

Recovery & Resolution



A LEGAL NEWSLETTER FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

Graham Lundberg & Peschel Founded 1979

Recovery & Resolution 2005 Year In Review

By: John D. Webber, Attorney

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Graham Lundberg & Peschel published six issues of Recovery & Resolution in 2005! This is our final issue for the year. The purpose of our newsletters is to provide current, concise, useful articles on issues facing the health care community in dealing with a wide range of topics from insurance coverage and billing to litigation of personal injury claims. Our newsletter themes coincided with our popular seminars offered throughout the North and South Sound. We hope that our newsletters have been informative and have made your job a little easier. We are always open to suggestions for improving our newsletters and covering topics that are of most interest to you as a health care provider. If you ever have suggestions or advice on how we can improve Recovery and Resolution to better assist you, please let us know.

Our January/February issue dealt with the significant issue of medical liens. We encourage every health care provider that offers treatment to any patient who does not have PIP, health, or some other form of insurance to pay bills as the patient treats (whether there was no insurance to start with, or available insurance was exhausted or terminated)

to file a lien to protect their interest and get bills paid. We related a story of one local chiropractor that had unpaid medical expenses owed in the amount of \$5,500.00. The health care provider made the effort to properly complete, file, timely renew, and properly serve his lien. His efforts paid off when our office had to step in to enforce rights provided under Washington statute. The lien gave us the tool to enforce payment of the outstanding bill.

In our March/April issue we focused on the topic of getting your bills paid in a personal injury case. Health care providers, when dealing with personal injury patients, are often faced with a complex and often confusing variety of different types of insurance coverage with which they must be familiar.

These include per- continued on page 3



Save these dates for our Free Educational Seminars...

IMPORTANT TOPICS COVERED IN OUR 2006 SEMINAR SCHEDULE

See page 3

The GLP Team – Helping Both Clients and Health Care Providers

By: Erin Roudybush, North Sound Communications Coordinator

Through excellent management, experience, hard working attorneys and a highly trained support staff, Graham Lundberg & Peschel has become a leader in the legal community. We recognize the importance of health care providers in the helping of our clients to make a full recovery from their injuries. We go out of our way to treat our clients and health care providers with the highest respect and consideration. We understand teamwork between our office and our client's health care providers is critical when handling a personal injury case.

We start by providing professional advocacy, along with caring and supportive guidance for our clients. In addition, we offer complimentary educational seminars to keep health care providers in our community informed of the most recent legal and health related issues.

We are always available to answer questions. Our sixteen offices, located throughout the Puget Sound area, make us even more accessible to those in need. Although we may not all work at one office, we *are* one team and we take pride in our integrity, work ethic, and ability to provide assistance when needed.

By working closely with our patients' health care providers, it allows us to alleviate the stress and frustrations inevitably created by the claims process. Our clients are then free to focus on their treatment and rehabilitation with you, the health care provider. We share the same goal of helping our clients — your patients — make a full recovery, both physically and financially.

Graham Lundberg & Peschel looks forward to working with the health care community in 2006.

Thank you for the continued confidence you have in the work that we do.

Good-bye 2005 and Hello 2006

By: Tara L. Eubanks, Attorney

Another year has gone by, and it has been busy one. 2006 will be our 27th year practicing personal injury law and protecting the rights of the injured. It has been a pleasure working throughout the greater Puget Sound area and providing superb service to our clients. We are also proud to have worked side by side, supporting the health care providers in our community. We all share the same goal, to make sure that the client/patient makes a full recovery and that the personal injury claim gets resolved with the least amount of stress for everyone. Our firm works hard to ensure that the lines of communication are open between all parties involved in a case, which we believe is key to providing superior service.

One of the ways we help facilitate communication is through our complimentary Continuing Education seminars for health care providers. From February through mid-November 2005, we offered luncheon seminars for health care providers in various cities from Marysville to Olympia. Topics for 2005 included information regarding medical liens, getting paid in a personal injury case, unscrambling insurance coverage, and working with a personal injury attorney. In addition, we held our annual chiropractic assistant seminar in June and distributed copies of our desk reference guide "A Legal Guide to Insurance Issues."

Many health care providers have incorporated our guide into their office procedures and use it as a tool for training new staff.

Also in 2005 we made available the brand new 4th edition of "Crash Course" written by our senior partner, John Graham. Although the book's name has been changed to "Crash Course 101," it is the same excellent guide for anyone who has been injured in an accident. We have distributed the book to hundreds of health care providers and receive new requests for the book on a daily basis. We have had excellent feedback about the book from both patients and health care providers.

Also, in 2005, Graham Lundberg & Peschel became a Leadership Level Sponsor of the Washington State Chiropractic Association (WSCA). We had the opportunity to attend the Winter Conference last February as well as sponsor the 4th Annual GLP/WSCA Golf Classic in September. We enjoyed our time at these WSCA annual events and look forward to our involvement in 2006.

Finally, GLP has been growing. We are happy to introduce our two new attorneys, Aaron Adee and Carrie Umland in our North Sound Office. We have also hired other staff members including new paralegals. We are excited about our new team-members and are looking forward to another successful year for everyone.





R&R 2005 in Review, continued

sonal injury protection (PIP), Labor & Industries (L&I), health insurance, medical payments coverage, liens, patient payment plans, and payments from judgments or verdicts. We again provided an article on an actual case illustrating the importance of considering all options regarding payment sources and timely submission of bills. When seeing a patient that has been involved in an accident or incident causing injury that is the fault of a third person or entity, it is imperative that the health care provider be aware of the different resources available to the patient and the provider. Our office is always available to help explore the different options and help you get your bills paid.

The May/June issue dealt with legal and insurance issues that often face office managers, office assistants, and chiropractic assistants. This dove-tailed with our very popular annual seminar, "Legal Guide to Insurance Issues." Many people attended this year's seminar, and received our detailed "Legal Guide to Insurance Issues 2005"! Our 26-years plus of personal injury law experience help us to understand the complex and competing issues that arise when caring for a patient who has been injured in an accident.

Our July/August issue addressed the subject of working with a personal injury attorney. It is to your advantage to have a qualified attorney working on your patient's personal injury case from the beginning. The legal burdens of handling a personal injury claim and dealing with the insurance adjusters can often be too much for a patient who is also faced with dealing with pain and suffering, or the loss of their ability to perform their normal daily activities and

the disruption caused by needing to attend various medical appointments. Having an attorney work with your patient early on is key to avoid problems with liability and preservation of evidence. Our qualified attorneys are creative and will make sure that your patient has the best possible recovery available under Washington law.

Our September/October issue discussed first-party insurance. This type of coverage is available primarily under a personal injury protection (PIP) policy on a motor vehicle. Washington law mandates that the minimum available coverage that must be made available is \$10,000.00 per person. Many people do not recognize that PIP insurance is not only available to the driver of a motor vehicle, but is also available to passengers, pedestrians and bicyclists that are struck by a vehicle that has such coverage. First-party coverage also includes uninsured and underinsured motorist coverage in the event the at-fault driver has no insurance or inadequate insurance under Washington law. We again dove-tailed our primary article with a real world article telling you the story of one client that had the misfortune of being involved in three separate motor vehicle collisions! Our skilled attorneys were able to sort out the different PIP and first-party coverages available to this person and his case was resolved for a fair and reasonable amount.

Again, thank you for working with the attorneys and professional staff at Graham Lundberg & Peschel! We hope that you found *Recovery & Resolution* as a benefit to you and your patients and we look forward to providing you with more useful and valuable information in 2006.

SEMINAR SCHEDULE Save these dates for 2006!

Understanding Medical Liens

- February 15, Tacoma
- February 16, Renton
- February 23, Port Orchard
- February 23, Bellevue
- March 1, Tacoma
- March 2, Everett
- March 9, Seattle

Advanced Topics in Complex Cases

- April 12, Tacoma
- April 13, Everett
- April 20, Port Orchard
- April 20, Bellevue
- April 26, Tacoma
- April 27, Renton
- May 4, Seattle

Successfully Managing the Latest Insurance Company Tactics

- August 24, Everett
- August 30, Tacoma
- August 31, Bellevue
- September 7, Port Orchard
- September 7, Renton
- September 13, Tacoma
- September 14, Seattle

Top 10 Ways to Stay Out of Court

- October 18, Tacoma
- October 19, Everett
- October 26, Port Orchard
- October 26, Bellevue
- November 1, Tacoma
- November 2, Renton
- November 9, Seattle



We are a team of legal professionals working together to advocate for the injured while being recognized in the community for providing the highest level of service.

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 Teresa Garcia
 Lynne Golden
 Aleena Hodges
 Lap Huynh
 Shanie Johnson
 Heather Kelly
 Jeanne Kelly
 Cortney Krawiecki
 Kevan Lee
 Ann Maki
 Martha McDonald
 Becky Moilanen
 Erin Roudybush
 Melanie Shotts
 Susan Stump

CONVENIENTLY LOCATED

For the convenience of your personal injury patients, we offer several meeting locations throughout Puget Sound and Peninsula communities. Attorney consultations are encouraged and always free.

- Auburn**253-931-1111
- Bellevue**425-827-1111
- Burien**206-241-1708
- Everett**425-252-1111
- Federal Way** ...253-946-1111
- Gig Harbor**253-853-5005
- Lacey**.....360-786-1717
- Lakewood**253-274-1111
- Lynnwood**425-775-1111
- Marysville**360-658-1111
- Port Orchard** ..360-876-5005
- Puyallup**253-845-1112
- Renton**425-235-1111
- Seattle**206-448-1992
- Silverdale**.....360-876-5005
- Tacoma**253-627-7701

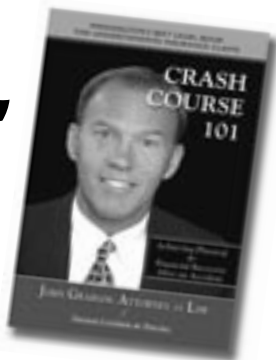
Or Call Toll Free

North Puget Sound area including Island, Skagit, King & Snohomish Counties
800-422-4610

South Puget Sound area including Pierce, Kitsap, Mason & Thurston Counties
800-273-5005

or visit us online...
www.glpattorneys.com

We Rewrote the Book!
"Crash Course 101"
 The 4th Edition of
"Crash Course" is Here!
 by John Graham, Attorney at Law



In the North Sound area call (800) 422-4610 for your complimentary copy.

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Free Consultation: 1-800-422-4610 | Visit our Web site: www.glpattorneys.com

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