture of respect and team work. Known as “mom” by her adoring office mates, Patrice’s calm and confident demeanor sets the right tone in every situation. Patrice’s methodical human resource skills benefit all that she works with and helps her tackle virtually everything from computer issues, resource management to team building.

In addition to working at Adler • Giersch, ps, Patrice contributes in our community as a long-time board member of the Brain Injury Alliance of Washington. She joined the board

in 2004 to help rebuild the organization after it lost its funding. In 2013, she was elected the President of the Board and serves as the Chair of the Board Development Committee. Patrice is also a board member of the Lake Wilderness Preservation Association, a non-profit organization formed to help keep the lake clean and safe for all who visit.

Patrice is married to her spouse of 42 years, Trevor, whom she met in junior high in Lake Forest Park. Both are Washington natives and reside in Maple Valley on Lake Wilderness. Together they have a son and daughter (twins) and four grandchildren. In her spare time, Patrice enjoys long walks around the lake with her dog Mochi, sewing, bird watching, sitting by the outdoor fire pit with her husband, cheering on her grandkids at their sporting events, and live music concerts (especially Bruce Springsteen). ♦



Patrice and her spouse, Trevor, at the Brain Injury Alliance of Washington annual gala.