



SchmidtKramer
INJURY LAWYERS

Talk to
a Lawyer.

SPRING 2010

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Attorney Charles E. Schmidt Jr. honored for distinguished service

On January 22, 2010, the Pennsylvania Association for Justice (PAJ) presented a Distinguished Service Award to **Charles E. Schmidt Jr.**, a partner at **Schmidt Kramer**, in recognition of Schmidt Kramer's 16-year sponsorship of the annual golf tournament benefitting United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of Central Pennsylvania, as well as his personal dedication to the legal profession and PAJ. In announcing the award, PAJ president Kevin R. Marciano said Schmidt's long record of giving back to the community is a shining example of the caring, pro bono spirit of trial lawyers. Marciano said: "This award is about going beyond what's expected; therefore I am delighted to present this award to Chuck Schmidt for his extraordinary efforts on behalf of UCP of Central Pennsylvania and the trial bar."

The UCP/Schmidt Kramer Golf Tournament has raised nearly \$600,000 in 23 years, according to Janeen Latin, Director of Development for UCP of Central Pennsylvania. Schmidt Kramer's involvement with UCP goes back to 1993. While the money is important for funding UCP programs, Latin said it is Schmidt's "level of involvement" with the event and efforts on behalf of UCP that make the tournament so special. "Chuck epitomizes what it means to give back to your community both in terms of financial contributions and in terms of the importance of contributing time," Latin said. "He instills that in all of the employees at his firm, and that's very important to the most vulnerable populations in the community."

For Schmidt, who got involved with UCP because a friend's daughter has cerebral



palsy, his reward is knowing that his firm is able to make a difference. "We're successful because the entire firm participates, from staffing each green, to selling raffle tickets, to golfing," said Schmidt. The office is closed on the day of the tournament, he explained.

The 2009 tournament had over 120 golfers and made a profit of \$30,000. Schmidt Kramer also sponsors an "Attitude Essay Contest" open to area schools with the purpose of reducing attitudinal barriers between people with and without disabilities. The firm also contributes to other charities, including Toys for Tots and the Heart Walk.

A longtime member of PAJ's Board of Governors, Schmidt is an active volunteer and contributor to LAW PAC and has been an active member of the organization for decades. In 2012, his law partner, **Scott B. Cooper**, will become the second member of Chuck's firm to be president of PAJ. Schmidt said he is looking forward to that day and values his years of involvement with the association.



We take your family's safety and security personally.

THE STAFF CORNER

Everyone at **Schmidt Kramer** would like to welcome **Leah Eberly**, **Dawn Schwartz**, and **Thomas E. Miller** to the firm. Leah's first day at Schmidt Kramer was September 21, 2009, as a legal assistant for Attorney **Thomas S. Cook** and Attorney **Melissa Leininger**. She lives in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, with her husband. Dawn Schwartz is an attorney and also started with Schmidt Kramer on September 21, 2009. She is working with Attorney **Scott B. Cooper**. Dawn is a graduate of Widener Law School and resides in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Thomas E. Miller began working at Schmidt Kramer on January 8, 2010, as a law clerk for Attorney **Gerard C. Kramer**. Thomas attends Penn State University Dickinson School of Law in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Leah Eberly



Dawn Schwartz



The following birthdays have been celebrated at **Schmidt Kramer**: **Leah Eberly**, August 13; **Joanne Laporta**, August 26; **Dawn Schwartz**, August 25; **Todd Getgen**, September 9; **D. Joseph Chapman**, September 12; **Janice Harmon**, September 21; **Carla Salada**, September 30; **Jennifer Kalonick**, November 17; **Melissa Leininger**, January 1; **Thomas S. Cook**, January 22; and **Dawn Trostle**, January 31.

*HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO EVERYONE!*

Thomas E. Miller



MS 150 BIKE RIDE

Charles E. Schmidt Jr. and **Gerard C. Kramer**, partners at **Schmidt Kramer**, participated in the MS 150: City to Shore Bike Ride on October 3 and 4, 2009. The National MS Society's vision is "A World Free of MS."



THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU YOU THANK YOU

SOUP KITCHEN

Thanks to the staff of **Schmidt Kramer**, who has volunteered their time at the Soup Kitchen on Sunday evenings and to those who have donated needed items. Following are some comments by guests who received items: "O my God, I LOVE YOU!" was Twanda's reaction when she peeked inside her bag tonight. Little Kameron said "Thanks. Do you got any toys?" C. Tyler was smiling big and thanking everyone he saw when he left with his bag of thermals and work boots. Stanford said "that's exactly what I needed" when he got his 4XL jacket, and someone else took off his waterlogged sneakers and put on his new waterproof boots right there at the table. Skinny Gene, Johnny T, DaShaun, and more...so many people were so very happy tonight. Thank you, everyone, for your generous outpouring of clothing and time.

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU



Lee National Denim Day for breast cancer research

On Friday, October 2, 2009, the staff of **Schmidt Kramer** participated in the Lee National Denim Day, which supports breast cancer research programs. The staff put on their favorite jeans and made a donation to help raise funds for the fight against breast cancer.

CAPS FOR CANCER

Schmidt Kramer donated fleece material to Red Mill Elementary School to support Caps for Cancer. In January, Red Mill Elementary students donated a dollar to wear a cap to school for the day. The money raised will go to cancer research. The students also made about 600 fleece winter hats that will be taken to our local children's hospital.

QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

Q. *What is the difference between SSR, SSD, and SSI?*

A. All of these initials are confusing. Social Security Retirement (SSR) is paid to you at retirement age based on the years that you worked. Social Security Disability (SSD) may be paid to you (1) if you apply and, if necessary, appeal; (2) you worked for approximately 10 years recently and have insured status; (3) you don't wait too long to apply after you stop working; and (4) you are disabled. Supplemental Security Income (SSI), like SSD, is payable to people who can't work, but only if the disabled person owns no property and has no source of income.

Q. *Can I receive both social security and workers' compensation?*

A. You can receive both SSR and WC, although your WC will be reduced unless you were already receiving it at the time you were injured at work. You can receive both SSD and WC, although your SSD will be reduced while you are receiving the WC. You can't get SSI and WC, because you will probably be over income.

Q. *What happens to my SSD if I settle my workers' compensation case?*

A. Your SSD will probably increase as long as your attorney puts special wording in your WC settlement papers prorating the lump-sum settlement over your expected lifetime. You may also need the permission of Medicare if you are closing the medical part of your workers' compensation case.

Q. *If I am receiving workers' compensation, I am automatically entitled to social security, right?*

A. Wrong. In order to get workers' compensation, you have to be hurt at work and be unable to do your job because of your injury. In order to receive SSI or SSD, you have to be unable to do any job, not just the job you were doing at the time you were hurt.

Q. *If I am receiving workers' compensation, why bother applying for SSD if I am going to only get a low amount?*

A. There are three good reasons to apply for SSD if you are receiving WC. First, SSD pays you the difference between your net WC and 80 percent of the income you were making at the time of your injury. Thus, if your WC is reduced because of the attorney fee in litigated cases, your SSD will go up and make up the difference. Also, there is no cost-of-living increase in WC cases, so if you have a serious injury, the SSD payment could be very important to you and your family. Second, SSD pays for dependent children. Third, you may be entitled to Medicare coverage.

Questions? Call us at 1-800-232-6301 and "Talk to a Lawyer."

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DRESS FOR SUCCESS

Suits to self-sufficiency

Schmidt Kramer was a Luminous Sponsor for the Dress for Success Luncheon held on September 25, 2009, at the Hilton Hotel. Attorney **Melissa Leininger** and **Dawnn Trostle**, office manager, attended the event on behalf of Schmidt Kramer. The event raised over \$20,000. 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.

TOYS FOR TOTS

The staff of Schmidt Kramer again participated in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots by donating new toys to help children experience the joy of Christmas. The mission of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November, and December each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community. Each year, over 100,000 toys are collected and distributed to children during the holiday season.

2010 BEST LAWYERS IN AMERICA

Congratulations to **Charles E. Schmidt Jr.**, senior partner at Schmidt Kramer, for having been selected by his peers among the *2010 Best Lawyers in America* in the specialty of personal injury litigation. For over a quarter of a century, *Best Lawyers* has been regarded—by both the profession and the public—as the definitive guide to legal excellence in the United States.

Schmidt Kramer supports Bethesda Mission

Schmidt Kramer and their staff collected donations for the Bethesda Mission. **Melissa Leininger** and **Dawnn Trostle** delivered the donated items to the Bethesda Mission.

The Bethesda Mission of Harrisburg is a nonprofit rescue mission that extends a helping hand to individuals by providing them with food, shelter, clothing, fellowship, and counseling. Schmidt Kramer PC continues to support organizations that help our community.