

## The Dangers of Firms Who "Dabble" in Auto Accident Cases

In some circles, attorneys who specialize in auto accident cases are not afforded the same professional respect as lawyers who concentrate on other types of practices. This viewpoint tends to foster the belief that *any* attorney can handle an [auto accident lawsuit](#).

As a result, some lawyers even "dabble" in auto accident cases even though their areas of specialty may be completely different. That's why I sometimes see attorneys whose job it is to represent families or corporations trying to take on auto accident lawsuits. Or a plaintiff may hire a friend or family member who works in another area of law as the attorney of record in an auto accident case.

Here are some of the dangers of hiring attorneys who "dabble" in auto accident cases:

**The stakes are high.** A good lawyer is often the difference between a positive and a negative outcome in an auto accident lawsuit. Think about it: would you be comfortable with a family doctor who "dabbles" in neurosurgery cutting open your skull and removing a tumor or aneurysm?

**They may think auto accident cases are easy (or easy money).** Some people who work as tax attorneys, securities lawyers, or corporate litigators may believe that winning an auto accident lawsuit is child's play compared to the complex matters they must deal with in their areas of specialty. But individuals who do not practice auto accident law on a regular basis won't know the correct strategies that are necessary to obtain a good outcome for their clients. Consequently, they end up getting smaller settlements for their clients (or lose the case altogether).

**They may not know that time is of the essence.** Many other areas of law are not very deadline-oriented, so dabbling lawyers may drag their feet during the early stages of an auto accident case (especially if they're busy with their normal day-to-day lawyer duties). But when time is wasted in an auto accident case, witnesses can forget what they saw, accident site evidence can vanish or be washed away, and the case can become weaker. When this happens, the insurance companies or defense lawyers often get the upper hand - and it's the client who suffers.

**They may not have any trial skills.** Many lawyers never see the inside of a courtroom because their job duties rarely (or never) require trial appearances. But all attorneys working on an auto accident case have to be prepared to take the case to trial if necessary. If they aren't, it will affect their negotiations and actions throughout the pretrial phases of the case - which in turn will have a negative impact on the eventual settlement and/or case result.

**Insurance companies see bulls eyes when they deal with dabbling lawyers.** The hard truth is that insurance companies make money by not paying out money for claims or lawsuits. So when they see an attorney whom they aren't familiar with handling an auto accident case, their mouths begin to water. These firms are well-versed in tilting the odds

in their favor because they are intimately familiar with how the auto accident litigation process works. It takes an experienced auto accident lawyer to call their bluffs and hold them accountable. Insurers know who these lawyers are - and that they won't be able to push them around.

Today, almost every of law is so complex that an attorney can only be successful if he or she specializes in just a few of them. And when lawyers start to "dabble" in areas outside of their expertise, the client pays the price. So if you want the best possible settlement or court judgment for your [auto accident case](#), be sure to engage the services of an attorney who specializes in auto accident cases.