

High-Profile Personal Injury Lawsuits Against Fast Food Restaurants

When you visit a fast food restaurant for a quick meal, you may not expect the best sandwich of your life, but you certainly don't expect to suffer serious injury or major health issue as a result. Unfortunately, many individuals have been victims of negligent fast food restaurants and have received sizable settlements for their pain and trouble. Take a look at the four most high-profile restaurant-related personal injury cases on the books today.

“Hand-Sliced” Chicken

When enjoying a chicken sandwich or chicken nuggets that don't necessarily resemble the meat they claim to be, it's best not to think about what else could be in your meal. After all, they certainly taste good. Regrettably for David Scheiding, there was one ingredient in his Arby's chicken sandwich he couldn't ignore – a slice of human skin roughly three-quarters of an inch long. The store manager had sliced his hand while cutting lettuce but failed to trash the batch. Scheiding sued for \$50,000 for negligence in 2005.





E. coli Catastrophe

In 1993, a national crisis unfolded. E. coli O157:H7 bacteria was infecting children left and right in and around Seattle. Later, the cases spread to Nevada, Idaho and California. The one thing that linked these victims was Jack in the Box. Seventy-three Jack in the Box restaurants were found to have been serving contaminated beef patties. The infection sickened 700 individuals, hospitalized 171 and killed four. Nine-year-old Brianne Kiner suffered a particularly horrific case of E. coli which impaired her for life. Kiner's case resulted in a \$15.6 million settlement.

“McGlass” Sandwich with Fries

Chicago native Vjollca Lecaj got more than she bargained for from her Spicy McChicken sandwich from McDonald's in 2010. Lecaj claims she bit into her sandwich, only to be met with a mouthful of broken glass, causing numerous severe oral injuries. The glass was suspected to have contaminated Lecaj's food after a coffee pot overheated above the preparation area and shattered. She sued McDonald's for \$600,000 in damages.





Black Coffee, Extra Hot

Perhaps the most famous fast food lawsuit in the country was the 1992 case Liebeck vs. McDonald's Restaurants. The 79-year-old woman purchased a cup of coffee from McDonald's. The coffee later spilled in her lap while she was seated in the passenger seat of a stopped vehicle trying to add cream and sugar. The coffee was heated according to McDonald's policy – hot enough to burn skin in seconds. Though Liebeck's case was only one in hundreds, hers was especially serious. The third-degree burns she received required skin grafts to her inner thighs and genitals. Though Liebeck offered to settle for \$20,000 for medical expenses, McDonald's refused. At trial, Liebeck was awarded \$2.7 million in punitive damages, although the judge later reduced the total award to \$640,000.