



SchmidtKramer

I N J U R Y L A W Y E R S

Talk to
a Lawyer.

FALL 2011

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Schmidt Kramer PC Super Lawyers 2011

For more than 25 years, Schmidt Kramer has helped victims of negligence and carelessness throughout Pennsylvania. The firm's combination of personal service and professional excellence is second to none.

When you call Schmidt Kramer, you talk to a lawyer. The firm provides first-rate legal services with a personal touch, offering clients the comfort and assurance they need. And with more than 100 years of combined experience, Schmidt Kramer attorneys know how to handle sensitive, difficult cases. They are aggressive litigators and persuasive negotiators dedicated to protecting the rights of personal injury victims.

The firm's lawyers have been recognized by Martindale-Hubbell®, the Million Dollar Advocates Forum, and *The Best Lawyers in America*. Now, **Charles E. Schmidt Jr.** and **Scott B. Cooper** have been named among the state's Top 100 lawyers in *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers*®. Also listed in *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers* are **Thomas S. Cook**, **Terry S. Hyman**, and **Gerard C. Kramer**. **D. Joseph Chapman** and **Melissa N. Leininger** are named in *Rising Stars*.

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Presentation at seminar well received!

Attorney **Tom Cook** of Schmidt Kramer co-taught a workshop with Attorney Shawn Gooden of Weber, Gallagher to over 300 people at the Annual Pennsylvania Bureau of Workers' Compensation Seminar in Hershey, Pa., on June 1, 2011. The audience consisted of union officials, insurance company representatives, medical professionals, attorneys, and businesspeople. Tom gave the employee point of view, and Shawn represented the employer point of view.

The topic was whether accidents which take place off the worksite are covered by workers' compensation. The discussion was lively and well received by the audience. (*See some comments received, listed at right.*)

Tom and Shawn have been invited back next year to lecture on the topic of workers' compensation injuries to caregivers and at-home employees. Attorney Cook was the Director of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Workers' Compensation from 1987 to 1991.

SOME COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE WORKSHOP...

Presentation was excellent; The two speakers were very captivating and entertaining; Informative, good presentation, great speakers able to keep interest; Best session of the day—great information delivered with humor; Speakers deserved a standing ovation. They were hysterical and kept the after-lunch sessions interesting as well as entertaining. Best session of the day!; Excellent—presenters—PowerPoint—Speakers—Professional—engaging; Best presentation yet! Great information, case references, great audience interaction, and humor. I would love a full-day session with them!; Presenters were good, info was relevant, engaging material—I didn't want it to end!; Excellent—best so far—bring them back!

We take your family's safety and security personally.

Take me out to the **BALL GAME**



The attorneys and staff of **Schmidt Kramer** attended a Harrisburg Senators baseball game on July 20, 2011, at Metro Bank Park. It was a beautiful day to enjoy a ball game. Everybody had a fun and relaxing time. Thanks Chuck, Gerry, and Scott for a great day!

RECENT ANNOUNCEMENTS...

★ **Scott Cooper**, a Partner at **Schmidt Kramer**, has been elected as the President-Elect of the Pennsylvania Association for Justice (PAJ) at its annual retreat in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. To the right is a photo of Scott enjoying a dinner boat ride with his daughters Leah (*left*) and Samantha (*right*). Scott will become President of PAJ in June 2012.

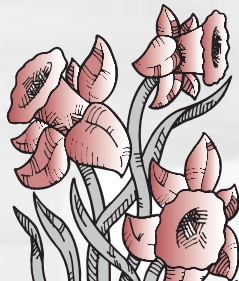


★ **Melissa N. Leininger**, an attorney with **Schmidt Kramer**, was chosen to be one of 11 young attorneys from the state to be in the PA Bar Leadership Institute. BLI participants will learn about the day-to-day operations, governance, resources, and staffing of the association. Participants will be introduced to the various leadership opportunities within the PBA, and each participant will be paired with an experienced and committed mentor who is a member of the Board of Governors.

The Bar Leadership Institute looks to the future of the organization by developing well-informed, committed leaders who will serve the PBA for many years to come.

★ **Melissa N. Leininger** has been selected to be on the local committee for Daffodil Days through the American Cancer Society. The Daffodil Days program is your chance to fight back against cancer by raising funds and awareness to help beat the disease.

While the Daffodil Days program involves offering daffodils every spring to donors in appreciation for their contributions, it is about more than just giving beautiful flowers—it is everyone's opportunity to create a world with less cancer and more birthdays, where cancer never steals another year from anyone's life.



Question OF THE QUARTER

Q: Should the new limitations on joint and several liability move a person to change their auto insurance policy?

A: Yes. We see a much greater importance placed on uninsured motorist and underinsured motorist coverage. If two drivers cause an accident and a third person is injured, the injured person may not be able to recover his entire verdict even though a jury tries to compensate him. Having underinsured motorist coverage on your own car insurance policy will better prepare you to get back what you lost in a crash that is not your fault.

Contact a **Schmidt Kramer PC** attorney for more information on how your rights have changed, or read our blog at www.schmidtkramer.com/blog.

NEW!

ONLINE CLIENT REVIEW CENTER

Visit **Schmidt Kramer's** new online Client Review Center to share your thoughts on the quality of our firm's legal services. By going to www.SchmidtKramer.com/reviews, you have the opportunity to write reviews about the firm across several platforms, including Google, Yahoo, Bing, Yelp, Citysearch, YP.com, and Avvo—a leading online directory for lawyers.

★ **Melissa N. Leininger** was elected to be a board member of PAJ through the Future Leaders Division. She was chosen at the Annual Conference in Philadelphia, Pa. Melissa was also chosen by the Young Lawyers Division to be a representative for the Nominating Committee of the Pennsylvania Bar Association. The Nominating Committee will select the officers of the Pennsylvania Bar Association for next year.

Happy birthday!

Shivellia Gaston on April 13; Terry Hyman on April 15; April L. Casper on April 25; Mayra Gamez on May 27; Gerard C. Kramer on June 10; Marija Kuren on June 17; Danielle Strojnik on July 8; Ashley Burris on July 11; Jennifer Garcia on July 26; Joe Chapman on September 12; and Janice Harmon on September 21.

Happy birthday to everyone!

Dress for Success Capital Area Leadership Breakfast

“Going Places. Going Strong.”

Attorney **Melissa Leininger** and Office Manager **Dawnn Trostle** participated on the Capital Area Leadership Breakfast Committee. **Schmidt Kramer** was a Bronze Sponsor at the Dress for Success Breakfast held on April 6, 2011, at The Conference Center at Central Pennsylvania College. **Scott Cooper, Melissa Leininger, Dawnn Trostle, Janice Harmon, Jennifer Kalonick, and Melinda Valan** attended the event on behalf of Schmidt Kramer.

The keynote speaker was Antella Nester, QVC host. The mission of Dress for Success is to promote the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing professional attire, a network of support, and the career development tools to help women thrive in the workplace and in life.



UCP/Schmidt Kramer 25th Anniversary Golf Tournament

Schmidt Kramer sponsored the UCP/Schmidt Kramer 25th Anniversary Golf Tournament on Monday, August 8, 2011, at the Carlisle Country Club.

Carmen Finestra, producer and creator of the sitcom “Home Improvement,” served as Honorary Chair of this year’s golf tournament.

For 58 years, UCP Central Pennsylvania has been providing quality services to people of all ages with all types of disabilities. The proceeds from the UCP/Schmidt Kramer Golf Tournament benefit the Growth Fund of the UCP Foundation of Central Pennsylvania. The Growth Fund was established to support UCP’s mission to assist infants, children, youth, and adults with disabilities—and their families—in achieving their goals of development, growth, independence, and full citizenship. Over \$30,000 was raised this year to help fund UCP programs and services in Central Pennsylvania.

The tournament began with a buffet luncheon followed by a shotgun start of 122 golfers. All golfers had an opportunity to participate in the Hole-in-One for a chance to win a new car, courtesy of Sutliff Chevrolet. A buffet dinner, live and silent auctions, and an awards ceremony hosted by Carmen Finestra were also on the itinerary. Thanks to **Thomas Cook** of Schmidt Kramer for serving as auctioneer again this year.

Special thanks to **Chuck Schmidt, Gerry Kramer, and Scott Cooper** of Schmidt Kramer for their many years of support. Also, thank you to the staff of Schmidt Kramer for their hard work and support. We also want to express our appreciation to the Golf Committee members for their dedication and commitment in putting together another successful tournament. Finally, we would like to thank the businesses and individuals who contributed to this year’s event.



READ ABOUT:

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The information included in this newsletter is not intended as a substitute for professional legal advice. For your specific situation, please consult the appropriate legal professional.

THE STAFF CORNER—

Everyone at **Schmidt Kramer** would like to welcome **April Casper, Mayra Gamez, Shivellia Gaston, Danielle Strojnik, and Maureen Sullivan** to the firm.



April is the legal assistant for Attorney Melissa Leininger and Attorney Thomas Cook. She lives in Mechanicsburg, Pa., with her husband Mark, son Adam, and godchildren Jessica and James Guest. April enjoys camping, boating, swimming, teaching toddlers at Sunday School, and watching her children grow.

Mayra is a law clerk for Attorney Gerard Kramer. She is a second-year law student at Penn State University's Dickinson School of Law. She enjoys traveling, reading, spending time with family and friends, and sports. Mayra is from Montclair, California.



Shivellia is the receptionist for Schmidt Kramer. She enjoys reading, helping people, and spending time with her family and friends. Shivellia lives with her two daughters, Montikka and Rashanda, in Harrisburg, Pa.

Danielle is a law clerk for Attorney Melissa Leininger and Attorney Thomas Cook. She is a second-year law student at Widener University School of Law and is a member of the Executive Board of the Student Bar Association. She enjoys running and spending time with family and friends. Danielle is from Phoenix, Ariz.



Maureen is the legal assistant to Attorney Scott Cooper. She enjoys city life, traveling, fine dining, and Celtic festivals. Maureen is originally from Long Island, N.Y., and moved to Pennsylvania in 2006.

★ Congratulations to Attorney **Tom S. Cook** on his recent marriage.

★ **Gerry Kramer's** son, Gerard Kramer, graduated from Central Dauphin High School on June 7, 2011. Gerard graduated with honors, ranking in the top 10 percent of his class. He won the Senior Award for Outstanding Social Studies Student. He participated in mock trial and was the number-one-ranked tennis player on the school team. Gerard will be attending the Tepper School of Business at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pa. *(Photo of Gerard with his Grandparents and siblings.)*



★ Schmidt Kramer attorney **Tom Cook** and his son, Sam, recently took a kayak trip on the Susquehanna River in Marysville, courtesy of Blue Mountain Outfitters of Marysville, Pa. The trip was donated by Blue Mountain Outfitters to the UCP/Schmidt Kramer 25th Anniversary Golf Tournament, and Tom was the high bidder. Tom reports that he and Sam had a great time on the river.

