

## The Blame Game!

by Danny Foster, Esq.

Recently I found myself enjoying yet another impossible commute between Exposition Avenue and Cherry Creek Drive North. This quarter mile stretch going north on Colorado Boulevard can quite possibly be the most mind-numbing piece of pavement in Denver, or possibly, the world. Unless of course you are driving southbound on Colorado Boulevard between Alameda and Cherry Creek Drive South. THAT might even be worse. If you're reading this article, then I suspect you've been there and know exactly what I'm talking about.

So while I am sitting in my car my thoughts immediately start going to blame. Who exactly is to blame for this complete inconvenience to MY life? I mean I have stuff to do. Who is interfering with my ability to get a sandwich or gas or printer toner? The usual culprits quickly come to mind. The Californians! Yes, the Californians who have moved to MY city in droves and brought their evil driving ways with them. Curse these newcomers.

Of course I could also blame the Chicagoans who have left their frigid homeland to start anew and make my drive on I-70 impossible when I want to go skiing on a Saturday (remember skiing on Saturdays in the 1980s? an hour and half to Winter Park, max!). If I see another "10th Mountain Infantry" or "Ski Country USA" vanity plate on another newcomers' car I may go completely mental. Our new vanity plate should be "Colorado...Traffic Jam USA." Yes, it's the Chicagoans who are to blame!

Of course who can leave out the Floridians? How many people from Florida have moved to our fair city? Haven't they realized that they are making it a two-hour rush hour commute on the Valley Highway? I mean who else but a crazy Floridian would venture onto I-25 between the hours of 5 a.m. and 9 p.m.?

Blame, blame, blame. This influx of human beings has taken over our cow-town and made our lives a crush of humanity. I used to have a litmus test for determining who could consider themselves a Native Denverite: if you or your parents regularly dined at the Yum-Yum Tree, or had a birthday party at the Soda Straw, then you qualify. If you don't know what I am referring to I'll give you a hint, both once were located on this small stretch of Colorado Boulevard between Alameda and Cherry Creek Drive South and were amongst the finest eateries west of the Mississippi.

But wait, what's that you say? My wife is from Arizona? Oh yes, that's true, but that's beside the point. Oh what else are you saying? Many, many of the new businesses fueling our robust Colorado economy are out-of-state companies? That may be true but...come again? Yes, it's true many of our law firm's excellent clients are recent newcomers to the state and have contributed greatly to the new face of Denver and the region. OK, OK, I get it. I suppose my scapegoating of recent out-of-staters probably is a bit hypocritical. It's easy to be nostalgic about the past face of Denver, but I'm sure when I moved here as a fresh faced 17-day-old in 1970 (with my parents and my two-year-old brother in tow) I'm sure that other "native Coloradans" thought, "oh great another out-of-towner." Maybe as I sit here sweating in my car trying to blame someone for my delay in my commute I suppose I need to readjust my thinking about the changing face of our fair city and the population surge. Maybe in fact it is time to accept that change is natural and necessary if we are to continue to have a prosperous city.

Of course this new influx of humanity in our state means that there are more risks, disputes and agitations. As the amount of cars has almost doubled on the road in the past decade, the amount of crappy drivers and uninsured motorists has also increased significantly. Our office has seen a substantial increase in the amount of auto accident injuries in the past few years. Believe it or not even when traffic moves slowly you can still get some nasty injuries that can require significant medical care. Many of our clients have severe injuries but often the person who caused the accident did not have appropriate levels of insurance. So as the cars and accidents increase in our fair city and state, let me remind all of you to check your automobile insurance coverages. If you do not have at least \$100,000 in uninsured motorist coverage you are placing yourselves and your families at real risk. Call me and I will gladly review your auto insurance coverage to ensure that you are doing everything possible to help yourself in the event one of these bad drivers injures you or your family.

We have also seen so many more business disputes over the past few years, but again that is sometimes a direct consequence of all the businesses operating in our state. The question you should ask yourself is if you have a good plan in place in case you and your business partners have a serious disagreement. Do you even have an operating agreement? Are your contracts with other companies favorable to you? There is never a bad time to check on these matters, except of course after the problems have occurred.

The growth and transformation of our city and state have had lots of positive impacts, but there are definitely drawbacks. Languishing in my car isn't the worst thing that's ever happened. I suppose I shouldn't be blaming anyone for the problems we face here in town, it's a natural consequence of living in the best place on earth. Except maybe the hipsters. I think I will blame the hipsters, I don't suppose anyone will argue with that one! Hipsters it's time to shave and leave!