

Shannon Law Group

A Professional Corporation

Where Compassion Meets Justice

We Are At Your Service

In 28 years of representing people in the courts, I am thankful to you for entrusting us with sensitive legal matters over the years. When you refer someone to our firm, it is your highest compliment to us. You have given us the opportunity to serve someone, and we are very appreciative of this opportunity. It is a privilege for us to represent you. Let us be clear. We are at your service.

DEVELOPMENTS



May was a busy time at our law firm and in our family. In our family, our daughter Emma graduated from University of Notre Dame on May 15, 2016. Emma has credentials to teach middle school and high school in Illinois and is seeking the right fit for her future. Our daughter Kate graduated from Naperville North High School on May 18, 2016 and will attend Marquette University in the Fall. We spent a lot of family time in May travelling to our kids events. Michelle and I attended countless soccer and baseball games and volunteered at a number of track meets. (I found out I can still rake a long jump pit fairly well.) Michelle and I traveled to Charleston, Illinois for the State track meet and watched Kate run one of her final races. We moved two girls (and their stuff) out of their dorm rooms and carted them back to Chez

Shannon. We feel blessed to have all of our children home for a few weeks this summer before they move on this Fall. Trying to enjoy the moments of 8 people at the dinner table.

Pat attended a Volunteer Attorney Expungement Summit Training at the Daley Center on May 19. At this Summit, lawyers were trained how to seek court expungement for minor criminal offenses so that employees can seek better job opportunities. Way to go Pat!

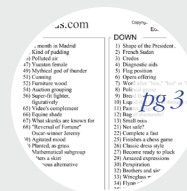
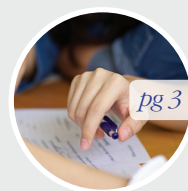


On February 26, 2016, we filed a case in Cook County Circuit Court on behalf of our client who was permanently injured and rendered brain damaged and hospitalized due to the negligence of a trucking company. Our client remains hospitalized three months later. There is no amount of money that will restore her to her pre-crash state of being. We are seeking to recover from the trucking company and its insurance company all of her extensive present and future medical bills, and more importantly compensation for her disability and loss of her normal life for her remaining years.

In a case we tried to verdict in Cook County in 2015, a Cook County Circuit Court judge denied all of the defendants' motions for a new trial on April 11, 2016. The transportation company defendant filed a notice of appeal on May 11, 2016. The case will now be reviewed by the First District Appellate Court.



Congratulations are in order to our law clerk Patti Zimmerman. Patti recently graduated from Northern Illinois University School of Law. Patti will be taking the bar exam this summer and starting at her new job as legal counsel for the Northern Illinois Law Clinic in Rockford, Illinois. At the not for profit law clinic, Patti will work as a trial lawyer to advocate for the most vulnerable. Congratulations Patti! •





Be Extra Careful Signing That Settlement Release

If you've negotiated with the insurance company on your own, agreed on a settlement amount and are about to sign a settlement release, there are some key things you need to be aware of:

First, there are certain rights you are likely giving up. For instance, let's say that in a few months you discover that you need further legal action to help pay for injuries from your accident, and you decide that you need to hire an attorney. Odds are, as a result of the signed settlement release that's in place, there will be little – if anything – that can be done, even with an attorney on your side.

The reason for that is because a settlement release is a document that finalizes your accident claim. Essentially, you agree to terminate your claim, and in exchange, the insurance company agrees to pay the settlement amount that was negotiated.

Problem is, most settlement releases are written in a way that precludes you from reopening the case or filing an additional lawsuit for your injuries. You may be able to obtain an open-ended settlement release that would enable you to file for compensation for future medical expenses, but those types of releases are rare.

So, what's the big takeaway here? If you're about to sign a settlement release, you must read every word of the document and clearly understand exactly what your rights are moving forward and what you're agreeing to. And, you have to be sure that the settlement amount covers not only your current medical expenses, but also any potential future expenses. •

June 2016 Important Dates

June 11–12 – Annual Italian Feast of SS. Corocifisso at Maryville
(See <http://sscrocifisso.us/italian-feast-details/>)

June 19 – Father's Day **June 29** – Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul

Important Recall: Polaris ROVs

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recently announced a recall of over 130,000 Polaris RZR recreational off-highway vehicles (ROVs) because of concerns that the vehicles can catch fire while being driven, posing fire and burn hazards to both drivers and passengers.

The recalled vehicles are the Polaris Model Year 2013-2016 RZR 900 and RZR 1000 ROVs.

Consumers are urged to immediately stop using the recalled ROVs and to contact their Polaris dealer for a free repair.

According to the CPSC, Polaris has received more than 160 reports of fires with the recalled RZR ROVs, resulting in one death of a 15-year old-passenger from a rollover that led to a fire, and 19 reports of injuries, including first, second and third degree burns.

For more information regarding the recall, consumers can contact Polaris at 800-POLARIS or 800-765-2747 from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. CT Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. CT Saturday and Sunday, or online at polaris.com by clicking on "Off-Road Safety Recalls" on the main page of the Polaris website. •



Tips for Filing a Property Damage Claim with Your Own Insurer



Twenty years ago, we handled had a real stink of a case. Our clients returned from vacation to find a family of skunks in their basement. They called a company to remove the skunks and mayhem ensued. Lo and behold, the spray of the family of skunks found its way into the house's HVAC system and stained the entire house with its odor. Our clients' insurance company denied the claim outright.

Fortunately, we were able to recover the full amount of the claim for our clients because skunks were not properly excluded from the homeowner's policy.

While most people will never experience serious skunk property damage in their lifetime, many people will face damage to their home by fire other catastrophic event. Imagine this scenario: You have just sustained significant damage to your home in a fire. You call your insurance company to notify them of the loss, hoping that they will do what they promised they would do when you gave them your premiums. Within a day, your insurance company calls you and asks for a recorded statement for your claim. What do you do? As an insured, you have an obligation to cooperate with your insurer. However, keep these helpful hints in mind before

Rule #1: Be Honest

Nothing sinks an insurance claim faster than dishonesty by the insured. It's always important to be truthful, but especially so when dealing with your own insurance company. Do not gild the lily here. If you do not know the answer, just let them know you do not know the answer.

FreeDailyCrosswords.com

Thursday, August 1, 2013
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Edited by Timothy Parker

ACROSS

1) Skip over
5) Diary fastener
9) ____loading (marathon prep)
14) Flower holder
15) Region
16) Arctic, for one
17) "____ for the poor!"
18) One with pants on fire?
19) "Lather, ____, repeat"
20) Kind of roll
23) Addition total
24) Kennel sound
25) Put a scuff on, e.g.
28) Artsy New Mexico town
31) Lobs softly
36) Came back to earth
38) Boars' mates
40) "Glycerine" opener
41) Arctic tern's landing spot?

44) A month in Madrid
45) Kind of pudding
46) Polluted air
47) Yucatan female
49) Mythical god of thunder
51) Cunning
52) Furniture wood
54) Auction grouping
56) Super-fit fighter, figuratively
65) Video's complement
66) Equine shade
67) What skunks are known for
68) "Reversal of Fortune" Oscar-winner Jeremy
69) Agitated mood
70) Planted, as grass
71) Mathematical subgroup
72) Alters a skirt
73) Ominous alternative

DOWN

1) Shape of the President's office
2) French Sudan
3) Credos
4) Diagnostic aids
5) Flag position
6) Opera offering
7) Word after "box," "hot" or "bucket"
8) Political group
9) Bread from meal
10) Liquid that can eat through metal
11) Painter Magritte
12) Bag of diamonds?
13) Small bills
21) Not safe?
22) Complete a fast
25) Finishes a chess game
26) Classic dress style
27) Become ready to pluck
29) Amazed expressions
30) Perspiration
32) Brothers and sisters
33) Wineglass parts
34) Flynn of "Gentleman Jim"
35) Overly wet
37) Bull in a ring
39) "Oh, well" noise
42) First in order
43) Freon and antifreeze
48) Kind of beer
50) "1001 Nights" bird
53) Cattail's locale
55) "____ were the days"
56) Like some church matters
57) It replaced the drachma
58) Commotions of Shakespearean proportions?
59) Highest single digit
60) Zero
61) Seriously injure
62) Heathen's figurine
63) "____ the time!"
64) Fish-eating bird

TILT

By Irma Afram

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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68				69				70				
71				72				73				

Courtesy
FreeDailyCrosswords.com

Rule #2: Recognize the Situation

If your claim is a sizeable claim (your house just burned down), it is important that you understand the gravity of this situation. We just handled a claim for a client whose insurance company required her to give an examination under oath with an attorney during the claims process. She did so without her own lawyer present. After the statement, the insurance company denied the claim. We had to bring the insurance company before the court to get them to pay, but it took years to recover our client's money. We highly advise you have an attorney present for your recorded statement to level the playing field.

Rule #3: Make a Detailed Inventory Now

Almost all insurance policies require the insured to make a detailed listing of all property damaged in the claim. So why not do it now. Inventory and photograph all of your valuables and keep these items in a safe place away from your home. It may seem tedious and overwhelming, but this is a critical step if you want to recover for all of the items lost in the claim.

Shannon Law Group, P.C. handles bad faith insurance cases in Illinois courts and in other courts throughout the country. We would be happy to meet with you and discuss your options. •

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A Professional Corporation

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Damage Claim with Your
Own Insurer – pg 2

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Strawberries Overtake Apples... on Pesticide Residue List

The Environmental Working Group (EWG) recently compiled a report based on U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) data that lifted strawberries to the top of the heap for fruits and vegetables harboring the most pesticide residue. Apples had headed the list ("The Dirty Dozen") the previous five years.

The USDA tested over 35,000 samples of fruits and vegetables. Ninety-eight percent of strawberries checked in with some form of pesticide residue. Rounding out the Dirty Dozen were nectarines, peaches, celery, grapes, cherries, spinach, tomatoes, sweet bell peppers, cherry tomatoes, and cucumbers.

A spokeswoman for the EWG said it's important that people realize that conventional agriculture relies heavily on pesticides, with some crops receiving more than others. She also believes the level of strawberry contamination is "startling," but even more shocking is the fact that it doesn't violate U.S. laws, which are "weak."

However, the California Strawberry Commission points out that the USDA information states that pesticide residue is not a safety concern. A different analysis concludes that a child could have over 1,500 servings of strawberries a day, or other fruits and veggies, and still not suffer ill effects from pesticide residue. Others contend that the science used to determine the Dirty Dozen list is shaky at best, or at least the interpretation of the data is flawed.

If you're not sure what to believe, here's a safe recommendation: Continue to eat fresh fruits and vegetables; just wash them thoroughly before eating them. Some might suggest organic produce as an option, too. But that's a separate controversy for another day. •

