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WINTER 2016

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**Eight Schmidt Kramer attorneys included  
in *Susquehanna Style* magazine's  
"2015 Select Lawyers" list**

Eight Schmidt Kramer attorneys, including **Chuck Schmidt, Gerry Kramer, Scott Cooper, Joe Chapman, Jessica Kurtz, Dennis Kergick, Mike Kosik, and Daryl Christopher**, were selected by their peers for inclusion in *Susquehanna Style* magazine's "2015 Select Lawyers" list, which was published in the magazine's December 2015 issue.



**We take your family's safety and security personally.**

# ATTORNEY NEWS

Partner **Scott Cooper** had multiple speaking engagements, including speaking on “Post-Koken Issues in Uninsured and Underinsured Motorist Cases” to the Monroe and Pike County Bar Associations. He also spoke on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s opinion involving product liability in *Tincher v. Omega Flex, Inc.* at the Pennsylvania Bar Institute program on the legislative and regulatory process and statutory drafting.

Attorney **Dennis Kergick** was awarded the Avvo Clients’ Choice Award after achieving five 5-star ratings in 2015 for his work on workers’ compensation claims.

Attorneys **Dennis Kergick** and **Jessica Kurtz** participated in the Life Fit program through UCP Central Pennsylvania, where they mentored some pretty amazing kids, teaching them basketball skills in the process.

Attorney **Jessica Kurtz** participated in an anatomy lab at Temple Medical School, earning the last credits she needed to complete her Medical School for Lawyers certificate offered through the Pennsylvania Bar Institute.



## Giving back

The employees of Schmidt Kramer participated in a number of charitable events:

● In October, Schmidt Kramer celebrated Lee National Denim Day, a fundraiser where participants donate money in exchange for wearing jeans to work. The funds raised through the national program supports the American Cancer Society and its breast cancer programs and services.



● In November, Schmidt Kramer collected 152 pounds of food as part of a food drive to support the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, which distributes 40 million pounds of food per year to support a mission of fighting hunger.



● In December, Schmidt Kramer participated in a toy drive for the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots program, receiving the Commander’s Award for their contributions.

# Events!



Happy Boss's Day!



Thank you, Chuck, Gerry, & Scott!

On October 16, 2015, partners **Chuck Schmidt**, **Gerry Kramer**, and **Scott Cooper** were honored by the Schmidt Kramer staff, who hosted a potluck lunch in celebration of Boss's Day.



Getting into the Halloween spirit, the staff at Schmidt Kramer donned their costumes at work in October.



In December, Schmidt Kramer held an Ugly Holiday Sweater Contest. The lucky (or unlucky) winner was bookkeeper **Sherrie Mehring**.

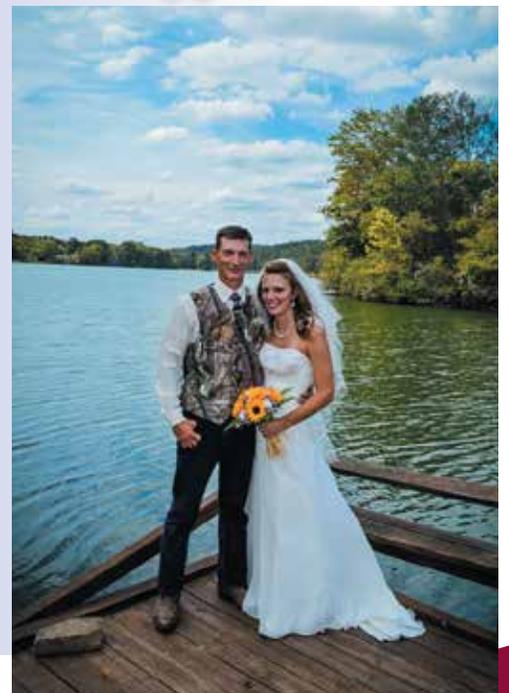
**WINNER!**



Schmidt Kramer is pleased to award its first annual academic excellence scholarship to **Colin D. DeVault** of Reading, Pa. The scholarship was offered to Pennsylvania residents who display outstanding scholastic achievement and academic excellence. Mr. DeVault is currently pursuing his master's degree in religious studies at the Evangelical Seminary, where he maintains a 4.0 grade point average. Congratulations, Colin, and best of luck in your educational endeavors!

# Staff Corner

On September 26, 2015, paralegal **Trisha Wertz** said "I do" at her small country wedding in Newport, Perry County, with friends and family by her side. It was a beautiful and fun-filled day that Trisha and her new husband, **Cole**, will never forget. *Congratulations, Trisha!*





## Snow and ice removal

There is nothing quite as cozy as the season's first snowfall, but by the fourth or fifth snow, the novelty has worn off. No matter if it's the first or the last storm of the year, be sure to properly clear your sidewalks, walkways (those that border the property and those on the property), and driveway. Homeowners owe the duty of reasonable care to anyone who might need to walk past or onto their property, and many municipalities use 24 hours as a reasonable time frame for snow and ice removal.

Laws regarding responsibility differ by state and municipality. For example, in some states, homeowners are liable for snow and ice removal on the public sidewalks that border their property; in others they can't be held liable for accidents that occur on public sidewalks, but can be fined for not removing snow in a timely manner. An exception would be when someone attempts to remove ice and snow, doesn't do a good job, and creates a new hazard (shoveling a narrow trail down the sidewalk, for example).

Winter slip-and-fall accidents often happen at a friend's, relative's, or neighbor's house. Please know that homeowner's insurance covers these claims. If you've been injured, call our office for a confidential consultation.



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### 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.

## Pet Corner

Paralegal **Jeni Smoker** loves animals and has collected a variety of "special" ones over the years, including Moose (an elderly bloodhound who eats everything), Calvin (a 25-pound attack cat), Hobbes (a mutt puppy found in a basement), Smokey (a 19-year-old three-legged cat), Shiloh (a horse that is allergic to grass), three fish, and whatever other wild animal needs to be saved at any given time. It is never calm or quiet in the Smoker household, thanks to the herd.



Would you like your pet to appear in one of Schmidt Kramer's upcoming newsletters? If so, please send a photo and some details about your furry friend to [skshare01@gmail.com](mailto:skshare01@gmail.com)!



## Birthday wishes

The following staff members had birthdays since our last newsletter:

- Kate Acie**
- Tiffany Herb**
- Jeni Smoker**

**Happy birthday to everyone!**