

## Legal Resources

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Legal issues and questions can be complicated. This section is intended to guide you on the journey of finding competent and appropriate legal representation.

### Why Do You Want a Lawyer?

Lawyers can assist you with:

- Obtaining reasonable compensation from the person or company responsible for your injury.
- Determining eligibility for, securing and maintaining government benefits.
- Determining eligibility for, securing and maintaining Workers' Compensation benefits.
- Securing maximum benefits from insurance policies.
- Ending discrimination against a person with a brain injury.
- Estate planning, including trust funds, wills, power of attorney, and legal guardianship.

### What if You Can't Afford a Lawyer?

In most personal injury cases, you should be able to retain competent legal assistance regardless of your own economic situation by using a contingent fee agreement to retain an attorney. This means that you do not pay the attorney any money until the case is successfully resolved. Once the case is resolved the attorney takes a certain percentage of the recovery.

### How Do You Pick a Good Lawyer?

**Step One:** Identify your issues. The first thing is to remember that lawyers, like doctors, generally specialize in a particular area. For example, an attorney who is an expert in estate planning may not be competent to handle a personal injury case. You should select an attorney with the skills and experience to meet your specific legal issues.

**Step Two:** Interview Lawyers. After you have identified the areas in which you need assistance, find at least three lawyers or law firms that you think can meet your needs. It is your right and responsibility to ask potential lawyers about their background and experience. Questions to ask may include:

1. How many brain injury cases like mine have you handled? What were the results?  
*A good, experienced attorney should be able to tell you that she or he has successfully handled several cases involving brain injury.*

2. What training have you received to handle brain injury cases? *Training can come through professional seminars, such as conferences sponsored by the Brain Injury Association.*
3. What kind of experience do you have selecting, retaining, and working with expert witnesses? How would you use expert witnesses in my case? *Attorneys can use doctors, economists, life care planners, physical, speech, occupational, and vocational therapists, psychiatrists, psychologists, neurosurgeons, case managers and other professionals as experts to strengthen your case. Experts should be utilized to prove the future costs of rehabilitative care, loss of earnings and other economic losses for which you may be compensated.*
4. What knowledge do you have of government benefits for persons with brain injury? Can you structure the settlement so that I will not lose eligibility for government benefits? *Attorneys should know and be able to explain to you how to keep eligibility for Medicaid, Social Security and other government benefits.*
5. Can you provide the names and telephone numbers of three individuals as references who had situations similar to mine? *Attorneys should be able to provide references that will vouch for their abilities.*

**Step Three:** Call references. You should contact the references that the lawyer gives you and ask them if they were satisfied with the lawyer's performance. Was she or he prompt? Helpful? Understanding? Successful?

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guarantees that individuals with disabilities receive equal opportunities in employment, public accommodations, transportation, state and local government services, and telecommunications. For more information about the ADA see Section A.

**To find a comprehensive list of Trial Lawyers in your area, visit the NC Advocates for Justice on their website at [www.ncatf.org](http://www.ncatf.org).**

## Legal Services

Provides assistance to those who may need legal representation, helps secure maximum benefits from insurance policies, determine eligibility for, securing and maintaining government benefits, obtain a settlement from the person or company responsible for the injury, end discrimination against a person with a brain injury, estate planning, including trust funds, wills, power of attorney, and legal guardianship, and workers compensation.



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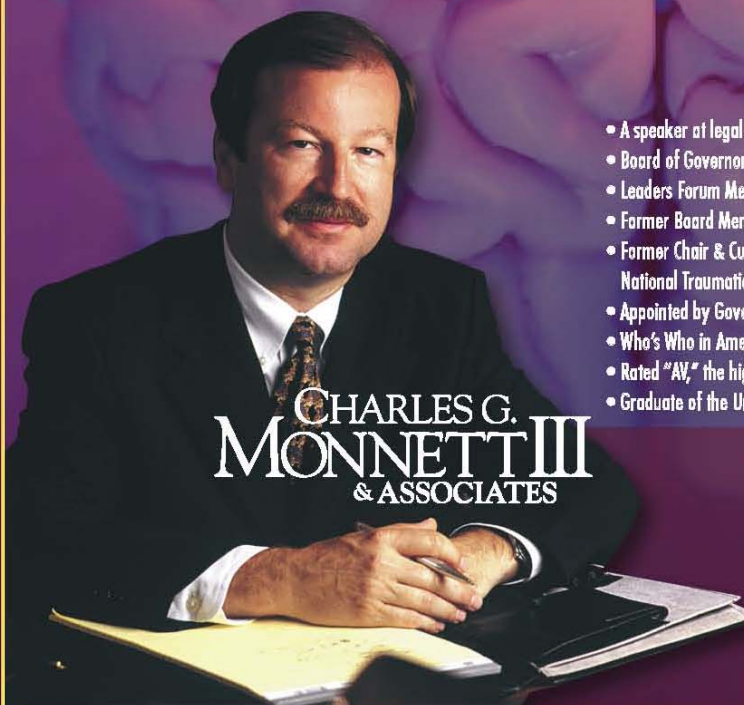
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So, if you've been injured, ask your friends and loved ones about us. We believe you'll like what you hear. When you're ready, call us, we're here to help you. We handle cases throughout the state of North Carolina and have attorneys licensed in NC, SC, GA and TN.



CHARLES G.  
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- A speaker at legal seminars relating to traumatic brain injuries throughout the country
- Board of Governors: NC Academy of Trial Lawyers and Southern Trial Lawyers Association
- Leaders Forum Member: NC Academy of Trial Lawyers and The American Association for Justice
- Former Board Member of The Brain Injury Association of NC
- Former Chair & Current Executive Committee Member of the National Traumatic Brain Injury Litigation Group
- Appointed by Governor Easley to the Governor's Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council
- Who's Who in American Law
- Rated "AV," the highest possible rating by Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory
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Find out what Anthony Gill was able to do for his brain-injured son at [www.PulleyWatson.com/WhatIf](http://www.PulleyWatson.com/WhatIf). Or call 919-682-9691.



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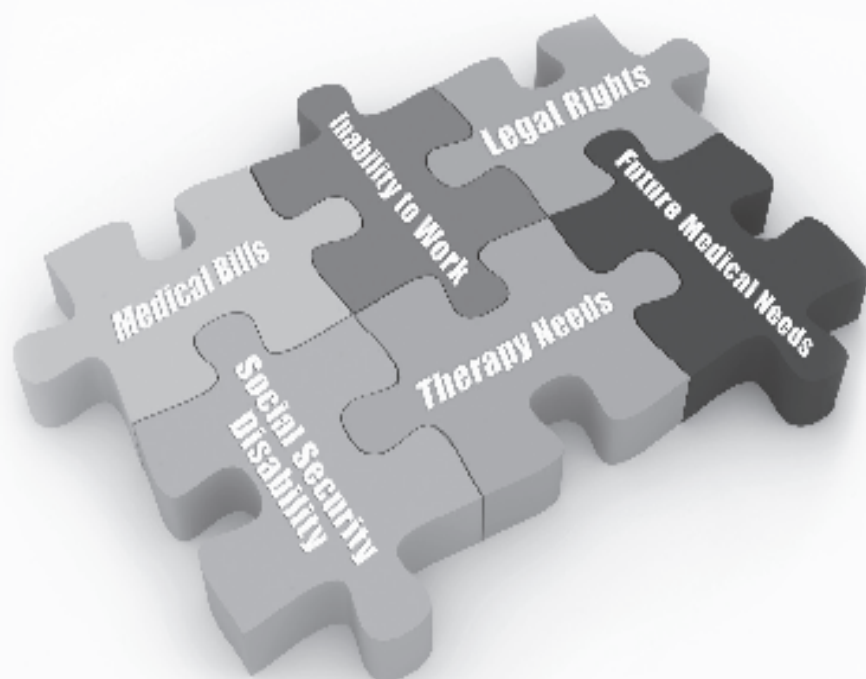
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Stacey Bawtinheimer is an attorney whose principal area of practice focuses on the rights of children with disabilities in the educational setting. She is a former Chair of the Juvenile Justice and Children Rights Section of the NC Bar Association and has represented numerous children in special education matters throughout North Carolina, and has lectured to both school and parent organizations regarding special education law.

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The council is authorized by law to investigate complaints and pursue remedies on behalf of disabled citizens or parents of children with special needs, who feel they have been discriminated against in areas such as treatment, transportation, education, and employment. Represents people with a disability based on DRNC's case selection criteria; educates people about their legal and civil rights; investigates complaints about abuse, neglect and related deaths in institutions; provides advice, training, and support for self-advocacy; reaches out to underserved ethical and disability communities; and brings impact litigation to help groups of people with disabilities ([www.disabilityrightsnc.org](http://www.disabilityrightsnc.org)).

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Charles Monnett serves on the North Carolina Traumatic Brain injury Council and the Board of Directors of the Brain Injury Association of North Carolina. He is the former Chair of the Traumatic Brain Injury Litigation Group of the American Association for Justice and is a frequent lecturer at legal seminars on the subject of representing individuals with traumatic brain injuries. He represents individuals with brain injuries throughout the state of North Carolina.

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