

Our News Letters also appear on our website.



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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.

OKLAHOMA SUPREME COURT

The Oklahoma Supreme Court is a constitutional tribunal consisting of nine Justices. Each Justice is selected from one of nine judicial districts and sits for a six-year term. Each Justice must be at least thirty years old, shall have been a qualified elector in the appropriate district for at least one year immediately prior to the appointment, and have been a licensed practicing attorney or judge of a court of record for five years preceding appointment. The Justices must maintain their status as licensed attorneys while holding office.

Justices are appointed by the Governor from the list of candidates presented by the Judicial Nominating Commission. Applicants for ap-

pointment to the Supreme Court are subjected to extensive investigation by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation and to intensive interviews by the Judicial Nominating Commission (a constitutional commission consisting of attorneys and non-attorneys). The Justices stand for retention on a six-year rotating schedule. The retention ballot appears on general election ballots and is a non-partisan, non-competitive election process. If a Justice resigns or dies during a term, vacancies are filled by gubernatorial appointment from the appropriate Supreme Court judicial district. Newly appointed Justices who serve more than one year must stand for retention at the next regular general election.

RBR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

The firm celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. We thank all of our former and present clients for recommending us to their family and friends. THANK YOU!

TURKEY SEASON OPENS APRIL 6TH

For all those turkey hunters, dust off your box calls, season opens April 6th and ends on May 6, 2009. The youth turkey season opens April 4, 2009 and ends on April 5, 2009.

Be safe and enjoy your hunt. If you want to showcase your bird, send a picture by email and we will attempt to include it in our next newsletter.

WE ALL ARE PROSPECTIVE "PLAINTIFFS"

If you are living and breathing then you are a prospective plaintiff. Why? Because you stand the chance of being injured by a defective product, receiving negligent care, or otherwise being injured by the negligence of another.

If that is the case, we should all desire to be treated the same if indeed we are unfortunate to be injured as a result of the negligence of another. I think we all agree that the judicial process should afford reasonable compensation to an injured person.

Does capping damages at \$300,000.00 equate to reasonable compensation? I suppose the answer is in the eye of the beholder. If you are the person who caused the injury, then the amount may appear to be reasonable. On the other hand, if you are the mother of two, who is partially paralyzed by the negligence of a physician, drunk driver or the manufacturer of a defective product I doubt you would view the cap as reasonable.

Our Legislators are supposed to represent all of our interests. Representative Sullivan is an attorney who's major client is PLICO, according to his own biography profile at the defense firm he works at. PLICO is an

insurance company formed by, and operated by, physicians. In other words it is the liability insurance company for about 80% of the physicians in this state. He received Medical PAC contributions of \$17,950 and \$17,400 from other big business. Doctors contributed another \$10,500 and defense lawyers gave him another \$5,300.

So when we look at the \$300,000 damages cap that Sullivan proudly pushed through our legislature, we need to ask whether he was looking out for ALL of our interests, or just those of his client and other insurance companies. Was he truly looking out for the majority of citizens of this state when he told all mothers, fathers and their children that despite the nature and extent of their injuries that the total amount they can collect from a negligent doctor is \$300,000 for their pain and suffering, grief, humiliation, emotional distress, etc.?

Since we are all perspective plaintiffs, I guess we owe a good 'ole 'atta boy to Representative Sullivan. He served the community well...the physician and insurance community that is.

Just a thought. Rick Bisher

COFFEE—LEADERSHIP?

Senator Coffee, as pro tem of the Senate, is supposed to show leadership. He failed miserably in that regard when he failed to pay his federal taxes timely. No one is above the law, and his decision not to pay taxes he owed for nearly two years is a scandal that Oklahoma does not need. Perhaps he should follow the same advice he gave former House Speaker Lance Cargil—RESIGN.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that Deciding cases is only one of the Supreme Court's functions? The Court is also responsible for administering the state's entire judicial system. The Court establishes rules of operation for all other courts in the state. The Supreme Court formulates the rules for practice of law, which govern the conduct of all attorneys, and it administers discipline in appropriate cases. Additionally, many of the Justices make personal appearances to speak to members of the Bar, civic clubs, and educational groups. These appearances are made in an attempt to help all citizens understand the Court's workings and to inform them of the decision-making process. The Justices are also called upon to administer official oaths of office to public officials.

Pursuant to the Okla. Const., art. 7, §1, 2, the Court selects from its members a Chief Justice and a Vice Chief Justice. The Court selects a new Chief Justice every two years. The Chief Justice, who is the first among equals, presides at all court sessions, and chairs the state judicial conference. Together with the other members of the Court, the Chief Justice administers the judicial branch of state government and represents the Court and the judicial system in public appearances. The Vice Chief Justice's term of office is coextensive with that of the Chief Justice.

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



EXPERIENCE, SKILL AND KNOWLEDGE TIPS THE SCALE IN FAVOR OF OUR CLIENTS. We get results, it's just that simple! RBR has collected over \$500,000,000.00 (and growing) for our clients. We do our best to obtain successful results each and every day for our clients!!

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

We really try to represent our clients to the best of our ability, and if you think that you are not getting the service that you expected, do not hesitate to call Phil Ryan or Rick Bisher to discuss your concerns. We will do our best to answer any and all questions you have or clear up any confusion about your case.

Your case is important to you and it is important to us. We appreciate the opportunity to address your concerns, so don't hesitate to contact us.

Doctor Flight A Myth

The Edmond Sun recently published an article written by Jeff Raymond, Executive Director of OKWatchdog, a consumer and patient advocacy organization, in which Mr. Raymond pointed out that the claim that doctors are fleeing Oklahoma is simply a *myth*. The number of doctors in our state is increasing rapidly despite claims that they are leaving because of the legal environment.

Oklahoma had 193 physicians per 100,000 people in 2003, according to American Medical Association statistics. By 2007 the ratio had grown to 200 per 100,000 people. In 1998 Oklahoma had 6,412 physicians. By 2007 the number had grown to 7,245, an 11.5 percent increase.

The growth in the number of physicians is an obvious sign that doctors are being trained in Oklahoma and are practicing medicine here, despite scare tactics that depict a nonexistent mass exodus to Texas and elsewhere. If doctors do leave, it's because of a relative lack of residency programs in Oklahoma rather than concerns about liability. Research also shows doctors often stay where they complete residency training. The

HUNGRY?

Thanks to Dianna Tinnin we are able to share the following recipe with our other clients. Thanks Dianna!

Crunchy Ham Casserole

2 cups uncooked elbow macaroni; 1 1/2 cups cubed cooked ham (or substitute with other left over meat); 1 can (10oz) Condensed Cream of Chicken Soup; 1/2 cup Sour Cream; 1/2 cup milk; 1 package (10oz) frozen broccoli spears cooked and drained—can also use another fresh vegetable of your choice; 1 cup grated Colby Cheese; 1 can (3oz) Durkee Real French Fired Onion Rings; pinch of garlic.

Cook macaroni and drain. Combine macaroni and ham in 3 quart casserole. Blend soup, sour cream, and milk and pour half mixture over ham & macaroni. Arrange broccoli spears on top of the mixture then pour remaining sauce mixture over ham & macaroni. Sprinkle with cheese & bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes. Remove and top with French fried onions and bake an additional five minutes. Enjoy.

state's leading medical malpractice insurer, doctor-owned Physicians Liability Insurance Co., also is doing well. PLICO is in the best financial shape of its three-decade existence, as its executives proclaim and its reports show.

In 2008 PLICO wrote \$63.9 million in premiums and reported claims of \$35.5 million. These numbers tell the real story. The evidence of a lawsuit crisis simply isn't there. Those who claim there is one have yet to provide anything more than hearsay and the kinds of anecdotes they regularly dismiss when they come from opponents. Sometimes what's not being said is much more important than what is. If the legal climate in Oklahoma is so hostile, as the medical and insurance lobbies often claim, why has Physicians Practice Magazine ranked Oklahoma one of the nation's most physician-friendly states? Improving health care should include insurance reform and reducing the 100,000 deaths annually from preventable medical errors. This important issue is never mentioned by those pushing tort reform...wonder why?