

COUNSELOR

The newsletter of the
Law Office of
Tommie A. Harsley III

8200 Olive Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63132

(314) 872-3900

www.taharsleylaw.com

Anniversary Special Edition



Law Firm Statement

To provide excellent legal representation to injured persons. To adhere to the highest standards of ethical conduct, zealous representation and personal service to the people who put their trust in our law firm and become our clients.

ATTORNEY TOMMIE A. HARSLEY III 25 YEARS OF LAW PRACTICE!

This year I celebrate 25 years of law practice. It is difficult for me to believe that one quarter of a century has passed since I graduated from Washington University School of Law in 1987, passed the Bar exam and stood in the Missouri Supreme Court taking the oath of office. I am very grateful for the wonderful opportunities that practicing law has afforded me and for the many marvelous people that I have met throughout the

years. I think of so many fellow lawyers, judges, court per-

“Perhaps most gratifying is the many clients I have represented. I value the trust and confidence they have placed in me”

sonnel, doctors, and experts from various disciplines who

have helped me but have also enriched my life. I have been privileged to work at several law firms. I reflect fondly on the lawyers, paralegals, and secretaries that I have worked with at those law firms. Perhaps most gratifying is the many clients that I have represented. I value the trust and confidence that they have placed in me and many have become wonderful friends.

A great deal has changed

See Attorney 25 Years P.2

THANK YOU CLIENTS! (AND EVERYBODY)

I am grateful to so many people who have made this 25 year journey possible. I could begin with my cousin Sherri Allen-Moreno who decided to go to law school two years before me and encouraged me to consider becoming a lawyer. I am appreciative to the fine lawyers at Freeman,

Whitfield, Montgomery & Staples, particularly Rita Montgomery and Harold Whitfield, who hired me after law school and gave me a great foundation to begin my legal career. I am indebted to Cynthia Gillespie, Evelyn Murray and Marilyn Hemphill, the secretaries who have worked tirelessly for me (and with me!) after I began my

own practice. Without their patience and hard work I would not have had a law practice. Of course I cannot express the extent of my thanks to all of the people, family members, friends, pastors, doctors, fellow church members, lawyers and former clients who have

See Thank You Clients P.3

Table of Contents

Attorney Celebrates Twenty Five Years of Practice	1
Thank You Clients! (And Everybody)	1
Counselor’s Corner	2
Law Firm Litigation Results	3

COUNSELOR’S CORNER

The question might be asked, “Why do you continue?” The answer lies partially in an experience I had early in my career.

When I had been practicing just a few years, I had a case that changed my life. I was called to the home of an elderly lady to prepare a will for her. I went and in due course took all of the information needed. I talked with her at length and learned that she was widow. I also learned that she had one son who had died some years prior. In short order, we completed her will. In this process, I began to really value a kind of professional friendship with her. She shared her concern that she had not received any financial benefit when her

son died. He had worked for a large company and had enjoyed a successful career. She believed that her son had made her a beneficiary on an insurance policy or policies. She gave me the paperwork and documents that she felt supported her belief. As I began to review the documents, I began to believe her and that the death benefit had not been paid.

I began calling the company to speak with people. No progress was made. I wrote a letter to the company. The company wrote back and advised that nothing was due her. I wrote again. And I received in response a very forceful letter from a large and prestigious law firm in New York City telling me and my client that nothing was due her and essentially for us to go jump in a lake. I filed suit and

began digging into layers of corporate and bureaucratic bungling. As the lawsuit progressed, it became clear that The company had not notified her of her beneficiary status. Ultimately, the company paid the policy amount before the case went to trial.

The money my client received did not replace her son. But it helped ease the financial burdens that she was experiencing as senior citizen. It made her life better. I believe that as an attorney I made a positive difference in her life. In every case I undertake, that is my goal, to make a positive difference in the lives of my clients, the people that I represent. That is why I continue.



Bodily Injury

Workers’ Compensation

Automobile Accidents

Wrongful Death

ATTORNEY HARSLEY 25 YEARS (CONT’D)

since I began practicing. As it has radically changed most of our culture, the digital age has transformed virtually every aspect of law practice. In law school, all of my class notes, briefs, research and tests were handwritten. As a young new attorney I either wrote everything on a legal pad and my secretary typed the document from my handwritten paper or I dictated the legal document for my secretary to transcribe. Now, using my computer, I can generate many finished legal documents myself without my secretary’s assistance.

Most lawyers have adopted and incorporated various com-

puter software and programs designed for law practice. Legal research is now done primarily online. In the courtroom, exhibits and trial documents are now done with excellent computer programs that streamline and simplify presenting a case. Most courts have internet based programs that allow access to the court files and dockets from distant locations. In Federal Court, lawsuits and document are filed from the lawyers office over the internet.

Yet in spite of the many changes, the important things stay the same. As a young lawyer, my goal was to use the law

to make the lives of people better. That is still my goal as a “not so young” lawyer, I desire to help people by aiding them in knowing and enforcing their legal rights. I am grateful for the opportunity I have had to be an attorney. I celebrate 25 years of law practice.



“I desire to help people by aiding them in knowing and enforcing their rights”

THANK YOU CLIENTS! (CONT'D)

referred clients to my law office!

Yet beyond all of these wonderful people to whom I am grateful, I thank each and every client who has allowed me to represent them. I have represented approximately five thousand clients during these 25 years. In the earlier years I prepared wills, reviewed contracts, assisted in adoptions and name changes, litigated traffic matters, and engaged in some probate estate practice. Representing people in these matters was immensely satisfying. For the past 20 years I have concentrated my practice representing injured people. Individuals in this situation find themselves facing a complex and confusing legal

system that often does not lend itself to fairness. People are usually placed in a position of having to enforce their rights to fair compensation for their losses; it is rare when fairness happens easily. The average per-



Law Office Reception Area

son soon discovers that he or she is at a great disadvantage when they attempt to deal with an insurance company or employer that is skilled and experienced at protecting its interests.

It is in these situations I believe that I have made a difference in the lives of my clients. We have, to some degree, helped even the scales of justice for clients who have lost much. People have lost loved ones, their own physical health, functional capacity, quality of life and income. Over the years we have represented clients in wrongful death claims, malpractice lawsuits, motor vehicle accidents, product liability claims, slip and fall accidents, dog bite cases, workers compensation claims, nursing home cases and various other claims. In each of these matters it is my goal to help tilt the scales of justice to a place of equality for my clients to receive what is fair and right.

Thank you each and every client and everyone who helped me along the way.

LAW FIRM LITIGATION RESULTS

A major consideration when choosing an attorney is whether he has been successful in the past obtaining favorable verdicts (court decisions) or settlements. The Law Office of Tommie A. Harsley has excelled. He has worked as sole legal counsel and with other law firms to obtain outstanding results in many cases. The following are a small representation.

- ◆ He has obtained a verdict of 1.2 million dollars in a medical malpractice action filed for a client who sustained a hip fracture when dropped by medical personnel.

- ◆ A settlement of One Million Dollars and a verdict of Eight Hundred Seventy Five Thousand Dollars were obtained in a medical malpractice claim. The hospital and treating doctors failed to diagnose a fatal flesh eating disease.

- ◆ A settlement of Two Million Dollars in a medical malpractice lawsuit against a hospital and doctors who failed to perform a potentially life saving surgery in a timely manner.

- ◆ A confidential settlement exceeding Five Hundred Thousand Dollars in a legal malpractice claim brought against an attorney who misread a clients' employment agreement.

- ◆ A settlement of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars in a medical malpractice, wrongful death claim for the family of an elderly patient negligently administered incorrect medication.

- ◆ A confidential settlement exceeding Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars in a products liability, wrongful death lawsuit against an automobile manufacturer for the design of its seatbelt.

Many workers' compensation permanent total disability and civil case policy limit settlements have been obtained.

Most of the new clients to the law office have been referred by former clients!

“I have represented approximately five thousand clients during these 25 years.”

The Law Office of Tommie A. Harsley III has excelled at obtaining outstanding verdicts and settlements for its clients.

LAW FIRM RESUME

The articles in this newsletter are presented for informational purposes only. They are not intended to be construed as legal advice. Consult with an experienced attorney for any specific legal questions.

Attorney Tommie A. Harsley, III received his undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1984 and his law degree from Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, Missouri in 1987. He has been a member of the Missouri Bar since 1987 and the Illinois Bar since 1988.

He was employed as an associate attorney at the law firm of Freeman, Whitfield, Montgomery & Staples from 1987 through 1991. There he gained extensive experience as a trial attorney in both civil litigation, (non-criminal) and workers' compensation law. He developed an in depth knowledge of workers' compensation law and practice and has litigated numerous cases in Missouri and Illinois. He has practiced personal injury and workers compensation law exclusively since 1991. As a civil trial and workers' compensation attorney he has experience in

all phases of trial practice and has developed an excellent reputation as a meticulous preparer and a persuasive courtroom advocate.

Attorney Harsley established the Law Office of Tommie A. Harsley III in 1995. The primary practice areas are personal injury and workers' compensation. He is a member of the Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys, and the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis.

Attorney Harsley is very involved in organizing and advising not-for-profit religious organizations. He is the pastor of Grace New Covenant Church in St. Louis Missouri, www.gncchurch.org. He and his wife Vanassa have three children, Robert (daughter-in-law Ericka), Thomas and Rachel.

Law Office of Tommie A. Harsley III

8200 Olive Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63132

(314) 872-3900
(314) 957-6563 (24 Hours)
attyharsley@att.net (email)
www.taharsleylaw.com



BODILY INJURY * WORKERS' COMPENSATION * AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENTS * WRONGFUL DEATH