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Our thoughts are with those that are defending this great nation. We wish their speedy return to their families and loved ones.

RBR HELPS HOT OKLAHOMANS

RBR understands that law firms donations, OTLA sometimes it is difficult to make ends meet, especially for the elderly and disabled. This summer's heat wave took its toll on many Oklahomans. That's why RBR assisted the Oklahoma Trial Lawyer's Association (OTLA) to develop and sponsor the *Lawyers Are Cool Program*. Through RBR's, and other

was able to donate hundreds of air conditioners to those suffering from the heat. RBR not only donated ten units, but our staff personally delivered and installed numerous AC units to needy citizens of this state. RBR is proud of the attorneys of this state, who like us, donated their time and money to help those who needed it.

RBR LENDS A HELPING HAND ABROAD

We at RBR are extremely proud of the missionary work Philip Ryan and his family performed this year in Peru. Phil and his wife Sue and two children, Patrick and Molly, traveled to Peru this year to help in the building of homes, churches and schools for the less fortunate in that beautiful yet impoverished country.

This was a "hands on experi-

ence" for the Ryan family. Digging trenches, carrying mortar and hammering nails was good hard work that benefited those that did not have the resources to get the job done. The spirit of helpfulness shown by Phil and his family is representative of the reason why RBR is so successful. We try our best to serve those who need it.

"TORT REFORM" - THE PHRASE USED TO TAKE YOUR RIGHTS AWAY

Tort reform is just another way insurance companies, corporations and careless doctors endeavor to keep the injured Oklahoman from receiving just compensation as a result of their wrongful/negligent conduct. These groups, which are well organized and financed, spend a great deal of time and money lobbying and promoting inaccurate facts regarding our judicial system. One of their many lobbying efforts is to cap jury verdicts at \$300,000.

The term "frivolous law suit" has been used by these groups to rally politically motivated legislators and the uninformed citizen around what they label "tort reform". There is absolutely no correlation between a "frivolous" law suit and a jury awarding reasonable compensation to an injured victim. If the lawsuit was "frivolous", then a jury would find for the defendant, and not award any money

to the person claiming injury. In reality their definition of a frivolous lawsuit is when the jury finds in favor of the injured victim, and awards the victim a monetary sum in excess of \$300,000 for physical and emotional pain and suffering. What these groups are actually promoting through scare tactics and inaccurate facts, is the notion that when a jury finds for the injured victim in an amount that accurately and reasonably compensates them for their loss, then by their definition such a finding is frivolous. How can such a proposition make any sense? It does not.

These special interest groups want the public to believe the absurd notion that the same jury that can sentence a person to death in a criminal case is not capable of awarding a reasonable amount to an injured citizen of this state in a civil case.

The simple truth is that a jury that can sentence a person to death is most capable of determining whether a person claiming injuries is entitled to \$0 or \$20,000,000. Jurors of this state do not need special interest groups and corporations to supplant their judgment and cap damages at \$300,000.

It is doubtful that special interest groups touting tort reform *truly* believe that a person who loses both legs as a result of their negligent/wrongful conduct is made whole by capping their damages at \$300,000. The question then becomes why promote caps? The answer is obvious. Capping damage awards increases corporate coffers. If the worst thing that can happen to a member of such a special interest group, causing life long injuries, is paying a maximum of \$300,000, then what motivation would they have to deter future wrongful

conduct - the answer is simple, very little or none.

What the average citizen is not told by groups pushing damage caps, is that the citizens of this state end up picking up the tab for the medical care, rehabilitation services and other financial and social services the injured victim needs, not covered by a \$300,000 capped damage award. State and federal programs end up having to take care of the victim's needs while the wrongful party is free to pursue increased profits at our expense.

The next time your elected official states that he supports tort reform, call your legislator and express your concerns. If you do not, you will allow special interest groups to take your rights away.

If you need more information about the effects of tort reform, please consult:

www.peopleoverprofits.org

WE CAN HELP: Personal Injury - Workers' Compensation - Social Security Claims - Wrongful Termination - Nursing Home Neglect- Insurance Bad Faith - Wrongful Death - Criminal Matters - Family Law/Child Custody/Divorce - Catastrophic Injuries

NEW PRACTICE AREAS

RBR is now able to handle family and criminal law matters for existing and future clients. If you are experiencing a family law problem, let us help you. Call David Hood, who will be happy to assist you with your child custody, divorce or other family related matter. David's experience in family law matters will successfully help you succeed in this difficult and emotional type of litigation.

Sometimes circumstances cause us to run afoul of the law, if that should occur rest assured that RBR is here to help you. Criminal matters are serious, and John Langford is ready to devote the time and resources required to ensure that you are provided the best possible defense.

DID YOU KNOW?

An Insurance Research Council study revealed that insurance companies do not want you to hire a lawyer. Why? Because they know they'll have to pay a larger, fairer settlement amount. The Insurance Research Council found that the settlement figure was 3 1/2 times higher for claimants represented by attorneys. Statistics clearly show that hiring an experienced attorney will significantly enhance your recovery.

COMMENTS

We would like to hear your comments/suggestions regarding our newsletter or how we can better serve you. Send us an email or drop us a line. Or, if you have a story or other event you wish us to publish in the Newsletter, we would like to hear from you.

Want to know more about the firm, go to www.rbrlawfirm.com



EXPERIENCE, SKILL AND KNOWLEDGE TIPS THE SCALE IN FAVOR OF OUR

CLENTS. We get results, it's just that simple! RBR has collected over \$500,000,000.00 for our clients. In 2006 the firm resolved a pharmaceutical malpractice case for \$1.4 million, a \$600,000 settlement in a product liability case and in September the Tulsa office settled a wrongful termination case in excess of \$200,000. Our workers' compensation and social security departments achieve successful results each and every day for our clients!!



PARTNER'S - "JUST A THOUGHT"

Remember when hospitals thought more about providing quality care, than what type of marble to put on the floor or art work to hang on the walls? It seems like today the concern is focused more on marketing than on care. Plasma televisions, birthing suites, valet parking, and fancy and costly buildings seem to take preference over focusing on eliminating medical errors. Did you know that you are more likely to die at the hospital due to a medical error than by an automobile accident, breast cancer or AIDS? The Institute of Health, a recognized independent and respected research institution, found in its study that: *"Preventable adverse events are a leading cause of death in the United States"*. The study revealed that between 44,000 and 98,000 Americans die each year in hospitals as a result of medical errors. *"...deaths in hospitals due to preventable adverse effects exceed the number attributable to the 8th-leading cause of death. Deaths [caused by medical errors]...exceed deaths attributable to*

HUNGRY?

Try Roxane's **"Breakfast Casserole"**: 1 lbs. sausage; 1 pkg cream cheese; 1 cup mild shredded cheddar cheese; 2 cans Pillsbury Crescent rolls. Fry sausage (crumble) & drain. In separate bowl mix crumbled sausage with cream cheese. Place in 8x8 baking dish by spreading layer of crescent rolls, then spread cream cheese & sausage mixture over crescent rolls, top with cheddar cheese, then another layer of crescent rolls. Bake to a golden brown. Enjoy!!

DEER SEASON ENDS

We hope that all the deer hunters had an enjoyable and safe hunt this year. Next season we plan on having a "Big Buck" contest, with the winner receiving a \$100 gift certificate to Wal-Mart (or some other retailer—suggestions are appreciated).

We look forward to a new year and a great contest, so stay tuned for upcoming news about the contest in future newsletters.

We wish everyone a great 2007.

AIDS". "Medication-related errors occur frequently in hospitals...medication errors account for one out of 131 outpatient deaths and one out of 854 inpatient deaths."

Perhaps the medical profession should focus on eliminating medical errors versus promoting damage caps, valet parking and what size Plasma TV to put in the marble floored entry way. Just a thought!

Rick Bisher

