

The Peterman Law Firm

Newsletter

"We honor the injured"

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Dear Friends:

I am pleased to announce that on January 1, 2008 we will change the name of the law firm here in Jacksonville to *The Peterman Law Firm, PLLC*. Only the name is changing. Our telephone numbers, physical address in Jacksonville and mailing address all will remain the same. Our legal staff will also be the same. We will remain focused on helping move your case forward as well. Please call me if you have any questions and I look forward to working for you in 2008.

- Russ Peterman

Firm News

Megan Ripple and Kristie Jackson have recently obtained certification by The N.C. State Bar as paralegals. I would like to congratulate both of them. This is a big deal - only a fraction of paralegals working in N.C. are certified.

Helpful tidbits:

Receive Your Credit Report for Free Once a Year

Get a free copy of your credit report annually. The three credit bureaus are Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. Go to www.annualcreditreport.com where you can order reports directly or download the Annual Credit Report Request form. You can also call (877) 322-8228.

Reduce telemarketing

Contact the National Do Not Call Registry at (888) 382-1222 or go online at www.donotcall.gov. If called by a company you do business with, ask to be placed on its internal "Do Not Call List".

Personal Injury news:

The New York Times recently did an article, "Disability Cases Last Far Longer as Backlog Rises" (front page, December 10, 2007) on the crisis within the Social Security Disability Claims Process. Most disability claims are denied initially and the appeals process is intricate and complicated. The average amount of time that claimants are waiting to have a hearing is 500 days. It is so important to have the proper medical documentation when an appeal is filed. Some times, if a case is especially strong, then you can ask a Social Disability Claims Examiner for an "on the record" decision - this means that they may award benefits without a hearing.

The Wall Street Journal just wrote an article about big companies like Wal-Mart who are seeking subrogation against employees who have been hurt in accidents off the job due to the negligence of third-parties. This means that if the employee's employer sponsored health insurance paid any of the accident related bills then they can ask for that money back if the case is settled. It is important to analyze if in fact the health insurance company is entitled under the law to be repaid any money and if so how much. We deal with these so called "subrogation liens" all the time. Often through negotiations we can convince the health insurance company to take substantially less than they are claiming. Always let us know if your medical insurance company has paid any of your bills. And I do encourage you to have your health insurance company pay your bills because in most cases this will be to your benefit when your case is settled.

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