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BLACKBURN ROMEY

TRUSTED INJURY LAWYERS

APRIL 2026

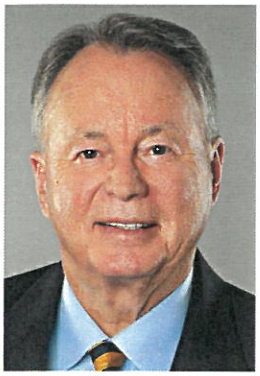


Blackburn Romey attorneys (from left): Frank Wolferd, Ryan Lindinger, Tom Blackburn, Chad Romey, Christopher Blackburn and David Singleton.



LAWYERS JOIN TO ROOT FOR HOOSIERS — From left, Tom Blackburn, Chad Romey, Chris Blackburn, and David Singleton traveled to Bloomington on March 1 to catch some hoops action at the IU Hoosiers vs Michigan State Spartans game. The men had a great time, despite Michigan State Spartans' win over IU, 77-64.

Getting to Know... The Man on the Bike



Mention Tom Blackburn's name in northeast Indiana, and the most common reply you'll get is, "The man with the bike!" Tom is a successful lawyer whose firm, Blackburn Romey, helps injured people get back on their feet.

Son of a Coal Miner

Tom was born in Middlesboro, Kentucky in the fall of 1951 to Sylvia (Cannon), at right, and George Blackburn. Tom's older brother, George, is deceased. His sister, Jeannie Pippenger, lives in Noble County.



His grandfathers, Dillard Cannon and Thomas Blackburn, Tom's namesake, worked in deep-shaft coal mines in the Cumberland Gap. Tom's father, George, enlisted in the military when he was not quite 18 and fought in WWII. What he witnessed would change him forever. George had a mental breakdown, suffered from PTSD, and, as a result, had to leave his family. He lived out his life in a disabled veterans' facility in Lexington, Kentucky.

Left with three small children, Sylvia moved north to Fort Wayne, Indiana, where her brother lived. Many of her siblings, their spouses, and their family members also moved to Fort Wayne in search of employment.

New State, New Life

Sylvia married Donald Wilkins several years later. He had custody of his four children: Tim, Ron, Don and Donna. Donald and Sylvia later added two more children to the family: Lucy and Daniel. The family of nine soon decided to move from Fort Wayne to Churubusco, a bedroom community 10 miles north of Fort Wayne.

The Wilkins and Blackburn children flourished in the small town, excelling in various sports and academics and spending summers and weekends at their cottage at High Lake.

"Summers were so much fun with my siblings at the lake," Tom said. We have always considered each other as simply brothers and sisters. We still do today."

Tom was popular at school, excelling in basketball, baseball, track and cross country. Well-liked by his classmates, he was voted class president all four years of high school.

One teacher and coach, Jake Delegrange, had a profound effect on Tom. Delegrange coached and mentored Tom throughout high school and had a huge impact on Tom's future.

"(Delagrange) was not only my coach, but he got me a job as a part-time janitor at the school and gave me lots of guidance," Tom said.
Tom set out on his own immediately after graduating from high school, moving into a very small "house."
"It was a *renovated* chicken coop, and it was so small," he said, laughing.

Solid Work Ethic

After graduating from high school, Tom started working full-time making hot dogs at Peter Eckrich Co. and part-time installing office equipment at IBM, all while attending IPFW University full-time in Fort Wayne.
After graduating with high honors from IPFW, Tom decided to study law. Three years later, in 1977, he graduated from Indiana University at the Robert H. McKinney School of Law in Indianapolis. He graduated with honors and was awarded cum laude status. The law school limited full-time students' outside work to 20 hours a week. However, Tom worked 40 hours a week while maintaining a full-time status during his last two years of law school. He worked at the Indianapolis Public Defender's office and at a private law firm during the last two years of law school.
From living in a renovated chicken coop to managing one of the most well-known and successful personal injury law offices in Indiana, Tom has never shied away from hard work or overcoming obstacles thrown in his path.
"Tom was always a hard worker," said Dennis Graft, an attorney who lives in Noble County. The two met as undergrads and later became roommates while attending law school. They have remained close friends for 50 years.
"Tom outworked everyone around him," Graft said.

Going Home

While in law school, Tom met Denise Linsenmann, who was studying to become a nurse. They fell in love and married and will celebrate their 48th anniversary in June. Tom said marrying Denise was the smartest thing he had ever done.
After graduating, Tom wanted to "go home," so he headed back to Columbia City where Tom worked three years for a local family law firm and as a deputy prosecutor. For the next ten years, Tom worked for two well-known firms in South Bend and became a partner at both firms during his tenure.
He later decided to start a personal injury law firm and returned to Fort Wayne. The law firm Tom founded is now known as Blackburn Romey. The main office is in Fort Wayne, with other offices in South Bend, Merrillville, Indianapolis, Lafayette, Evansville, and Terre Haute.
Attorneys include Tom, his son, Chris Blackburn, his son-in-law, Chad Romey,

Ryan Lindinger, Frank Wolferd and David Singleton.

"I've worked with Tom for over ten years," said Singleton, who works in the Fort Wayne office. "During that time, he has been my mentor, role model, and friend. Tom's guidance and insight have been invaluable for myself and for all of the attorneys at Blackburn Romey who have grown under his leadership."

Lindinger, who has worked for Tom for over 19 years, works in the South Bend office. He said Tom has taught him much about being a lawyer, but also about life.

"He has always taught me to take the high road and give people the benefit of the doubt," Lindinger said. "He has instilled in our Blackburn Romey culture a family atmosphere and to always do what is best for our clients, which separates us from other law firms that handle personal injury and wrongful death claims."

Wolferd also works out of the South Bend office and has worked for Tom for 20 years.

"He has been a great mentor and has continually been there for both leadership and guidance over the years. He prioritizes our clients from the first meeting until their cases are resolved," Wolferd said.

All in the Family

Tom and Denise have two children, Christopher and Carly (Romey) and seven grandchildren, aged 5 to 21.

When Tom is not busy at the office, he enjoys spending time with his family at their lake cottages on Lake George. Tom has also had a lifelong passion for riding motorcycles. He started riding a minibike at age ten. He was hooked.



"Back then my friend, Jeff, who had an old Indian scooter, and I could ride all over Whitley County," Tom said. "It gave us so much freedom. Every day was an adventure and so much fun!"

Today, Tom has a 2003 100th anniversary edition Harley Davidson Heritage motorcycle, which he named "White Lightning."

The Blackburn Family






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Photos, top to bottom: 1) Chad Romey and his wife Carly, with their children (from left) John, Catherine, Caroline and George; **2)** Chris and Megan Blackburn, daughter Lizzy and son Tommy at Matthew's high school graduation; **3)** The Blackburn grandchildren are pictured at Christmas 2025 during the family's Polar Express holiday night; **4)** Megan, Chris, Denise and Tom Blackburn at the 2026 NCAA Peach Bowl, where the top-seeded IU Hoosiers defeated the Oregon Ducks 56-22; **5)** Lizzy Blackburn, who recently received a scholarship to attend and play volleyball at Huntington University this year; **6)** Matthew Blackburn (far right) received a full scholarship and is on the cattle judging team at Texas Tech; **7)** Chris, Megan, Denise and Tom pose next to the National Championship Trophy at the January Peach Bowl in Atlanta, Georgia.



What to Do After an E-Bike Accident

E-bike accidents often blend the exposure of a traditional bicycle with the speed and force of motor vehicle traffic, increasing the risk of serious injury in ways many riders do not expect. Electric assistance allows higher speeds, heavier frames raise impact force, and riders lack the structural protection drivers rely on during a crash.

At **Blackburn Romey**, we see how an ebike accident can disrupt health, finances, and daily life in seconds on Indiana roads where cars, trucks, and cyclists share limited space. Knowing **what to do after an e-bike accident** helps riders protect their well-being and avoid missteps that affect recovery and accountability.

Immediate Steps to Take After an E-Bike Accident

The moments following an ebike accident can feel overwhelming, making a clear sequence of actions especially important. Safety comes first, so moving to a secure location away from traffic reduces the risk of secondary injuries. Calling 911 right away matters even when pain feels manageable, since concussions, internal bleeding, and spinal injuries often appear hours or days later. A police response also creates an official record, which becomes critical when insurance companies review the crash.



After addressing immediate danger, riders should focus on preserving information and protecting their position. Anyone trying to understand what to do after an e-bike accident should take the following steps in order:

1. Seek medical evaluation immediately, either through emergency transport or a same-day provider visit.
2. Report the collision to law enforcement when injuries or property damage occur.
3. Photograph vehicle positions, road conditions, visible injuries, and damage to the electric bike.
4. Collect names and contact information from witnesses and involved drivers.
5. Preserve the e-bike, helmet, and clothing without repairs or alterations.
6. Exchange required information calmly without admitting fault or speculating about the cause.

According to Indiana Code § 9-26-1-1.1, drivers involved in injury accidents must remain at the scene, provide identifying information, and offer reasonable assistance to injured parties. Following these requirements helps prevent disputes later, especially when insurers question whether details were exchanged properly.

Why E-Bike Accidents Can Cause Serious Injuries

Electric bicycles offer efficiency and convenience, yet design features and riding environments raise injury risks beyond those associated with traditional bikes. These factors explain why many ebike accident claims involve extensive medical treatment and prolonged recovery.

Speed, Weight, and Limited Protection

Electric motors allow riders to reach higher speeds with less effort, while battery systems add weight, increasing stopping distance. Indiana law recognizes three

classes of electric bicycles, including Class 3 models capable of assisted speeds up to 28 miles per hour. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources e-bike rules explain how these classifications control where and how electric bicycles operate, and why higher-speed classes increase injury severity in crashes.

Traffic Interaction With Motor Vehicles

E-bike riders frequently share lanes and intersections with vehicles weighing several thousand pounds. A brief distraction, failure to yield, or misjudgment of speed often leaves the rider absorbing the full impact. Even moderate-speed collisions can throw riders onto pavement or nearby objects, leading to fractures, head trauma, and spinal injuries.

Road Hazards and Infrastructure Risks

Uneven pavement, potholes, debris, and poorly marked bike lanes pose serious dangers for electric bikes traveling at assisted speeds. A surface defect that barely affects a car tire can cause sudden loss of control for an e-bike rider, which explains why Indiana road conditions contribute to many e-bike accidents.

Treatment & Documentation

Medical care drives recovery after an ebike accident and creates records insurers rely on when evaluating injury claims. Emergency room visits, imaging studies, specialist referrals, and physical therapy notes help connect injuries directly to the crash and show how symptoms affect mobility, work capacity, and daily life.

Insurance companies closely review medical records, especially when injuries are not immediately visible. Clear documentation showing how symptoms developed and required treatment makes a meaningful difference. Records that typically carry the most weight include:

- Emergency room or urgent care records created shortly after the crash.
- Diagnostic imaging results, such as X-rays, CT scans, or MRIs.
- Physician notes linking symptoms to the collision.
- Follow-up treatment plans, therapy records, and specialist referrals.
- Notes explaining gaps in care or changes in symptoms over time.

Delayed symptoms often lead riders to postpone care and understanding **what to do after an e-bike accident** includes recognizing how these gaps in treatment allow insurers to question whether injuries stem from the

collision. Consistent documentation strengthens both physical recovery and credibility during a claim.



Protecting Your Legal Rights

Legal protection begins with informed decisions in the days following an ebike accident. Insurance adjusters often contact injured riders quickly, hoping to secure early statements or settlements before the full scope of injuries becomes clear. Providing basic identifying information remains appropriate, while discussing fault or minimizing symptoms rarely benefits a claim.

Evidence preservation plays a central role at this stage. Photographs, witness statements, medical records, and damaged equipment together explain how the crash occurred. Riders who are unsure **what to do after an e-bike accident** should avoid repairing or discarding the electric bike until documentation is complete. Early legal guidance can help organize evidence and manage communication with insurers during a stressful time.

How Liability Is Determined

Liability in ebike accident claims depends on identifying which party breached a duty of care. Drivers who speed, drive distracted, fail to yield, or violate traffic laws often bear responsibility when they strike an e-bike rider. In some situations, roadway defects or unsafe property conditions shift responsibility toward municipalities or landowners.

Indiana follows a modified comparative fault system, which means compensation depends on each party's percentage of responsibility. Evidence gathered early often shapes how insurers and courts assign fault, especially when multiple factors contribute to a collision.

Getting Legal Guidance

When confusion sets in after a crash, knowing **what to do after an e-bike accident** often feels overwhelming. Our team helps injured riders push back against insurer pressure, organize evidence, and protect their rights under Indiana law.

At **Blackburn Romey**, we stand up for cyclists when negligence causes harm and guide clients through each step with clarity and purpose. **Call 833-FOR-HELP** to talk through your situation and get straightforward direction on what comes next.

Got Questions?

We've got the answers

- Passenger rights after a motorcycle accident
- Negligent hiring in trucking accidents: Why does it matter?
- Learn how motorcyclists can make themselves more visible
- How long should you be sore after a car accident?





Google Reviews





Mandi Sutorius
2 reviews

★★★★★ 2 months ago

This was a very traumatizing accident for me and affected many parts of my daily life for over 2 years. Mr. Tom Blackburn was very up front and communicated the process very well. Mr. Tom Blackburn made me feel like I was his only client and was very personable. He and his staff literally did everything so that I could focus on myself and heal physically and mentally. I am so thankful this process was as smooth as it was with Mr. Tom Blackburn as my attorney. I 100% would recommend Tom and associates to represent anyone who has been in a vehicle accident. If I could give more stars I certainly would!!

2,038 Pounds of Peanut Butter Donated to Food Bank!



BLACKBURN ROMEY LAW FIRM donated a pallet of Costco-size peanut butter to the Community Harvest Food Bank during the "Jars of Love" Campaign sponsored by CHFB and Lutheran Health Network in March. Adam Roby, engagement manager at Community Harvest, said the donation would make about 30,000 sandwiches! For families facing food insecurity, peanut butter is one of the best nutritional items to have on hand. It is high in protein, healthy fats and calories, and it keeps kids and adults feeling fuller longer.

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BLACKBURN ROMEY

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Talk to one of our attorneys today!
Free initial consultation
Fee based upon recovery

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EVANSVILLE
815 John Street, Suite 120
Evansville, IN 47713
930-212-1166

FORT WAYNE
4203 W Jefferson Blvd
Fort Wayne, IN 46804
260-422-4400

MERRILLVILLE
2620 W Lincoln Highway
Merrillville, IN 46410
219•769•7415

LAFAYETTE
35 Executive Drive, Suite 2
Lafayette, IN 47905
765-447-9121

SOUTH BEND•MISHAWAKA•GRANGER
1450 University Drive Court
Granger, IN 46530
574•277•7711

INDIANAPOLIS
8777 Purdue Road
Indianapolis, IN 46268
317-204-1087

TERRE HAUTE
2901 Ohio Blvd., Suite 116-5
Terre Haute, IN 47803
812-645-5288

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