

LEGALLY SPEAKING[®]

A quarterly newsletter for friends and clients of
Moore & Wolfe, Attorneys at Law

FALL 2005

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MOORE & WOLFE ANNOUNCE "STREET SAFE" CAMPAIGN

OVER 10,000 COLORING BOOKS DONATED TO AREA CHILDREN. Friday, October 28th was Street Safe Day and M&W donated over 10,000 "Street Safe" coloring books to area children.

The coloring books are designed for pre-K through 2nd grade and provide safety tips for young children while they are walking and/or playing near streets.

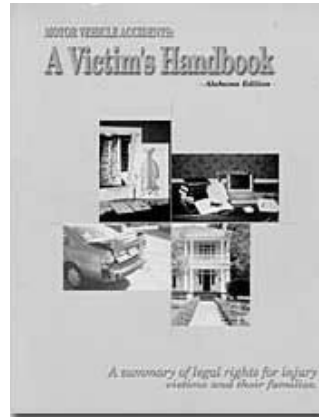


The goal of Street Safe Day is to provide safety tips to young children about cars and roads and to act as a safety reminder right before Halloween. According to Safe Kids USA, "children are particularly vulnerable to pedestrian injury because they are exposed to traffic threats that exceed their cognitive, developmental, behavioral, physical and sensory abilities. Children are impulsive and have difficulty judging speed, spatial relations and distance." Safe Kids USA urges parents not to allow children less than 10 years old to cross streets by themselves. Letters were sent to area Elementary Schools and Daycare facilities encouraging them to participate in Street Safe Day by using the coloring books as a learning tool. Mark Wolfe said, "we originally ordered 5000 coloring books thinking that would be more than enough, but within two days of the announcement all 5000 had been given away and we had a waiting list of over 3000!" He said the firm then placed a rush order for another 5000 coloring books and quickly gave those out. "We had no idea how popular this program would be", said Wolfe. He also indicated that the firm is already making plans for a similar program next year for Street Safe Day. The Friday before Halloween is traditionally designated as Street Safe Day.

MOORE & WOLFE PUBLICATION RECEIVES PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

AWARD WINNING PUBLICATION IS ALSO SET FOR THIRD EDITION. On August 3rd Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) awarded the M&W publication, Motor Vehicle Accidents: A Victim's Handbook, its Annual Public Service Award for its continued warning against driving

under the influence of alcohol. Since being printed in its current format in 1999, the back cover of the handbook has been dedicated to the memory of Joia White and



includes a message reminding readers not to drink and drive. Joia was 4 years old when she and her grandfather were killed by a drunk driver. The family was returning home from a vacation in Disney World when a drunk driver ran a red light and smashed into their van. The handbook is distributed free by M&W. Many area agencies now distribute the handbook to motor vehicle accident victims. In addition, the hand-

book has been used as a text for law enforcement seminars and seminars for healthcare professionals who treat car accident victims.

Over 25,000 copies of the handbook have been printed and distributed to the public. Steve Moore

announced that the third edition of the popular publication is now about to be printed. "We intend to continue using the back cover of the publication as a reminder of the dangers of drinking and driving," said Moore. He said the content of the publication will be updated to reflect recent changes in Alabama law related to motor vehicle accidents and victims' rights.



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victims and their families*

KATRINA INSURANCE HOTLINE CREATED

Americans for Insurance Reform (AIR) is a coalition of more than 100 public interest groups from around the United States. Last month AIR announced the formation for a toll-free hotline to report Complaints related to Hurricane Katrina insurance claims. The Katrina Hotline is 888 450-5545 and will be staffed Monday through Friday 10am to 6pm EST. While the hotline will not be able to directly solve insurance claim complaints, the hotline will serve as a central clearinghouse for complaints. When appropriate, complaints or unfair claim activities will be referred to government agencies, such as insurance departments and state Attorney Generals. Given that the scope of Katrina's damage encompassed three states, this central clearinghouse for complaints will provide for better monitoring of insurance companies and their claim procedures in all three states. For more information about AIR, visit their web site: <http://insurance-reform.org>

TRAFFIC SAFETY NEWS

Alabama Leads Nation With Biggest Increase in Traffic Fatalities. Recent statistics released by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), indicate that in 2004 Alabama had the biggest increase in traffic fatalities. In 2004 Alabama had 1154 traffic fatalities. This was 150 more deaths than reported in 2003 and represented the largest increase in traffic deaths in the country.

Alabama Currently Ranks Fourth in Nation Related to Number of Teenagers Killed in Accidents. A report from Kids Count shows that between 2000 and 2002, Alabama had the country's fourth highest accidental death rate for children ages 14 to 19. According to Janie Applegate, associate director of Alabama Safe Kids at Children's Hospital in Birmingham, the majority of the deaths reported in the study were from traffic accidents.

Alabama Third in Nation for Deadly Truck Accidents. According to a recent Associated Press report, Alabama ranked third among the deadliest states for truck accidents in 2004. Using statistics from NHTSA, public safety organizations compiled the recent statistics. Alabama averages 4.00 deaths per 100,000 in population. In a related story, the Birmingham News reports that Alabama ranks 48th

in the nation related to truck inspections performed. In 2003 Alabama ranked 2nd in the nation for number of fatal accidents involving trucks according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Alcohol Related Fatal Accidents Up 16% This Year. Statistics from the Alabama Department of Public Safety reveal that the number of fatal crashes involving alcohol has increased 16% this year. As of July 31st this year state troopers have investigated 122 alcohol related fatal accidents. Last year during that same period there were 105 alcohol related fatal accidents.

Speed Primary Cause of Fatal Accidents. A recent report from the Alabama State Troopers states that excessive speed was the leading cause of fatal traffic accidents in 2004. The second leading cause was driving under the influence. This was followed by: driver not in control, driving on the wrong side of the road and failure to yield the right of way.

Alabama Only Has About One-Third of Necessary State Troopers on Roadways!! According to the Alabama Department of Public Safety, a study in the 1970's showed that Alabama needed about 900 troopers to adequately patrol Alabama roadways and to monitor and inspect trucks. Currently, Alabama only has about 300 troopers working our roadways. This is one-third the number of troopers needed. The statistics related to fatal accidents cited above clearly show that Alabama roadways are becoming less and less safe. If Alabama continues to under fund, under pay and overwork our Troopers, our roadways and highways will continue to become more and more dangerous and more Alabama families will face the tragedy of traffic accident fatalities and injuries.

Use of Seatbelts and Car Seats Declines. Recent statistics released from the Alabama Department of Public Health show that use of seat belts and car seats by Alabama drivers declined in 2003. According to the recently released statistics, seat belt use fell from 79 percent to 77 percent and use of child restraints declined from 89 percent to 87 percent. State Health Officer, Dr. Donald Williamson, said "motor vehicle related deaths are the number one cause of death due to injury in our state." He went on to say, "Continued education efforts, as well as continued law enforcement initiatives are needed." According to Department statistics, 1038 people were killed in traffic wrecks in 2002 and 50% of those killed were not wearing seatbelts.

RECOMMENDATION OF SERVICES

SATISFIED CLIENTS CONTINUE TO BE FIRM'S BEST ADVERTISING. A review of statistics for the first three quarters of 2005 reveals that 80% of the new claims and cases in our office came directly from recommendations of people in our community who are familiar with our firm. These recommendations mainly come from former clients, healthcare professionals and other attorneys. At Moore & Wolfe we truly appreciate the recommendation of our services. While our main area of practice continues to be personal injuries related to auto-negligence, we strive to provide assistance and guidance to all people who are recommended to our firm even if they have legal questions outside of our primary area of practice.

AT THE FIRM

- On October 15 Knox Boteler and the former Marian Cleverdon were married at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Fairhope, AL. After the wedding Knox and Marian flew to Philadelphia where they enjoyed a U2 concert. They then flew to the west coast where they spent several days in the San Francisco area and in Napa Valley. Marian is the reading instructor for St. Paul's Elementary School. They will reside in the midtown area of Mobile.

- M&W HOST LUNCHEON FOR MOBILE CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION. Over 40 area Chiropractors and selected staff recently attended a luncheon hosted by M&W. The annual luncheon features informal updates on legal issues related to car accident victims including information on med-pay claims and third party liability claims. Chiropractors from Mobile and Baldwin County were in attendance and this year's luncheon marked the 8th year M&W has hosted this event. Dr. James Gordon of the Alabama Injury and Pain Clinic helped sponsor this year's event which was held at Carrabba's Italian Grill on Airport Blvd.

- Knox Boteler has received the MS Leadership Award from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Knox is a member of the Mobile MS Leadership Class of 2005.

- Last quarter charitable activities continued to be an important outreach to our community. At M&W we believe that being active in our community is an important part of our law firm's identity. At M&W doing good work for our community is just as important to us as doing good work for a client. The following programs and/or organizations received contributions from M&W last quarter:



- American Cancer C-Note Program.
- Muscular Dystrophy Lock-Up Fund Raiser.
- Central Presbyterian Church - House Fund.
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving - Grief Counseling Seminar.
- Prichard Boys and Girls Club.
- Daphne Elementary South PTO.
- St. Jude Children's Research Hospital via St. Jude's on the Bay.
- Boys and Girls Clubs of South Alabama.
- The United Methodist Church Inner City Mission.
- The Preschool Center for Sensory Impaired.
- American Red Cross - Katrina Relief Fund.
- St. Mark's Christian Church - Renovation Fund.

- M&W PARTNER WITH CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FOR MIDTOWN PLAYGROUND PROJECT. Plans are now under way for the construction of a new playground area on property located between M&W and Central Presbyterian Church. The new Midtown Playground will replace an older outdated playground and include a safer playing environment for children in the Midtown area. A committee at the church has been formed to lead the project and the committee has already visited a number of new playgrounds in the South Alabama area and ordered design and construction information. M&W will be undertaking various fund raising projects throughout 2006 to help fund this worthwhile community project.

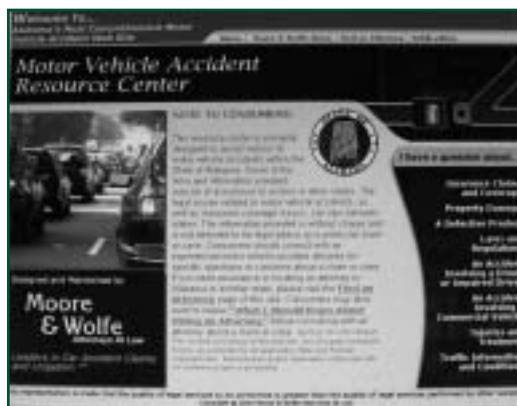
- NEW EMPLOYEE AT M&W. Johnny Thornton has been hired as an investigator for M&W. Johnny recently retired from the Mobile County Sheriff's Department and has over 15 years of experience in law enforcement. He worked for several years in the Traffic Enforcement Special Operations Unit and he has attended the Traffic Accident-Homicide Investigation Program in Jacksonville, FL. In addition to working in law enforcement, Johnny served a Military tour of duty in Iraq from 2002-2003. We welcome him and his family to the M&W team.

NEW MOORE & WOLFE WEB SITE HAS OVER 15,000 HITS

Since being redesigned in June of this year, the M&W web site has had over 15,000 hits. The M&W web site was redesigned to provide more helpful information for Alabama car accident victims.

The new M&W web site includes information about what to do after an accident, information about insurance coverage, insurance claim procedures, insurance adjusters and information about hiring an attorney. The site also includes information about the M&W law firm as well as ordering information for the various free publications available from M&W. As with all M&W informational material, the attorneys at M&W prepared all of the content for the web site. "In reviewing other attorney web sites, I noticed that most used preformatted articles and information sold by the web designer as part of the web package. This generic material is really not that helpful because it is not specifically designed or written for Alabama car accident victims," said Mark Wolfe.

The new M&W web site also includes a link to the Motor Vehicle Accident Resource Center.



The M&W Motor Vehicle Accident Resource Center has more information for car accident victims including additional information about legal issues, insurance coverage, property damage, defective products, locating attorneys, accidents involving commercial vehicles and accidents involving drunk drivers. In addition each subject area has links to additional resources on the web. "We take great pride in providing car accident victims with Alabama's most comprehensive auto-accident web site," said Wolfe. Wolfe spent over 100 hours locating and reviewing the various resource links contained in the Resource Center as well as reviewing hundreds of attorney web sites across the country. Wolfe said he believes the Moore & Wolfe web site is not only the best auto-accident related web site in Alabama, but also one of the best in the country.

The new M&W web site can be found at www.moore-wolfe.com If you know some one who has been injured in a car accident, please encourage them to visit this web site to learn more about their rights and the legal issues related to their claim or case.



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