

COUNSELOR

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

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Anniversary Special Edition

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ATTORNEY TOMMIE A. HARSLEY CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF PRACTICE!



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 celebrates twenty years of practicing law in 2007. He graduated from Washington University School of Law in 1987 and successfully passed the Missouri Bar examination in that same year. He took and passed the Illinois Bar examination the following year. He has practiced continuously in the greater St. Louis metropolitan area since 1987.

Attorney Harsley indi-

cates that he has found tremen-

“I want to treat every client in the way I would want to be treated or the way I would want a member of my family to be treated.”

dous satisfaction in his profession and enjoys the rigors of

law practice. He feels that it is a great privilege to have a law license and the accompanying responsibilities. For the past fifteen years he has concentrated his practice on representing injured individuals and their families. His motto for success has been simple; “I want to treat every client in the way I would want to be treated or the way I would want a member of my family to be treated. My

See Celebrates P.2

LAW PRACTICE A SUCCESS BY ANY DEFINITION

Success has several definitions. It is variously defined as “1) the favorable or prosperous termination of attempts or endeavors; 2) the attainment of wealth, position, honors, or the like.” Attorney Harsley believes that the success of the Law Office of Tommie A. Harsley must be measured by

more than one criteria. First and foremost, success is realizing that God is the ultimate person for whom we all work and then working in accordance with this truth. *“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily as to the Lord and not unto men....for ye serve the Lord Christ”*. Col. 3:23-24. This is the ultimate success.

Our clients who benefit

from our legal skills and efforts are the next success. During the past twenty years, Attorney Harsley estimates that he has represented nearly three thousand clients. The majority of those representation matters involved personal injury (bodily injury/wrongful death) and workers’

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COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Anniversaries have a feature common to birthdays of which I am sure we all can relate. It is gratifying to achieve another anniversary but it is hard to comprehend just how quickly time has passed. I cannot believe that I have been practicing law for twenty years! Nonetheless I am extremely happy and grateful that I have had this honor.

Anniversaries present an opportunity to reflect on the past. During these twenty years I have witnessed significant changes in the law practice. It is difficult to quantify what changes have been most profound, but it is clear that the rise of technology in the profession has been transformative. When I was in law school, no one had

a laptop computer. When I started practicing in 1987, nearly every type of legal document I produced was written out by hand on a yellow legal or dictated to a secretary. Due to my zealous dictation habits, my secretary nicknamed me "the dictator"! I think that she was teasing me.

Today, most lawyers have at least one computer on their desk and are frequently able to connect the office computer to a home computer. Even I have enough computer savvy to generate large quantities of legal documents and court pleadings without necessarily using my secretary. Virtually all legal research can be done online via the internet. I have in my briefcase a legal library in CD-ROM form that would fill an admirable law library. Some lawsuits

are filed electronically. Client cases are managed on computer with less paper.

There are many other changes for which I do not have space to discuss. Lawyer advertising has been permitted and is common. So called "Tort Reform" legislation has been enacted and greatly affects the rights of individuals seeking justice in the civil court system. Lawyer jokes have not changed!

However, in the midst of all these changes, the profession remains in its essence, an endeavor to bring justice and equity to people. I hope for many more anniversaries as an attorney and counselor at law.



ATTORNEY CELEBRATES 20 YEARS (CONT'D)

parents and family were so proud of me when I graduated from law school and passed both bar exams on the first try. At that time there was just tremendous expectation as to how I would be able to make the world a better place." Attorney Harsley feels that some of the promise for the young law school graduate has been achieved.

Each anniversary is a significant milestone and opportunity to remember and assess the past but also to plan and look forward to the future.

The practice of law is a profession in which individual legal services are provided to

people who need help. What Attorney Harsley celebrates with sincere pride is the memory of thousands of clients for which he has had the privilege of meeting and serving. No two clients have been exactly the same and every case is unique. He derives a great sense of satisfaction when a clients' matter is concluded and the client expresses gratitude for his efforts. He maintains and cherishes a collection of "thank you" notes and cards from scores of clients.

He knows that it is an honor to practice law and to maintain the respect of clients, co-workers, other members of the

bar, judges and court personnel. His wife, Vanassa and his three children have been called on to make sacrifices over the years and they appreciate this twenty year anniversary as well.



**Bodily Injury
Workers'**

"He derives a great sense of satisfaction when a clients' matter is concluded and the client expresses gratitude for

PRACTICE A SUCCESS BY ANY DEFINITION (CONT'D)

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compensation claims. The goal for each of these legal matters has been to competently, zealously and honestly provide each client with excellent legal advice and representation. This commitment to excellence has been recognized in client referrals. Most of the new clients to the law office have been referred by former clients! Attorney Harsley considers this a tremendous measure of success.

The law office has the success of skilled and dedicated support staff. Marilyn McCafferty-Hemphill is the legal assistant. She has been a valued employee for nearly five years. Most people who deal with the office recognize her cheerful voice and helpful

manner. Maria Collier is the receptionist/secretary. She brings a lifetime of professional experience and maturity to her position and is an extraordinary employee.

The law firm has experi-



The office addition under construction.

enced success in its office location and expansion. The present location at 8200 Olive Boulevard was purchased in 1997. Due to the growth of the practice, a 1500 square foot addition was added to the building in

2003. This addition has allowed the firm to better serve its clients. Most visitors and clients are impressed by the tastefully decorated and large functional space within the building.

Finally, the practice is a success because of the respect and confidence that Attorney Harsley has obtained with his fellow attorneys, judges, doctors, pastors and other professional and business persons within the community. He has worked very hard to earn and maintain a reputation for honesty, diligence and competence. He has devoted, without charge, large amounts of time to services for non-profit, religious and other community development efforts. Doing good for others and improving lives is the ultimate success.

“Doing good for others and improving lives is the ultimate success.”

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



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 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 amount exceeding One Hundred Thousand Dollars against a local police department for an innocent client seriously injured in a police chase.

◆ A settlement of One Hundred Thousand Dollars in U.S. District Court was obtained for a widowed mother when her only son died and the son's employer refused to pay death benefits.

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

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, Association of Trial Attorneys of America and the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis.

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

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