



## LRIS Referral Spotlight: All Ends Well After Motorcycle and Bike Collide

By Carole Conn  
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On the afternoon of New Year's Eve 2007, a woman went for a bike ride around Lake Merced in San Francisco. Before she knew what happened, a motorcyclist had hit her from behind, throwing her to the ground.

The motorcyclist stopped to assist the woman and asked if she was hurt. She did not think she was badly injured at first. However, a medical visit a few days later revealed otherwise. Both her ankle and shoulder had been fractured, and she would not be able to continue work as a substitute teacher.

The woman called the Lawyer Referral and Information Service (LRIS) for help. LRIS staff referred her to long-standing panel attorney Matthew Wertheim, who has been handling personal injury matters since 1986. Wertheim counseled the client to follow her doctor's advice and even after completing treatment, to be patient and allow for more time to pass to assess how her injury was going to heal. With time and a regime of physical therapy, the client made a decent recovery – both physically and monetarily. Although the insurance company for the motor-



LRIS Panel Attorney  
Matthew Wertheim

cyclist first alleged that the client was partially at fault, Wertheim prevailed and recovered a \$45,000 settlement on only \$4,500 in medical expenses. "The insurance companies can make the process difficult for both claimants and lawyers and my goal is to help the injured client through that process by making it as painless as possible."

The client was most pleased and stated in an email to Wertheim, "You are the only lawyer on my list as a recommendation. It's good that the first lawyer I've ever worked with was you. I went in having no idea what to expect and got the unexpected."

Wertheim also participates in BASF's Early Settlement Program offering his mediation services and is a member of the LRIS Attorney-to-Attorney Advice Program. For Wertheim, "It is great to be on the panel along with a number of other very experienced attorneys who want to help people and contribute to BASF programs."

*If you cannot assist an inquirer who contacts your law firm, consider telling the caller about LRIS, where over 50,000 callers turn each year for information and referrals to experienced attorneys. The direct line is 415-989-1616.*