

Time for a second edition of the “News You Can Use”! For those of you received our first edition, we hope you enjoyed it; for those of you who may be new to our electronic mailing list, we have decided to send out a quarterly newsletter to our clients and friends with periodic updates concerning what is going on in the legal community, down at the courthouse, and in the news. We have also included some fun facts for your reading enjoyment! So here we go!

- DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION-DNC-CHARLOTTE-2012

Since we have not yet done so, please allow us to now send out our congratulations to Queen City for being selected as the venue for the Democratic National Convention in 2012. We cannot help but be proud that Charlotte was selected and thankful for the revenue and jobs that the DNC will hopefully bring to Charlotte and the surrounding areas. For more information about the 2012 DNC in Charlotte, go to [www.dnc-charlotte.com](http://www.dnc-charlotte.com). You may also want to check out the projected financial impact that experts claim the DNC will have Charlotte and the surrounding areas at [http://charlottein2012.com/wp-content/themes/dnc/CharlotteIn2012\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](http://charlottein2012.com/wp-content/themes/dnc/CharlotteIn2012_Fact_Sheet.pdf).

- “[www.unclaimed.org](http://www.unclaimed.org)”

Millions in monies, properties, and assets go unclaimed in the United States every year. The most common forms of unclaimed funds include utility deposits, customer over payments, uncashed payroll and dividend checks, and the list goes on and on. Most states have laws requiring these unclaimed funds and properties be held until their owners come forward to claim them. Check out [www.unclaimed.org](http://www.unclaimed.org) to claim what is yours! Don't just check in North Carolina either; you should check in every state in which you have lived.

- LINCOLN COUNTY NEWS

Eastern Lincoln County now has tougher development standards after a 4-1 vote by the County Commission. The East Lincoln Development District will include the area from Old Plank Road at South Highway 16 to North of Campground Road on North Highway 16, part of Forney Hill Road and Highways 73 and 150.

The standards for building design, site development, highway access and landscaping will change. Present businesses will be grandfathered until ownership changes, businesses expand or the business changes the use of the buildings. Any lot with less than 100 feet of roadway coverage must be accessed by a shared driveway or driveway

from a side street. Business signs can only be on-site signs, ground mounted and monument signs. The plan also details regulations for sidewalks and open space planning.

- NEWS REGARDING BILLS IN THE NC LEGISLATURE

House Bill 542 – comments from Todd Barlow, NCAJ Political Affairs Counselor

HB Bill 542 is a complicated, far-reaching bill that dramatically tilts the law to benefit insurance companies at the expense of the injured victims:

- 542 gives pharmaceutical companies protections that will prevent some NC consumers from recovering when they are harmed by dangerous or deadly drugs. NC consumers will have less protection than practically any other state!

House Bill 87

- If passed, will make it illegal for an attorney to initiate or offer legal services or communication with a personal injury victim.

We support this provision in the bill because, as most of you likely already know, our firm is opposed to direct mail solicitations and television advertising for legal services. What we don't like about this bill, however, is that the same prohibitions are not applied to insurance companies, chiropractors, towing companies, and automobile repair shops. Insurance companies should not have unfettered access to accident victims and use their "Hit Squad" to make low-ball offers to quickly settle claims for victims who may not have a good understanding of the long term effects of the accident in which they have been involved. The bill is currently in committee.

- BEFORE GOING ON VACATION THIS YEAR...

Now is as good a time as ever to consider getting that Will, Power of Attorney, or even that Healthcare Power of Attorney that you have been putting off forever. Only the Lord knows what our future holds, but you can help your family be better prepared in the event that some unforeseeable event should occur which may render you helpless to see to your immediate needs, both financial and otherwise.

- A HEARTWARMING STORY OF OUTREACH

Many thanks go out to Judy Reilley who works as a paralegal to Attorney Frances Knox out of our Denver office. Judy coordinated an effort to provide financial support to a victim of the Joplin, MO tornadoes from May of 2011. Judy cold-called an office in Joplin, MO and was able to connect with Ms. Beverly Winans whose home and place of

employment, a law office in Joplin, was destroyed in the tornado that struck the area on May 25, 2011. Judy was able to raise \$400 within just a few days and forward on to Ms. Joplin.

- CONGRATULATIONS TO MARY BOLYNN

Congratulations to Mary Bolynn, paralegal for Attorney Brad Champion in our Denver office for passing her North Carolina Paralegal Certification exam this month. Way to go Mary!

On a final note, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you that if you are ever involved in an accident, please remember to follow the simple instructions listed below:

- Take pictures/video on your phone or camera right away
- Obtain all names of those who are involved in the accident as well as those who may have witnessed the accident, tag numbers, and insurance information
- Admit nothing to anyone
- Do not speak with anyone's insurance company until you have been advised by your attorney
- After you have spoken with your attorney, report the accident to your insurance company
- Seek any necessary medical help immediately

As always, we value our relationship with you, and please keep us in mind in the event a legal issue arises in your life. In addition, we would like to thank you in advance for referring our firm to your friends and associates. If you have any questions regarding any legal issues you may be facing, please don't hesitate to give us a call.

Thanks and Have a Happy and Safe Summer,

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