

Our News Letters also appear on our website.



Rick Bisher Phil Ryan Pat Ryan

## RYAN BISHER RYAN

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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.**

### RICK BISHER NOW A MEMBER OF *THE AMERICAN TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION*

The Association is a national organization composed of *THE TOP 100 TRIAL LAWYERS* from each state. Membership is obtained through special invitation and is extended only to those attorneys who exemplify superior qualifications of leadership, reputation, influence, stature, and profile as civil plaintiff or criminal defense trial lawyers.

### PARTNERS "JUST A THOUGHT"

In November of this year several new laws will come into effect that will affect the rights of each and every citizen of this state. One of the laws, will prevent you from recovering in excess of \$400,000.00 for "noneconomic damages" unless certain exceptions apply. The legislature, at the insistence of corporations, insurance companies, hospitals and doctors devoted almost an entire legislative session in passing corporate immunity legislation affecting every citizen in this state. Pressure from these groups to "reform" the judicial system occurs virtually every year.

one of the lowest scores in the nation for academic achievement according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The list goes on.

A national investigation by Hearst Newspapers revealed that a federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Study concluded that 90,000 patients a year succumb to hospital-acquired infections. Studies also revealed that 98,000 Americans die from preventable medical errors each year. In fact, studies reveal that more Americans die each month of preventable medical injuries than died in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

### 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!

### RBR PARTICIPATES AS AN EDUCATION SPONSOR

RBR, through monetary donations, sponsored delivery of newspapers for Oklahoma school classroom students. Our students are the future of this state and we were glad to contribute

### HUNTING SEASONS COMING UP

For all you hunters out there, fall hunting seasons are rapidly approaching. Oklahoma has its first bear season this year (archery Oct 1-23; muzzleloader Oct 24-Nov 1. Consult regs, for restrictions. Deer archery Oct 1 - Jan 15; muzzleloader Oct 24-Nov 1; Rifle Nov 21-Dec 6. Turkey archery Oct 1-Jan 15; gun Oct 31-Nov 30. Dove Sept 1-Nov 9 (check regs for zones). Good luck and be safe!!

### O'HARE CITED FOR SAFETY VIOLATIONS

According to the Chicago Tribune, safety violations at O'Hare International Airport endanger flights during takeoff and landing as detailed by a Federal Aviation Administration inspection. The presence of debris on runways appears to be the culprit. The airport was cited by the agency for inspection discrepancies in its self inspection program.

In succumbing to such pressure, the legislature ignores important issues affecting the state. In 2004 Oklahoma was the 4th in the nation for "household food "insecurity (access by all people at all times to enough food for and active, healthy life). In 2006, Oklahoma was number one. In 2008 Oklahoma ranked as one of the worst states in the nation for child abuse deaths per capita. In 2007 Oklahoma had the third highest rate of incarceration of its citizens in the nation. Oklahoma had the highest rate of incarceration for females in the nation. In 2007 Oklahoma ranked 8th in the nation for citizens without health care insurance. Oklahoma has the largest percentage of bridges rated structurally deficient in the nation. Oklahoma is in the top five in the nation for highest divorce rates. Oklahoma received

It goes without saying we love Oklahoma and hope, and expect, that our representatives enact laws that do not favor one group over another. We also expect that our representatives will address problems that *really* affect the state and its citizens, such as education, improving infrastructure, crime, preventing medical errors, etc., versus bending to the demands of lobbyists employed by insurance companies, corporations, hospitals and physicians.

One can only wonder that if the representatives devoted just half the time spent drafting corporate immunity legislation and satisfying demands by lobbyists, to drafting legislation to improve education, infrastructure, improved patient safety and the creation of jobs our state would be at the top of a "good list".

Just a thought.

Rick Bisher

## DID YOU KNOW?

Hospitals can make fatal mistakes, yet they do not have to let the public know about them. The data is kept secret and our legislature has made it impossible for an injured victim to obtain such information from the hospital. Investigation reports, statements, and information regarding an occurrence at a hospital is protected by "peer review".

Information presented to a peer review committee regarding medical mistakes at a hospital, surgical center, etc. can not be discovered by an injured victim. This hinders the prosecution of many cases, including hospital acquired infection cases.

It is virtually impossible to discover the rate and type of infections occurring at a hospital or surgical center. In Texas, tort reform (corporate immunity legislation) has essentially denied recourse to many whose loved ones have died or been harmed because of medical errors. In affect medical providers enjoy immunity. Even so, hospitals still do not report medical errors and infection rates to the public.

Oklahoma appears to be headed down the path laid by the special interest groups in Texas. **DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN.** Voice your concerns to your representative.

## PHILLIP MORRIS

Betty Bullock, deceased, just recently tried her case through her daughter for the second time against Phillip Morris in California for fraud and distributing and manufacturing a defective product. The jury once again found for Bullock, however this time the award was much lower (\$13.8 million).

**Want to know more about the firm, go to [www.rbrlawfirm.com](http://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.

## HERE WE GO AGAIN

As the end of the year approaches, the Oklahoma Legislature is beginning to gear up for the 2010 legislative session. Unsurprisingly, several legislators are making it well known that their number one priority for the upcoming legislative session is workers' compensation "reform".

Each year we hear that the state of Oklahoma desperately needs "real" workers' compensation reform that will benefit both the business community and the injured worker. However, over the last twenty years "real reform" has actually amounted to the systematic passing of laws eroding the rights of injured workers. For instance, in just the last few years the legislature has passed laws:

- ♦ Stripping the injured worker of the right to choose their own treating physician;
- ♦ Shortening the time period in which an injured worker can reopen a claim for additional medical care;
- ♦ Limiting an injured workers right to weekly checks on non-surgical cases to just 8 weeks no matter how serious the injury;

## HUNGRY?

Chicken in white wine:

4 chicken breasts; 1/3 cup butter or margarine; 1/3 cup flour; 1 cup chicken broth; 1/2 teaspoon rosemary crumbled; 1/2 teaspoon salt; 1/8 teaspoon chopped parsley (optional); 1/8 teaspoon pepper; 1/2 cup dry white wine (the better the wine the better the dish—each different wine will produce a different tasting dish).

Skin and debone the chicken breasts. Cut each in half if whole breasts. Melt 1/3 butter or margarine in skillet. Dip breasts in flour, shake excess flour off. Sauté until golden brown (turning as needed) and remove from skillet. Pour broth in skillet and stir over medium heat. Add rosemary and other seasonings and wine. Place chicken breasts back in skillet, cover, simmer 5 to 10 minutes (until chicken is fully cooked). Dish can be served over rice or mashed potatoes.

Thanks to Diana Linnin for sharing the recipe .

- ♦ Excluding many injured workers from obtaining permanent disability for their injuries;
- ♦ Shortening the time period in which many injured employees must give notice of their injury to their employer or lose their right to pursue a claim.

If you're wondering how many "reforms" the legislature has passed during the same time period expanding the rights of injured workers; the answer is easy, virtually none. Each year the legislature takes more and more from Oklahoma's injured workers, congratulates itself for passing "comprehensive" workers' compensation reform, and then the following year acts like none of the prior reforms were passed. So it should come as no surprise that according to many, this year's number one legislative goal is again passing "real workers' compensation reform". Here we go again...