



SchmidtKramer
INJURY LAWYERS

Talk to
a Lawyer.

SUMMER 2010

Brought to you by
Schmidt Kramer PC
Attorneys At Law

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What's happening at Schmidt Kramer?

In addition to our Web site at SchmidtKramer.com,
check out what is happening at:

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We look forward to hearing from you!

**Schmidt Kramer attorneys speak
at Auto and Workers' Compensation Seminars**

Attorneys **Gerard C. Kramer** and **Thomas S. Cook** have been on the road giving seminars on auto and workers' compensation law. On Sunday, April 25, Gerry and Tom were invited by members of the SEIU Local Union in Chambersburg to give a workshop on what injured workers need to know about auto and workers' compensation. This was a lively give-and-take session with lots of questions.

On May 13, the AAPC, a professional group consisting of coding and billing personnel from doctors' offices, invited **Schmidt Kramer** to give a detailed three-hour presentation on the complicated rules on what doctors can charge and collect in the areas of workers' compensation and auto reimbursement. About 50 medical personnel attended the meeting in Harrisburg. Gerry and Tom talked about the challenges faced by medical providers in workers' compensation and auto law, and again answered questions.

**Senior partner Charles E. Schmidt Jr.
speaks at St. Patrick's Parochial School**

Senior partner **Charles E. Schmidt Jr.** spoke to the fifth- and sixth-grade classes at St. Patrick's Parochial School in Harrisburg on May 5, 2010, for Law Day. The topic was "The Rule of Law."

Mr. Schmidt explained how an independent court system is the foundation for the rule of law. He used baseball analogies to attempt to make the discussion understandable to the students. Mr. Schmidt also explained the difference between criminal law and civil law. The students were all attentive and asked many questions for over an hour. We at **Schmidt Kramer** believe in making a difference in the community. Children are our most precious resource.



We take your family's safety and security personally.

24th ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Schmidt Kramer's sponsorship of the UCP/SchmidtKramer 24th Annual Golf Tournament continues in 2010. The golf tournament will be held at the Carlisle Country Club on Monday, August 9, 2010.

The staff of Schmidt Kramer is excited to again volunteer their time for the day to raise money for United Cerebral Palsy of Central Pennsylvania. We look forward to another record-breaking year!

2010 Walk Like MADD

Schmidt Kramer was a sponsor of the 2010 Walk Like MADD held in Hershey, Pennsylvania, on June 5, 2010. Every step taken and pledge helped raise funds and awareness for MADD's programs and services that serve to make our communities safer. One hundred percent of the funds raised stay in Pennsylvania to provide crucial support to victims of drunk-driving crashes, to support programs to end drunk driving, and to prevent underage drinking.

In support of cancer awareness

Schmidt Kramer and staff members again supported the American Cancer Society by participating in Daffodil Days. This year's Daffodil Days campaign took place from March 15 through March 21. The daffodil is the first flower of spring and represents a symbol of hope. Funds raised by Daffodil Days have helped the mission of preventing cancer, saving lives, and diminishing suffering from the disease through research, education, advocacy, and patient services. Gift of Hope donations also allow the Society to anonymously deliver bouquets of daffodils to cancer patients. The hope of a cancer-free future truly does bloom through everybody's efforts.

Sad news

Steve Schmidt, 60, passed away on Wednesday, January 20, 2010. Steve is the brother of Charles E. Schmidt Jr., the senior partner at Schmidt Kramer. Steve was a great guy with a wonderful sense of humor. He is truly missed by all. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the Schmidt family.



CLIENT NEWS

Schmidt Kramer sponsored our former client, **Queen Esther Johnson**, as a finalist in the "So You Think You Can Sing Gospel?" competition held on May 1, 2010, at the Church Without Walls, Roberts Valley Road in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Super Lawyers PENNSYLVANIA
2010

SCHMIDT KRAMER PC

BACK ROW (L TO R): Gerard C. Kramer*, Todd D. Getgen, Scott B. Cooper**, D. Joseph Chapman;
MIDDLE ROW: Terry S. Hyman*, Charles E. Schmidt, Jr.*, Thomas S. Cook*; **BOTTOM:** Melissa N. Leininger**

*CHOSEN TO 2010 SUPER LAWYERS. **CHOSEN TO 2010 RISING STARS. TOP 100 PENNSYLVANIA.

Prompt, efficient, professional and ethical representation for all clients

FOR MORE THAN 25 YEARS, Harrisburg-based Schmidt Kramer PC has represented personal injury victims throughout Pennsylvania. The firm's attorneys have more than 100 years of collective experience in handling automobile accident, medical malpractice, workers' compensation and Social Security cases.

HANDS-ON APPROACH Unlike some firms, at Schmidt Kramer, prospective clients speak to a lawyer right away. The firm's eight lawyers—four of whom are AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell, five whom appear on this year's *Super Lawyers*® list and one on the *Rising Stars* list—love what they do and make client communication a priority. "We meet with the client and explain to them all aspects of their case," says partner Scott Cooper. In pursuing client cases, Schmidt Kramer avoids a cookie-cutter approach. "We leave no stone

untuned and from the outset prepare all cases as if for trial," says Cooper. The firm also advocates for victim's rights by actively participating in trial lawyer organizations around the state and country.

GIVING BACK Schmidt Kramer is committed to clients' causes through its participation in charitable events including sponsoring an annual golf tournament to benefit United Cerebral Palsy and contributing to the Bethesda Mission, Toys for Tots and the Jewish Community Center, among others.

Insurance companies know that when Schmidt Kramer gets involved, they cannot give an injury victim less than what is deserved.

**Congratulations to the
2010 Super Lawyers,
2010 Rising Stars,
and Top 100 Pennsylvania!**

The staff corner—

Everyone at **Schmidt Kramer** would like to welcome **Tiffany M. Rezendes** to the firm. Her first day at Schmidt Kramer was March 15, 2010, as a Legal Assistant for Attorney **Scott B. Cooper**. Tiffany enjoys watching sports, including baseball and football, visiting family in Maryland, and going to the gym. She resides in York, Pennsylvania.



The following birthdays have been celebrated at **Schmidt Kramer**: **Charles E. Schmidt Jr.** on February 15; **Scott B. Cooper** on March 20; **Tiffany M. Rezendes** on April 14; **Terry S. Hyman** on April 15; **Jessica Niblett** on May 6; and **Gerard Kramer** on June 10. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYONE!**

A celebration was held on March 13, 2010, at the Civil War Museum in Harrisburg in honor of Leah B. Cooper's Bat Mitzvah. Leah is the daughter of partner **Scott B. Cooper**.

Congratulations to **Elizabeth P. Kramer**, daughter of partner **Gerard C. Kramer**, for graduating from Central Dauphin High School on June 9, 2010. Elizabeth will be attending Carnegie Mellon University in the fall.

Thank you, Schmidt Kramer staff!

Schmidt Kramer celebrated Administrative Professionals Day on Wednesday, April 21, 2010. Thanks so much to our staff for all their hard work, professionalism, and dedication throughout the year. We appreciate all they do at Schmidt Kramer!



Dress for Success

4th Annual Capital Area Breakfast: "Women & Change—Suits to Self-Sufficiency"

Schmidt Kramer was a mannequin sponsor for the Dress for Success Breakfast held on April 14, 2010, at the Conference Center at Central Pennsylvania College. Attorney **Melissa Leininger** and Officer Manager **Dawnn Trostle** attended the event on behalf of Schmidt Kramer. The keynote speaker was Senator Patricia H. Vance. 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.

Participation in pro bono program

Attorney **Thomas S. Cook** has been volunteering his time to represent clients in custody conciliations and custody hearings through the Dauphin County Bar Association Pro Bono Volunteer Lawyer Program. Attorney Cook feels that children who get caught up in divorce disputes need legal representation. Thus far, Attorney Cook has handled three custody conciliations and two custody hearings for needy families who could not afford an attorney.

Patient Safety Authority

Attorney **Terry S. Hyman** is currently serving as a member of the Strategic Planning and Long Term Mission Committee of the Patient Safety Authority, an independent agency of the Commonwealth dedicated to the improvement of patient care.

Auto Law Seminar speaker

Attorney **Scott B. Cooper** spoke on underinsured/uninsured motorist and bad-faith issues at the Pennsylvania Association for Justice's 28th Annual Auto Law Seminar held in Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, and Philadelphia in April and May.

Prestigious AV rating from Martindale-Hubbell®

Partner **Scott B. Cooper** and Attorney **Thomas C. Cook** recently joined other firm members **Charles E. Schmidt Jr.**, **Terry S. Hyman**, and **Gerard C. Kramer** by receiving an AV Peer-Review Rating from Martindale-Hubbell®. An AV Peer-Review Rating attests to a lawyer's professional legal ability and ethics based on the confidential opinions of members of the bar as well as by members of the judiciary.

Award for community service

Gerard C. Kramer, a partner at **Schmidt Kramer**, received an award for volunteering 20+ hours of community service with United Cerebral Palsy of Central Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania Supreme Court

Attorney **Scott B. Cooper** argued three cases in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court on underinsured motorist issues in April and May.

Just a side note

Attorney **Thomas S. Cook** practices workers' compensation and social security law with Schmidt Kramer. In his spare time, he plays bluegrass and blues music on the mandolin. On June 5, Tom played with the Country Tradition at the Fetterhoff Church Strawberry Festival between Halifax and Fischerville, Pennsylvania. On August 21, he will be playing at the St. James Church Soup Festival in Carsonville, Pennsylvania. Come on over and say "howdy."

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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.

Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day



On April 22, 2010, **Schmidt Kramer** participated in "Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day." The program allowed children of Schmidt Kramer employees to learn what their relative accomplishes during the work day.

Participating were Attorney **Todd Getgen's** son, Attorney **Joseph Chapman's** sons, **Jennifer Garcia's** son (Jennifer is secretary to Charles E. Schmidt Jr.), and **Jessica Niblett's** sister (Jessica is our receptionist).

The children were welcomed to Schmidt Kramer by **Charles E. Schmidt Jr.** and **Gerard C. Kramer**, who shared with the children a history of our firm. The children toured our law office, helped their relative with their job duties, and received a tour of the Governor's Mansion. For lunch, the children shared a pizza luncheon with the staff of Schmidt Kramer. At the end of the day, the children received a Certificate of Participation and a Payday Candy Bar, which represented their paycheck for the day.

Question OF THE MONTH

Q. *Would you recommend I have full tort (right to sue) or limited tort (right to sue)?*

A. We recommend that every person who applies for motor vehicle insurance in Pennsylvania have full tort (right to sue) on their insurance policies. If you take limited tort, you save some money off of the full premium, but unless there is an exception, which in some cases is hard to establish, you give up the rights that you and anyone who resides in your household have to sue for pain and suffering if you are injured by another driver. This includes your spouse and children. In our years of experience, we have seen that it is more advantageous to have full tort instead of taking limited tort and saving some money.

Bowl for Kids' Sake 2010

Schmidt Kramer supported Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl for Kids' Sake 2010. Bowl for Kids Sake is an important part of Big Brothers Big Sisters' efforts to continue to serve the youth in our community. With community support, Big Brothers Big Sisters can continue to fulfill their mission to help children reach their potential through professionally supported, one-to-one relationships. The community benefits as these relationships contribute to brighter futures, better schools, and stronger communities for us all.