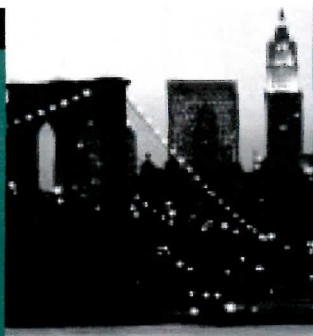


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New York personal injury lawyer Kenneth A. Wilhelm obtains two top settlement amounts statewide

The *New York Law Journal* has listed the top settlement amounts obtained by personal injury lawyers under various categories statewide. New York personal injury lawyer Kenneth A. Wilhelm placed first in two categories—bicycle accidents and motor vehicle passenger accidents—out of over 166,000 lawyers.

The law firm's bicycle accident case (31734/2009, Queens County Supreme Court) was settled in January 2013 for \$5,600,000. According to court documents, the bicyclist was struck by another vehicle. Court records also show that the defendants had deemed the bicyclist at fault for being under the influence of alcohol, not wearing a helmet, and suddenly moving in front of the van that hit him.

The other case (27054/2010, Kings County Supreme Court) involved a husband who was injured in a car accident while traveling in a vehicle driven by his wife. Under N.Y. State Insurance Law, the husband cannot sue the wife. According to court documents, the car collided with a truck and the injured client's wife was determined by the judge to have been 100 percent at fault. This case, documents show, ended in a \$2,550,000 settlement, even though the husband did not and could not have sued his wife under N.Y. Insurance Law.

"We're extremely pleased to have been placed first on the *New York Law Journal*'s list of highest 2013 settlements in these two vital categories," said Kenneth A. Wilhelm. "These results motivate us to continue to fight hard for our injured clients in the coming years."

Wilhelm said the two cases proved extremely challenging, making the results obtained particularly gratifying. "At the outset, the odds seemed stacked against us in both of these cases, and our success was really due to our team's skill and perseverance. I'm truly proud of our skilled lawyers and dedicated staff."

Bronx commuter train derailment proves fatal: New York personal injury lawyer Kenneth A. Wilhelm reacts

A train derailment in the Bronx left four people dead and more than 60 injured the morning of Dec. 1, 2013. According to a news report in *The New York Times*, the derailment occurred when a Hudson Line train went off the tracks while rounding a bend just north of the Spuyten Duyvil station. Four people were killed, more than 60 were injured, 11 critically, the report stated. Three of the four victims who died were ejected from the train after the windows shattered, according to the article.

Officials for the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) are investigating the incident. Although no determinations have been made yet, investigators told the *Times* that the train operator reported taking the turn too fast and said that he had performed an emergency braking maneuver. The report states that the train's engineer has 14 years of experience with the line.

"This is obviously a very trying time for the crash victims and the family members of those who have lost loved ones," said New York personal injury lawyer Kenneth A. Wilhelm. "They will all be in our thoughts and prayers."

In train accident cases, investigations could take several months to conclude, Wilhelm said. "It is important that injured victims and families of deceased victims have a tenacious advocate on their side who stays on top of the official investigation and ensures that their rights are protected every step of the way."

Train accident injuries can be extremely severe, requiring lengthy hospitalization and rehabilitation, Wilhelm said. "Injured victims have legal rights in such cases. Mass transit carriers owe their passengers the highest duty of care. Regardless of whether this was the train operator's fault or a mechanical problem with the train or track, injured passengers and family members of deceased passengers are entitled to compensation for their significant losses." In one of our train accident cases, our client was awarded a \$3,222,000 verdict.

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About the Law Offices of Kenneth A. Wilhelm

The Law Offices of Kenneth A. Wilhelm is a personal injury litigation firm with an unwavering dedication to its clients. With more than 42 years of experience, our firm strives to obtain the best compensation for those who have been injured or those who have lost a loved one due to an accident or by someone else's negligence. We handle cases dealing with personal injury, medical malpractice, wrongful death, workers' compensation, dental malpractice, motor vehicle accidents, train accidents, rape, paralysis, comas, seizures, false arrest, lead poisoning, trips and slips and falls, elevator accidents, construction accidents, Erb's palsy, cerebral palsy, brain damage, blindness, hearing loss, dog bite cases, fire and smoke inhalation accidents, bicycle accidents, falls from windows or scaffolds, food poisoning cases, and many other types of accidents and injuries.

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New York personal injury lawyer Kenneth A. Wilhelm reacts to child's window fall

A 1-year-old boy is in critical but stable condition after falling out of the third-floor window of a Jersey City apartment. According to a WABC news report, the boy's father told police that he was alone in the apartment cooking when his young son fell out their bedroom window. The report states that the boy had dried blood under his arm and suffered injuries to his head, spleen, and lungs, but was responding to commands when emergency crews arrived.

New York personal injury lawyer Kenneth A. Wilhelm, who has represented children injured as a result of falls from windows, says these types of tragedies can be easily prevented. "New York City has a law that requires building owners to install window guards in dwellings where children are present," he said. "The law also requires building owners to install the guards if the tenant requests it, even when there are no children present." Our law firm recovered over \$425,000 for a child who fell out of a window.

Wilhelm says the law gives rights to the residents, regardless of whether they have children living with them or not. "You should ask your landlord to install window guards if you have friends or family members with young children who visit; if you babysit in your apartment; or if you have grandchildren or older relatives visiting."

New York personal injury lawyer Kenneth A. Wilhelm weighs in on Scaffold Law

Contractors and workers are fighting over a proposed change in New York's Scaffold Law. The law was enacted as early as 1885 to safeguard construction workers who were put in hazardous situations as a result of working in higher elevations. The law required property owners and general contractors on building sites to ensure worker safety.

But a group of contractors, property owners, and insurers has launched a campaign against the Scaffold Law, arguing that the law is out-of-date and unfair to construction companies by absolving workers of responsibility for accidents, causing insurance premiums to skyrocket. The workers and unions say that the existing Scaffold Law helps ensure the safety of workers in some of the world's most dangerous jobs, particularly those employed by construction firms that might cut corners on safety to save money, according to the article.

New York personal injury lawyer Kenneth A. Wilhelm, who has represented many injured construction workers, including victims of scaffold-related accidents, says the Scaffold Law adds incentive to put mandated safety measures in place.

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"The law states that contractors and property owners are responsible for making sure that scaffolds, hoists, and other devices are constructed and used in a safe manner. If this law is changed, workers are left with little or no protection."

New York's Scaffold Law protects workers and creates a sense of accountability at construction sites, Wilhelm says. "Construction workers who fall from scaffolds or heights suffer significant injuries and can even die as a result of their injuries. Workers and their families suffer tremendous financial and emotional burdens as a result of these tragic accidents. Many of these workers are unable to return to work."

It is important that the workers of New York continue to have a voice, Wilhelm says. "It is unfair to make them shoulder undue burden. Changing the Scaffold Law to benefit construction companies and property owners will put hardworking men and women at a significant disadvantage and place them in serious danger of suffering severe injuries on the job."