

Outlook

A SERVICE OF LANE & LANE, LLC

VOLUME 2 / NUMBER 1 / 2010

THE LAW OFFICES OF LANE & LANE, LLC

33 N. Dearborn Street, Suite 2300

Chicago, Illinois 60602-3199

312-332-1400, telephone

312-899-8003, fax

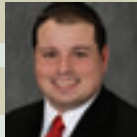
www.lane-lane.com

Inside:

Malpractice - What To Do When a
Hospital or Doctor Gets It Wrong

Lane & Lane, LLC Recent Developments

Meet our newest attorney –
Raymond C. Steadmon



The partners of Lane & Lane:



(from left to right) Mark Brown, Stephen
Lane, Scott Lane and Fred Lane



PRIMERUS

Member of the

International Society of

Primerus Law Firms

171 Monroe N.W., Suite 750

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

800-968-2211

www.Primerus.com

Lane & Lane...a family of attorneys dedicated to the representation of those injured through the fault of others.

Welcome to the latest edition of the Lane & Lane, LLC newsletter. The Law Offices of Lane & Lane, LLC comprise a family of trial attorneys dedicated to protecting the rights of the injured, bringing over 100 years of combined experience to each case. Since establishing our firm in 1991, Lane & Lane, LLC has received the highest marks possible for excellence in our legal ability and integrity from the Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory, an independent directory used by attorneys around the world. The goal of this newsletter is to provide you with helpful tips and information should an accident or medical mistake occur, and to inform you of recent developments within our firm. If you have any questions or would like to speak to one of our attorneys, please feel free to contact our office for assistance at (312) 332-1400 or email us at lanelaw@lane-lane.com.

Lane & Lane, LLC Recent Developments

Mark A. Brown and Scott D. Lane obtained a \$1.2 million verdict from a Cook County jury in a medical malpractice trial. Holy Cross hospital, its emergency room physician, and Radiology group were found responsible for failing to appropriately diagnose and treat a 44 year old woman that eventually died after suffering a very serious brain bleed. Mark and Scott argued that the lack of proper medical care deprived her of the chance to survive the bleed. The woman underwent a CT scan after arriving at Holy Cross, however, the CT results were somehow misread or miscommunicated for several hours. This delay cost her the opportunity to undergo a corrective surgery that may have saved her life. Prior to trial, the defendants offered \$250,000 to settle the case.

Lane & Lane, LLC partners, Stephen I. Lane, Scott D. Lane and Mark A. Brown were all named "Illinois Super Lawyers" for 2010, as published in Chicago Magazine. Illinois Super Lawyers represent the top 5% of attorneys in their field. They are nominated and selected by Illinois attorneys and Judges, including a final selection committee made up of the top 1% of attorneys in their field.

Stephen I. Lane:

Congratulations to our managing partner, Steve Lane, who, at the Annual Conference of the International Society of Primerus Law Firms, was appointed Vice-Chair of the Plaintiff I Consumer Group, representing plaintiff and consumer-related practicing attorneys across the United States.

Steve organized and moderated a program on impeaching the integrity of manually created and electronic medical records at the Annual Conference of the International Society of Primerus Law Firms.

Steve obtained a settlement of \$800,000 on behalf of a young client who had been sexually abused.

Steve has been appointed to the Illinois State Bar Association "Essential Legal Forms for Illinois Lawyers" Project, representing the ISBA Civil Practice & Procedure Section.

Steve instigated and helped organize the Third Annual Canine Companions for Independence Benefit at T.G.I. Fridays restaurant. The event raised awareness and funding for the needs and provisions for service dogs to enhance the activities of daily living and quality of life for disabled adults and children.

continued on page 4

Malpractice - What To Do When a Hospital or Doctor Gets It Wrong

Not every medical error is preventable. And, despite taking every available precaution, you may still be exposed to medical error. In the event you are harmed by a medical error, you may be concerned for your health, frightened by the possible consequences, angry at the mistake, or any combination of these and other powerful emotions. In this state, you may not know what to do next or how to report the incident. The following article will provide you with an easy to understand guide that explains what to do when you're injured by a doctor's or hospital's mistake and how you can help prevent others from suffering in the same way.

Seek Medical Help Immediately

Your safety and health should always be your first priority in any medical decision you make. If you have already been injured by a medical negligence or mistake, seek immediate medical treatment from a different physician. If you identify problems early, another doctor may be able to minimize the damage from medical error.

Seek out an appropriate specialist who can treat your specific injury. Give the doctor your full medical history, including the circumstances surrounding the recent medical error. Remember that medical records are the most important factor when investigating a doctor's error. Make sure you give the new doctor enough correct and thorough information to ensure that the charts accurately record your state of health following the medical error. To make sure your doctor fully understands your present condition and that these facts are properly recorded, be sure to share the "complete picture" by explaining what your health was like before, during, and after the medical error, as well as your current condition. Make sure your new doctor has access to any medical records that may impact his/her diagnosis and plan for treatment.



File a Report

An average person does not know how to correctly file a report against a doctor or hospital that has committed medical malpractice. Further complicating matters is the fact that each state has its own procedure for filing complaints against doctors. Generally, you should file the complaint with your state's medical board. Each state has its own medical board and its own forms and requirements for filing complaints against doctors.

The act of filing a complaint against a doctor triggers a state medical board investigation of the doctor for possible disciplinary action. Realistically, there is only an extremely small chance that your complaint will result in disciplinary action against the doctor. Because state medical boards are composed of doctors, they likely feel a personal and professional kinship with the people they regulate and

may be hesitant to discipline another member of their own profession.

However, you should still file a complaint. Complaints may alert future patients to the doctor or his or her suspect practices. By making future customers aware of potential unsafe practices, you may save someone else from falling victim to medical malpractice.

In addition to filing a formal complaint, you may also rate your doctor's performance at RateMD.com. This site allows users to browse rated doctors, search for specific doctor ratings, and rate your own doctor. It is a helpful resource in researching potential physicians.

Remember that a complaint does not initiate a law suit. If you wish to take legal action against your doctor or hospital, you should consult with a medical malpractice attorney who can evaluate your situation and provide legal advice. If you feel that your treatment rose to the level of criminal behavior, in addition to contacting a medical malpractice attorney, you should also contact the district attorney in the jurisdiction where the treatment occurred.

Hire an Attorney

An attorney is not necessary for every potential medical malpractice situation. In some cases, the patient is unharmed, unable to prove causation, or incapable of receiving a large enough damage award to make a lawsuit worthwhile. However, an attorney may be able to help you file a lawsuit against the negligent doctor or hospital. When seeking your legal expert, the single most important factor is the attorney's reputation. If you hire an attorney that is notorious for settling claims for less than they're worth, you are less likely to receive the money you deserve.

Reprinted courtesy of Injuryboard.com

Meet Our Newest Attorney



Ray Steadmon is the newest member of our Lane & Lane team. Ray was born and raised in the Kalamazoo, Michigan area, where he graduated from Mattawan High School in 2001. After High School, Ray attended Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan. He graduated with distinction in 2005 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice, and a minor in Spanish.

After College, Ray spent one year at a Law School in Michigan. In 2007, he moved to Chicago to pursue his legal career. In December 2008, Ray was awarded his Juris

Doctorate degree from Chicago-Kent College of Law. For two years while in law school, Ray was a Law Clerk at a well respected Plaintiff's personal injury law firm.

Ray became a member of the Illinois State Bar in May 2009. After being sworn in, Ray worked for a short period as a Judicial Law Clerk for the Honorable Mary Kay Rochford in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Chancery Division. Ray devotes his practice of law at Lane & Lane to the representation of catastrophically injured victims and their families.



Fred Lane is the Senior Partner of Lane & Lane, LLC. He also has a thriving mediation practice in the Chicago area and throughout the entire state of Illinois. He received his law degree from Loyola University of Chicago, School of Law in 1950. Fred is the Dean of the Lawyer's Post Graduate Trial Technique Institute and frequent lecturer at bar associations and law schools. Fred is also the author of Lane's Goldstein Trial Technique, Lane Medical Litigation Guide, and Lane's Goldstein Trial Technique Forms. He is also the editor of the Medical Trial Technique Quarterly. Fred is a Fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers; Diplomat and Past President of the American Board of Trial Advocates (Illinois); Past President of the Illinois State Bar Association, Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, and the Decalogue Society of Lawyers. Fred is married and has four sons, including firm partners Stephen and Scott Lane.

Stephen I. Lane is the managing partner of Lane & Lane, LLC, is married and has three children, ages 25, 19 and 17. For over

30 years, he has represented plaintiffs in a wide variety of cases involving catastrophic personal injury. He is a noted author and speaker on issues relating to personal injury and

medical-related civil litigation for bar association, community and professional associations. For nearly 20 years, Steve served as a member of the Board of Governors of the Illinois State Bar Association, and has been an active member of the Illinois and national trial lawyers associations, as well as many other bar and community organizations. Steve has been selected as an "Illinois Super Lawyer", and has received the highest ratings awarded for integrity and legal ability by the Martindale- Hubbell directory of attorneys.

Scott D. Lane is married and has two children. Prior to his present practice, Scott was a Cook County Assistant State's Attorney for several years. Scott is co-director of the Illinois State Bar Association Trial Technique Institute and an Adjunct Professor at the Loyola University of Chicago School of Law where he is a founding member of Loyola's Circle of Advocates. Scott frequently lectures at bar association seminars and has authored numerous articles and chapters pertaining to various aspects of civil litigation.

Additionally, Scott is a contributing editor to "Lane's Goldstein Trial Technique" and "Lane

Medical Litigation Guide" and co-authored the book, "Illinois Motions in Limine". Scott Lane was also selected as an "Illinois Super Lawyer" as published by Law & Politics and Chicago Magazine.

Mark A. Brown is a native Chicagoan, graduating from Maine East High School in 1985. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana in 1989. Mark entered law school in 1990 at Chicago-Kent College of Law and was President of the Decalogue Society. Mark obtained his Juris Doctor degree in 1993. Throughout the majority of his career, Mark has practiced as a plaintiff's civil litigation attorney, specializing in medical malpractice, catastrophic and complex personal injury actions in state and federal courts. Mark's experience includes argument of a medical malpractice case in front of the Illinois Supreme Court at age 34, preparation of several Appellate briefs, as well as numerous jury trials and mediations involving serious personal injury and medical malpractice. Mark was honored in 2007 by the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin as one of the 40 Under 40 Attorneys to Watch in Illinois. Mark was also recently selected as an "Illinois Super Lawyer" for 2010 as published by Chicago Magazine and Law & Politics Magazine. As an advocate and a legal counselor, Mark is dedicated to providing help to his clients and their families. Mark is now 42 years old and married with three sons.

Outlook

PAGE 4

Visit us at: www.lane-lane.com

Recent Developments... *continued from cover*

Scott D. Lane:

Scott obtained a \$5.1 million settlement for a 19 year old man that sustained crush injuries to both hands as a result of a

malfunction of a defective punch press machine. A product liability action was brought against the company that manufactured the press and the company that owned/maintained the press at the time of this incident.

Scott obtained a \$3 million settlement for a 31 year old woman that died as a result of a brain bleed that went undiagnosed and untreated by a Chicago hospital and its staff.

Scott obtained a \$1.3 million settlement for a 33 year old man that sustained severe burn injuries as a result of a car fire caused by a defective fuel system. A product liability action was brought against the car manufacturer. Additionally, an action was brought against a hotel for inadequate security due to its failure to discover the car fire in a timely manner. Finally, a legal malpractice action was brought against a Chicago law firm for its failure to handle the claim against car manufacturer in a proper manner.

Scott, along with Mark A. Brown, obtained a \$1.2 million verdict in a medical malpractice case (see page 1).

Scott also:

Lectured on the topic of "Motions in Limine" at a seminar presented by the Illinois State Bar Association.

Published an article entitled: "Plaintiff's Wrongful Death Claim on Behalf of Fetus Allowed Despite Plaintiff's Agreement To Terminate Pregnancy".

Textbook entitled: "Illinois Motions In Limine" co-authored by Scott D. Lane, is now being published by Thomson-West.

Acted as a mentor in Loyola's Mentoring Program for students at Loyola Law School.

Continues as co-director and faculty member of the Illinois State Bar Association's Trial Technique Institute.

Mark A. Brown:

Mark, along with Scott D. Lane, obtained a \$1.2 million verdict in a medical malpractice case (see page 1).

Mark, along with Raymond C. Steadmon, obtained a settlement for a 37 year old man that had been badly beaten by two intoxicated people after they had been drinking at a bar in Lisle, IL. The case settled in the DuPage County Courthouse as the parties were preparing to pick a jury for trial.

Mark is representing a 19 year old man that was sexually abused by a priest when he was 10 years old.

Mark is representing the family of a man killed after being hit by a train at a rural railroad crossing due to the lack of an automatic warning system.

Mark obtained a \$250,000 settlement for a 54 year old man that was riding a motorcycle and suffered injuries when he was struck by another vehicle.

Mark obtained a \$229,000 award in an arbitration hearing for a police officer suffering neck and back injuries in a car accident while she was on an emergency call. The defendant made no offer to settle the case prior to the arbitration hearing.

Mark obtained a \$112,000 settlement for a woman injured in the CTA's Blue Line derailment on July 11, 2006.

Mark is representing the family of a 51 year old man that died from an aortic dissection approximately 7 hours after he was seen in the emergency room. It is alleged that the hospital failed to order the appropriate testing that likely would have diagnosed the dissection. The man was survived by his wife and 3 children.

Raymond C. Steadmon:

New Associate Attorney, Raymond C. Steadmon, joins Lane & Lane team (see page 3).

Ray was selected to serve on Alternatives, Inc.'s Peer Jury Advisory Board.

Ray judged International Academy Dispute Resolution's National Intercollegiate Mediation Tournament.

Ray became licensed to practice in the United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois.