



FLORIDA. LAKES. JET SKIS.



**KNOW THE LAW BEFORE USING A
PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (PWC)**

| DELLECKER | WILSON | KING | McKENNA | RUFFIER | & SOS |

407.244.3000 | www.dwklaw.com

Did you know that it is *illegal* to play chicken (swerving at the last possible moment to avoid collision) while riding a PWC?

Did you know that it is a *second degree misdemeanor* for a person to knowingly allow a person under 14 years of age to operate a PWC?

Personal watercraft (PWC), also known as Jet Skis, Wave Runners or Sea-Doos are extremely popular in Florida. PWCs are small, fast, generally easy to maneuver and do not have external propellers making them safer for swimmers. While a PWC may look and feel like a toy, it is actually considered a vessel and is governed by the 2011 Florida Statutes.

Each year, our firm handles several cases involving serious injuries from PWC accidents. Many of these accidents were the result of reckless driving or driver inexperience and unknowingly many laws were broken at the time of the accident.

If you or a loved one operates a PWC be sure to follow these guidelines. It's the **LAW**.

- Anyone under the age of 22 (21 and under) is required to have a boating safety education ID card along with a photo ID while operating a vessel with 10 horsepower or greater in Florida waters.
- Everyone on board or being towed behind a PWC must **wear** a U.S. Coast Guard-approved Type I, II, III, or V personal flotation device (PFD) at all times. Inflatable PFDs are not to be worn on personal watercraft.
- A PWC must be operated in a reasonable and prudent manner. It is illegal to:
 - *Weave your PWC through congested waterway traffic.*
 - *Swerve at the last possible moment in order to avoid collision (as in spraying another person or vessel, or playing "chicken").*
 - *Jump the wake of another vessel unreasonably or unnecessarily close to that vessel or when visibility is obstructed.*



Samuel P. King

- "AV" Rated by Martindale Hubbell
- Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyer
- Recognized among Florida's Legal Elite by *Florida Trend*
- Recognized among Florida Super Lawyers by *Law & Politics*



W. Doug Martin

- Board of Directors, Young Lawyers Section, OGBA
- Recognized among Florida's Legal Elite Up and Comer by *Florida Trend*
- Recognized as "Rising Star" by Florida Super Lawyers
- "Top 40 Under 40" by *The National Trial Lawyers*

