

## PERSONAL INJURY



In 2008, the Coast Guard reported 4789 accidents that involved 709 deaths, 3331 injuries and approximately \$54 million dollars of damage to property as a result of recreational boating accidents.

[www.uscgboating.org](http://www.uscgboating.org)  
year : 2008

**SUCCESS**

**DELLECKER WILSON KING MCKENNA & RUFFIER, LLP**

## PERSONAL INJURY

Central Florida is home to several large bodies of water, making the area a very popular boating destination. While owning and operating a boat provides the means to enjoy Florida's waterways, it also requires a level of skill and responsibility. Carelessness, poor maintenance and lack of experience all contribute to boat related accidents and fatalities.

During a day on the water as a guest aboard a friend's boat, this DWKM&R client experienced the devastating consequences of improper maintenance. In the course of the excursion, the boat stalled and failed to restart. Our client was then asked by his friend to reconfigure the battery connections to repair the problem. However, an attempt was then made to start the motor while our client was still in the battery compartment. In that instant the battery exploded, causing our client to suffer injuries to his head and neck. As a result of the accident, an anterior cervical discectomy was performed on his upper spine in order to relieve pressure on his nerve roots and spinal cord.

Bill Ruffier and Doug Martin successfully litigated this highly contested liability case and ultimately negotiated a settlement on behalf of their client, receiving the maximum policy limit of \$300,000.



**WILLIAM E. RUFFIER**

- "AV" Rated by Martindale Hubbell
- Recognized among Florida's Legal Elite by Florida Trend
- Recognized among Florida Super Lawyers by Law & Politics
- Board of Directors, March of Dimes, Central FL Division



**W. DOUG MARTIN**

- Board of Directors, Young Lawyers Section, OCBA
- Florida Citrus Sports Futures Ambassador
- Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers, 2009

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