



SchmidtKramer
INJURY LAWYERS

Talk to
a Lawyer.

SUMMER 2012

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Scott B. Cooper elected President of the Pennsylvania Association for Justice

Partner **Scott B. Cooper** was elected President of the state trial lawyers association, the Pennsylvania Association for Justice, at its annual retreat in Hershey, Pa., on June 30, 2012. We wish Scott the best and pledge our full support as he leads the over 2,000-member trial lawyer organization in protecting the rights of the injured during the next year.



\$1.2 million medical malpractice verdict

In May, **Terry S. Hyman**, one of Schmidt Kramer's experienced litigators, received an award from a jury of \$1.2 million on behalf of a brain-damaged 5-year-old in a medical malpractice case in Dauphin County. The child was 11 months old when he was diagnosed with severe obstructive sleep apnea by the defendant, an ENT specialist in the Harrisburg area. Children under the age of 3 are at very high risk for respiratory complications in the first 24 hours after surgery. At less than 1 year, our client was at an even greater risk for respiratory complications. In addition, a sleep study showed that the infant was four times higher than the level considered "severe." The defendant did hospitalize the young child, but put him on a general floor without using a pulse oximeter, the simple device used to measure the amount of oxygen in his blood. Attorney Hyman presented evidence from the head of the Pediatric ENT Department of Stanford University that using a pulse oximeter to detect lower amounts of oxygen in the blood was an "early warning device" to detect a problem before anything serious happened. The defendant also did not tell the nurses that this child was at great risk of having breathing problems during his first night



Terry S. Hyman

after surgery. Totally consistent with his risk, the child completely stopped breathing and turned blue while in the hospital during the night after his surgery. He was revived but suffered a brain injury due to the lack of oxygen going to his brain. Before surgery, our client was on the edge of walking and happily babbling "mama" and "papa." When he was revived, he could not even lift his head or make a sound. Over the last four years, he has improved considerably, but still has noticeable problems with walking and fine motor control.

The case was hard fought, but ultimately the jury found the defendant negligent. Cases like this are the reason Schmidt Kramer is in existence. Fewer than 10 percent of the medical malpractice cases which go to trial in Dauphin County result in a verdict for the patient. This verdict is among the three or four highest verdicts in a malpractice case in Dauphin County in the last 10 years. This family has always had the faith and love to cope with their child's disability, but now it has the financial means to give their son whatever he needs to progress to the highest level he can. We are proud of our attorneys and even prouder when our results really do make a difference in our clients' lives.

We take your family's safety and security personally.

Take me out to the ballgame

The attorneys and staff of **Schmidt Kramer** attended a Harrisburg Senators baseball game on July 25, 2012, at Metro Bank Park. It was a beautiful day to enjoy a ballgame. Everybody had a fun and relaxing day. Thanks, **Chuck, Gerry,** and **Scott,** for a great day!



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 18, 2012, at The Conference Center at Central Pennsylvania College. **Scott Cooper, Melissa Leininger, Dawnn Trostle, Janice Harmon, Maureen Sullivan, April Casper,** and **Melinda Valan** attended the event on behalf of Schmidt Kramer. The keynote speaker was **Joi Gordon**, CEO of Dress for Success Worldwide. 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.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

The following staff members had birthdays since our last newsletter: **Shivellia Gaston** on April 13; **Terry S. Hyman** on April 15; **April Casper** on April 25; **Nichole Olsakovsky** on May 29; **Lara Antonuk** on June 4; **Gerard C. Kramer** and **Jessica L. Kurtz** on June 10; **Ashley Burris** on July 11; and **Dori Traxler** on August 16.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYONE!

THANK YOU, SCHMIDT KRAMER STAFF

Schmidt Kramer celebrated Administrative Professionals Day on April 25, 2012. 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!



UNDEFEATED!



The soccer team **Joe Chapman** coached in Susquehanna Township went undefeated this season. He had a great group of kids who improved in their skills, decision-making, and teamwork as the year progressed. He and his assistant coaches considered it a successful season, not because of

the wins and losses, but because of the growth they saw in each of the young men who played.

In Susquehanna Township, it was a good year for baseball. **Joe Chapman** was an assistant coach, along with **Terry Heller**, for his son's baseball team. The kids had a great time, learned some baseball, and got an education on how a team works. Joe is grateful to have had the opportunity to participate and hopefully influence the next generation.



ATTORNEY NEWS

■ Partner **Scott B. Cooper** spoke at the Philadelphia Convention Center at the 30th Annual Pennsylvania Association for Justice's Annual Auto Law Update. At right is a photograph of the speakers celebrating the 30 years.



■ Schmidt Kramer attorney **Thomas S. Cook** gave two lectures on workers' compensation off-site injuries to over 350 people attending the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's 11th Annual Workers' Compensation Conference in Hershey, Pa., on June 11, 2012. His lecture last year received good reviews for being interesting and entertaining, and he was asked to speak twice this year. Attorney Cook is the former director of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Workers' Compensation.

■ On May 22, 2012, Schmidt Kramer Partner **Scott B. Cooper** testified before the Pennsylvania State House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee. The Committee held an informational meeting on HB 1495, which would amend the Pennsylvania Recreational Land Use and Water Act. Attorney Cooper testified on behalf of the Pennsylvania Association for Justice to oppose the proposed legislation, which would restrict the rights of victims.

■ In July, Attorney Cook was interviewed by the Dauphin County Bar Association to discuss his two-year participation in the Pro Bono Custody Conciliation Program in Dauphin County. Attorney Cook has represented parents in custody conciliations free of charge as part of this project. His interview will be part of a Web site video being produced by the Dauphin County Bar Association.

■ On May 17, 2012, Partner **Scott Cooper** spoke on "Social Media from the Practitioner's Point of View" from the plaintiff's perspective at a Pennsylvania Defense Institute Program in Grantville, Pa.

■ Partner **Scott Cooper**, on May 18, 2012, spoke on "Uninsured and Underinsured Issues and Bad Faith" at the 30th Annual Automobile Insurance Law Seminar for the Pennsylvania Association for Justice in Harrisburg, Pa.

■ Attorney **Melissa Leininger** attended the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Annual Meeting in Lancaster, Pa., on May 9 and 10. The PBA Annual Meeting offered quality CLE programming, exciting speakers, and professional camaraderie. The PBA promotes justice, respect for the rule of law, professional excellence, and betterment of the legal profession. The PBA is also deeply committed to enhancing public understanding of the legal system and to improving access to legal services for everyone, regardless of their ability to pay.

■ On May 3, 2012, through May 5, 2012, Attorneys **Gerard C. Kramer, Thomas S. Cook, and Melissa N. Leininger** attended a NOSSCR (National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives) conference. This is the 66th national conference on Social Security law. The goal of the conference is to enhance practitioners' skills in providing the highest-quality representation for Social Security Disability and SSI applicants.

■ Congratulations to Schmidt Kramer's four attorneys who are on the 2012 Best Lawyers listing. Peers in the legal community have voted **Charles E. Schmidt Jr., Gerard C. Kramer, Terry S. Hyman, and Thomas S. Cook** as Best Lawyers, and the firm a Tier 1-ranked *U.S. News* Best Law Firm.

■ Congratulations to Partner **Gerard C. Kramer** for being selected as one of Central Pennsylvania's Best Lawyers for 2012.

■ Congratulations to Partner **Gerard C. Kramer** for being selected as a "2012 Top Attorney in Pennsylvania Selected by Peer Recognition and Professional Achievement," published in *Philadelphia Magazine*.

■ Congratulations to Partner **Charles E. Schmidt Jr.** for his selection to the East Shore YMCA Board of Directors.



■ Partners **Chuck Schmidt** and **Gerry Kramer** participated in the Tour de Cure for Diabetes on June 9, 2012. The bicycle tour was 65 miles through Dauphin and Lebanon counties.

Schmidt Kramer lawyers named "Super Lawyers"



Five lawyers at Schmidt Kramer—**Thomas S. Cook, Scott B. Cooper, Terry S. Hyman, Gerard C. Kramer, and Charles E. Schmidt Jr.**—were recently designated as "Super Lawyers" in Pennsylvania by the Super Lawyers publication for their leadership in the legal field. In addition, Schmidt Kramer lawyers **Melissa N. Leininger** and **D. Joseph Chapman** were named Rising Stars by the publication.

Schmidt Kramer has the most Super Lawyers of any Central Pennsylvania-based personal injury firm. In addition, this year marks the third year in a row that Scott B. Cooper was named one of the Top 100 Super Lawyers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Super Lawyers list is designed to be a credible, comprehensive, and diverse listing of outstanding attorneys that can be used as a resource for attorneys and consumers searching for legal counsel.

The Super Lawyers process has three phases: nomination, evaluation of the candidate pool, and peer evaluation by practice area. Evaluation is based on 12 indicators of peer recognition and professional achievement, including verdicts, settlements, and transactions; representative clients; experience; honors and awards; special licenses and certifications; position within law firm; bar and other professional activity; pro bono and community service; scholarly lectures and writings; education and employment background; and other outstanding achievements.

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.

STAFF CORNER

◆ **WELCOME:** Everyone at **Schmidt Kramer** would like to welcome **Nichole Olsakovsky, Lara Antonuk, Amyra Wagner, and Kathy Yocum** to the firm.

◆ Nichole's first day at Schmidt Kramer was May 14, 2012. She is working as a legal assistant for Attorney Thomas S. Cook and Attorney Melissa N. Leininger. She enjoys traveling, the outdoors, and spending time with friends and family. Nichole currently resides in New Bloomfield, Pa.



◆ Lara's first day at Schmidt Kramer was May 18, 2012. She is working as a law clerk for Attorney Terry S. Hyman. Lara graduated from Elizabethtown College and is a second-year law student at Widener University School of Law. She enjoys playing tennis and reading. Lara currently resides in Harrisburg, Pa.



◆ Amyra's first day at Schmidt Kramer was July 16, 2012. She is working as a legal assistant for Attorney Charles E. Schmidt Jr. and Attorney D. Joseph Chapman. She enjoys making jewelry, spending time with family, and browsing antique shops. Amyra resides in Harrisburg, Pa., with her daughter, Scarlett Grace.



◆ Kathy's first day at Schmidt Kramer was July 23, 2012. She is working as a legal assistant for Attorney Gerard C. Kramer. She enjoys playing tennis, gardening, and spending time with her husband Brad and their five cats. Kathy currently resides in Shippensburg, Pa.



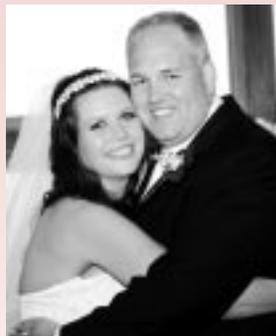
◆ **CONGRATULATIONS** to the graduates. **Kendall Valan** graduated from Manheim Township High School in Lancaster, Pa., and will be attending Robert Morris University in the Media Arts Program.

Kaitlyn Valan graduated from Lancaster Mennonite High School in Lancaster, Pa., and is entering a six-year Master's Degree Honors Program for Physician



Assistant at Lock Haven University. **Connor Valan** also graduated from Manheim Township High School and is entering the Honors Engineering Program at Widener University. Kendall, Kaitlyn, and Connor are the children of **Melinda Valan**, paralegal to Attorney Scott B. Cooper.

◆ **Stacey Elizabeth Anstis** and **Ian Thomas Parchen** were married on May 18, 2012, at Our Lady of the Seas Roman Catholic Church in the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Family and friends traveled from across the United States to join them in the celebration of the first day of the rest of their lives. Stacey is the daughter of **Maureen Sullivan**, legal assistant to Attorney Scott B. Cooper.



OUR NEW WEB SITE!



On July 2, 2012, **Schmidt Kramer** launched our new and improved Web site. Please check it out at www.schmidtkramer.com.