

# Injury Law Alert

Fall 2004

## Slip-and-Fall Accidents: No Laughing Matter

When a cartoon character slips and falls on a banana peel, we laugh. When you slip and fall, it is not so funny. In fact, injuries caused by slipping and falling are the second leading cause of accidental deaths, ranking behind only car accidents.

erty in a reasonable state of repair and to warn and protect people from known dangers. This obligation may mean that the owner must rope off the cracked tile on the floor until it can be fixed, mop up the puddles that form around the front door when it rains, or clean up the

spill on aisle six as soon as it is discovered. This sounds like common sense, but it is surprising how often property owners overlook such remedies, resulting in unnecessary injuries.

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Although we can lose traction and fall down almost anywhere, slips and falls often happen in public locations where a lot of people are coming and going. These accidents are caused by any number of different circumstances, including potholes in parking lots, spilled liquids on floors, defective stairways, and uneven sidewalks.

Generally, a property owner has a legal obligation to keep the prop-

### If You Slip and Fall at a Store

If you fall and injure yourself at a store, *it is important to get as much information as possible to help you prove your case.* Try to keep your wits about you. Although it is often hard to remember to do so after being injured:

- Get the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of witnesses—both customers and employees. If you cannot do this at the time of the accident, do so as soon as possible afterwards.
- Get a good look at whatever you tripped over or slipped on. Get pictures if possible.
- Pay careful attention to anything the employees might say. If any of them admit to knowing about the hazard, be sure to get his or her name.
- Do not give a statement about what happened and **DO NOT SIGN ANYTHING** until you have spoken with us.
- Call us. We have successfully represented many slip-and-fall victims and we are available to discuss your case with you.

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