

June 2009

Editor-in-Chief:
Rob Hovey

Missed an Issue?

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Legal Questions?

If you have any questions regarding divorce, custody and support, civil claims, criminal defense, personal injury, estates, real estate, or any other legal issue call our toll free number today to schedule an appointment with an attorney or come in during our office evening hours for a consultation.

Inside this issue:

Intern in the Office	2
A Matter of Trust	3
Law Day 2009	3
Home Improvement Contractors Beware—New Law, New Requirements	3

Our Attorneys:

- John J. Mooney, III
- Judith Koper Morris
- Katrina M. Luedtke
- George W. Swartz, II
- Amy E. W. Ehrhart
- Jason C. Imler
- Jeffrey R. Lawrence
- Tyann L. Miller, Of Counsel

MOONEY LAW LETTERS

Riding in Style, Safely!

Spring is here...are you getting out your bicycle, cleaning off the cobwebs, pumping up the tires? Ready to go? Did you know that your bike is considered a vehicle and that you will be governed by a general set of rules (common to all vehicles) and a specific set of rules (designed for bicycles)? If not, read on!

Bike riding is a wonderful family activity, sport and means of transportation. Mooney and Associates wants you to be safe on the roadway. Here are some things you need to know:

- Bicyclists, like motorcyclists, are not very visible as compared to a car. Wear bright, reflective clothing, look for opening car doors, be alert.
- Cyclists must always yield to a pedestrian.
- Cyclists must obey the rules of the road.
- If you do not stop at that stop sign, you can be given a traffic

citation!

- If you are stopped by a police officer operating your bike while under the influence of drugs or alcohol, you can be charged with a DUI and/or public drunkenness.
- Biking is to be done in the roadway—not the sidewalk. Except for two lane, one-way streets, you must always ride WITH the flow of traffic.
- Cyclists are to use the right hand lane and stay as near to the right curb as practicable, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction or when preparing for a left turn at an intersection. The cyclist is entitled to use the roadway space required to operate the bike in a safe and lawful manner. This means a cyclist can take the entire lane if needed and the car must yield to the bike and if passing, the car must do so in a manner to ensure the safety of the cyclist. Cyclists can also ride on



the shoulder.

- Cyclists may ride against traffic on a one-way street ONLY if there are two lanes; you must stay to the left.
- Cyclists are required to use hand signals when making a turn.
- Only rider per bike unless it is a specialty bike such as a tandem; adults riders may transport a child in a pedalcycle or in a child carrier.

Continued - See "Riding" on Page 2

Office Hours and Information

Monday—Friday 8:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m.

Walk-in Evening Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 5p.m.-7p.m. (Hanover Office)

Thurs 5p.m.-7p.m. (New Oxford Office)

Mon 5:30p.m.-7:30p.m. (Chambersburg Office)

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All fees are clearly described to you in your initial consultation. In cases of Personal Injury, Wrongful Death Actions, Workers' Compensation, and SSI/SSD, your consultation is FREE and our fee is contingent upon winning the case for you. Other fees are based upon experience, preparation time, and complexity of the case. We accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express for your convenience.

Riding (Continued from Cover)

• Children under 12 years old must wear a helmet by law. But don't let your little ones just slap it on. It needs to fit properly to do the job. Do not allow the helmet to tip back off the forehead; the chin strap needs to fit snugly. Follow the directions on the box and if you've misplaced it, stop in at the local bike store and they will help you. And just because you are over 12, do not let that stop you from setting a good example. EVERYONE should wear a helmet at all times. Today, helmets are very light weight and cool (both temperature and style).

• If you ride your bike between sunset and sunrise, you must have a front lamp which emits a white light intended to illuminate the cyclist's path and be visible from a distance of at least 500 feet in the front, and a red reflector in the rear which is also visible from 500 feet in the back.

Always carry a copy of your health insurance card, a pencil and a piece of paper to write down information in case there is an accident.

These are not all of the rules and more can be found at Title 75 of

the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes. You may obtain a FREE copy of the Pennsylvania Bicycle Driver's Manual by contacting PennDOT Sales Store (717) 787-6746. Order a copy today and review it as a family.

Finally—ride like your life depended on it...it does! No matter if you have the right of way, bike defensively, stay visible and have a great time!

Judith K. Morris, Esq.

-Member of the *Hanover Cyclers*

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Intern in the Office

Rachel Schreck joins Mooney & Associates for the summer as a legal intern. She is currently a third-year law student at the Dickinson School of Law of the Pennsylvania State University. During the school year, Rachel is a certified legal intern for the law school's Children's Advocacy Clinic where she represents dependent children as either their attorney or their Guardian Ad Litem. She was recently elected a Comments Editor for the Penn State International Law Review, and her com-

ment, entitled "Rhetoric Without Results: United Nations Security Council Resolutions Concerning Rape During Armed Conflict," was selected to be published in the upcoming year. In her undergraduate studies at Shippensburg University, Rachel majored in Political Science and minored in Spanish and International Studies.

Rachel has a passion for traveling and most recently traveled to Florence, Italy last summer where she studied

international law at the University of Florence. She also enjoys helping her family on their blueberry farm and taking Zumba classes.



A Matter of Trust

At Mooney & Associates we understand that choosing an attorney is a very important decision. You want a firm that upholds the highest ethical standards, produces the best quality of legal representation, and most of all, establishes and maintains your trust! When you select Mooney & Associates as your law firm, you can trust that we understand the importance of building and maintaining long-standing relationships with our clients. For more than 25 years, our attorneys have provided clients with impeccable service, timely advice, quality legal documents, and practical solutions to their legal issues. We strive to find ways to advocate your position in such a manner that maximizes benefits to you.

Our team approach to client ser-

vices enables us to draw upon the skills, knowledge, and experience of all our attorneys to address all you legal issues throughout your life. Whether your needs involve an injury, estate planning or administration, real estate settlements, business formations, family law issues, criminal defense, or the many facets of civil litigation, you can count on us. We always take the time to give a thorough understanding of your circumstance and your objectives and then tailor our services to meet your needs and to exceed your expectations.

We are dedicated to the success of our clients, their employees, and their families. We use our diverse talents to serve all of our clients needs. We will provide you with the quality legal representation you deserve and the practical,

understandable advice you desire.

We want to invite you to learn more about the members of our team and how we can assist you in all your legal issues by visiting our website at www.mooney4law.com. Please call us 24/7 at 877-632-4656 or email us at info@mooneyandassociates.com to request a meeting time to discuss your legal concerns. Remember we have evening hours Monday through Friday from 5:00pm to 7:00pm at various locations and no appointment is needed! Our fees are reasonable and always clearly explained to you at your consultation. We want to be the attorneys you trust with all your legal issues throughout your life.

*John J. Mooney, Esq.
and the Mooney & Associates Team*

Law Day 2009!

Each year on May 1st, the United States celebrates Law Day, U.S.A. It is meant to reflect on the role of law in the foundation of the country and to recognize its importance for society. President Dwight D. Eisenhower recognized the first Law Day on February 5, 1958, when he proclaimed that henceforth May 1 of each year would be Law Day. He stated "In a very real sense, the world no longer has a choice between force and law. If civilization is to survive it must choose the rule of law."

Locally, on May 19, 2009, Attor-

neys Judy Morris and George Swartz presented a Law Day program for 125 students at the West Mannheim Elementary School third grade classes at the invitation of teacher Patricia Waranavage. By volunteering their time, they were able to give students a memorable opportunity to learn about the law in action.

This year the topic was "How Can I Make the Country Better" and the energetic, well-behaved third graders were full of good suggestions and questions on the topic. It was clear that they had followed

the 2008 presidential election and they enjoyed responding to Marc Brown's book, Arthur Meets the President.

From picking up trash to planting trees to visiting the elderly, these young people definitely have a head start in becoming good citizens and making our country a better place to live! Special thanks to Patricia Waranavage, Jen Kilmer, Kortni Lovelace, Eric Shipman and Ben Olewiler for allowing part of our Mooney & Associates team to spend this day with their wonderful students.

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We are committed to alleviating the stress that often accompanies legal transactions. Our clients speak with the attorney handling their case and are always informed about progress and options. For client convenience, we maintain six office locations and extended hours. If our clients are unable to travel, our attorneys visit client homes, nursing homes,



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Email your attorney direct!

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New Law, New Requirements

The Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act (HICPA), signed into law on October 17, 2008, establishes a mandatory registration program for contractors who offer or perform home improvements in PA. All contractors who have a home improvement business or who offer, perform, or agree to perform home improvements in Pennsylvania, including painters, HVAC, swimming pool installers, driveway installers/resealers, concrete & masonry contractors, carpet and flooring installers, siding installer, certain landscapers, and anyone who works on residential properties, must register with the Office of Attorney General by **July 1, 2009**, unless the contractors perform less than \$5,000 of work in a calendar year or are large retailers with a net worth or more than \$50 million.

Registration is \$50.00 and you must renew your registration every two years. Your contractor's registration number must be used on all advertisements, contracts, estimates, and proposals after July 1, 2009. A contractor who fails to register will be prohibited from offering or performing home improvements and may be subject to an enforcement action and possible civil penalties.

Do not risk losing potential jobs because you not registered or do not know how to register. Please feel free to contact our office for assistance on how to complete your necessary registration.

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