

## More Measures Must Be Taken To Stop Distracted Drivers, Says NY Attorney

*Steven J. Schwartzapfel of Schwartzapfel Truhowsky Marcus P.C. says lawmakers must do more to limit cell phone use behind the wheel.*

New York, NY ([PRWEB](#)) July 21, 2009 -- New York lawmakers must do more to reduce vehicle accidents and deaths caused by distracted drivers, a New York attorney says.

"The evidence linking crashes and deaths with the use of cell phones and text messaging while driving cannot be ignored," said Steven J. Schwartzapfel, founding partner of Schwartzapfel Truhowsky Marcus P.C., a NY personal injury law firm.

Drivers using cell phones are four times more likely to cause a crash, according to research reported by the New York Times. The chance that a driver cell using a phone will crash is equal to that of someone with a .08 percent blood alcohol level, the point at which drivers are generally considered legally intoxicated.

With such clear evidence, Schwartzapfel says that education is key. Similar to public awareness campaigns regarding the dangers of tobacco and alcohol, cell phone companies should be required to advertise the deadly consequences of texting and driving.

A Harvard Study estimated that cell phone distractions caused 2,600 traffic deaths every year and 330,000 accidents that result in moderate to severe injuries.

Despite the clear and deadly risk, no state legislature has banned the use of cell phones or required cell phone companies to publicize the dangers of cell phone use for drivers. Fourteen states have passed measures to ban texting while driving, and the New York State Assembly sent such a bill to the governor on July 17.

"Measures to ban texting are a good start," Schwartzapfel said. "But our lawmakers must be more aggressive in addressing distracted driving. Lives are at stake."

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