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MARTIN D. COHEN

DENNIS F. FEELEY

FOR THE RECORD

Spring 2004

COHEN & FEELEY RECOVERS OVER \$2 MILLION FOR ACCIDENT VICTIM

This case involved an accident during which two tractor-trailers collided, both operated by drivers in the course of their employment. Our client, a man in his thirties, suffered serious injuries, including a closed head trauma, permanent short-term memory loss, and a hand fracture along with lacerations and embedded glass, requiring surgery. Due to the seriousness of these injuries, he will never be able to return to his previous vocation.

During a settlement conference, Cohen & Feeley resolved this case for our client in the amount of \$2.1 million.

STALWART FIRM CERTIFICATE PRESENTED TO COHEN & FEELEY

The Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association acknowledged the law firm of Cohen & Feeley and presented Dennis F. Feeley with a Stalwart Firm certificate for total firm commitment and continuous contributions for the protection of victims' rights.



Bobby Knight, Soft Rock 100.7 Program Director and Martye Cohen lounge with the bears collected during the 2003 Feel Better Bears campaign, sponsored by Cohen & Feeley.

MAKING IT BEARABLE

For the third year, Cohen & Feeley was proud to be the title sponsor of the 2003 Feel Better Bears community program in conjunction with Soft Rock 100.7 radio.

The firm also donated one hundred teddy bears to kick off the event where radio listeners were encouraged to purchase and donate new teddy bears. Over two-thousand bears were collected and then delivered to sick children in area hospitals during the holidays, as well as various police departments, who use them to calm children at the scene of auto accidents and domestic dispute calls.

Cohen & Feeley Partner, Martin D. Cohen stated, "on behalf of our clients and in celebration of the holiday season, the firm was proud to sponsor this community project and assist children during difficult times".



Pennsylvania State Troopers, Soft Rock 100.7 radio staff and Dennis Feeley appear with bears delivered to the Bethlehem Police Barracks.

NURSE CHARLES CULLEN

On December 15, 2003, New Jersey prosecutors charged Charles Cullen, a former nurse with the murder and attempted murder of two patients at Somerset Medical Center. Cullen told prosecutors that he killed as many as forty patients throughout his history as a nurse.

Over a sixteen year career, starting in 1987 upon graduation from nursing school, Charles Cullen worked as a nurse in the following Pennsylvania and New Jersey medical facilities: St. Barnabas Medical Center, Warren Hospital, Hunterdon Medical Center, Morristown Memorial Hospital, Liberty Nursing Home, Easton Hospital, Lehigh Valley Hospital, St. Luke's Hospital, Sacred Heart Hospital, and Somerset Medical Center.

Cohen & Feeley is investigating the deaths of patients treated at hospitals where Nurse Charles Cullen was employed. If you have information or questions about the care of any patients where Cullen worked, please call us immediately.

On behalf of the families of Cullen's victims, Cohen & Feeley has filed over eight (at the time of this newsletter going to print) civil summons against Cullen's employers. In Pennsylvania, the statute of limitations in civil suits is normally two years. The summons have been filed to stop the clock on the two year limit, allowing for the necessary time to thoroughly investigate the medical records and deaths which occurred during Cullen's employment.

In a December 2003, press release relating to a specific case, Attorney Martin Cohen stated, "This horrific situation brings attention to the failure of the medical system in general. Healthcare workers hold an ultimate position of trust and patients should not have to fear them due to a hospital's lack of proper employment screening. There is no reason or excuse for this failure and patient protection must be implemented immediately, not just locally, but nationwide".



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Nancy Kassis Pijut joined the firm as an intern in March of 1992. She received an Associates degree in Legal Office Administration from Northampton Community College and became a Cohen & Feeley full time employee. Nancy later received her Paralegal Certificate from the American Institute of Paralegal Studies. For seven years she worked in the firm's Allentown office prior to moving to the Easton location.

Nancy resides in Palmer Township with her husband Craig, who is also a member of the firm. She is the proud new mother of Joseph Tristan Pijut, who will be one-year old in May. Nancy is active in her church and finds motherhood to be quite rewarding. "I consider myself very fortunate to have such a loving husband and family, a beautiful son, and to be afforded the opportunity to work with such a wonderful and hardworking group of individuals, many of whom have become my dearest friends".

MARTIN D. COHEN HONORED BY THE UNITED WAY

The United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley at its 2003 Mission Accomplished Wrap-Up event, honored Martin Cohen. Attorney Cohen received the Morning Call Silver Bowl Award that is presented to a campaign volunteer who demonstrated outstanding leadership and made every effort to help the campaign succeed.

Cohen has participated in United Way campaigns for over five years. In thanking him for his significant contributions made as a campaign volunteer, the President of the organization noted Cohen's willingness, commitment, and dedication to serve the community, which was reflected in his active participation as an executive level liaison.



*The 2003 Angel Tree in
Cohen & Feeley's lobby.*

COHEN & FEELEY STAFF BELIEVE THAT IT IS BETTER TO GIVE, THAN TO RECEIVE

Cohen & Feeley employees continue to give back to the community in which they live and work. The staff believes that it is better to give than to receive, and this was especially so during the recent holiday season. To give to those in need, they initiated two projects. The first being an Angel Tree, where names, gift wishes and organizations are displayed. Employees picked a card, purchased the gift, wrapped it, and placed it under the tree in the law firm's lobby. Individual staff members then delivered the gifts to the benefiting organizations. The charities selected were the Third Street Alliance For Women & Children (Easton), where a preschool boy wanted a small Tonka truck; a blind cat at Animals In Distress (Coopersburg) needed dry food and a warm bed; and an elderly gentleman with no family, residing at Gracedale Nursing Home (Nazareth) asked for a button down sweater.

Staff delivered many of the donated gifts and said, "everyone that we delivered gifts to were very appreciative, so kind and only wished that they had gotten something for us". "All in all, it was a great experience and I would recommend that we hand deliver the gifts again next year, because the responses we received and the way it made us feel, was well worth it", noted Melany Williams who provided her Jeep to transport and deliver the donated packages.

The second project involved a clothing and food drive. Cohen & Feeley employees cleaned their closets and drawers gathering clothes, which were donated to the Perfect Fit For Working Women (Allentown), Victory House (Bethlehem), Hogar Crea (Bethlehem), and Trinity Soup Kitchen (Bethlehem). The staff also raided their pantries and cupboards, and purchased non-perishable food items for Second Harvest Food Bank (Allentown).

Not only the staff and associates at Cohen & Feeley were in the giving mood. In the spirit of the season, firm partners Martin Cohen and Dennis Feeley made a \$5,000 charitable donation on behalf of the firm and its employees. The ten benefiting charities were selected by Cohen & Feeley's associates and staff, and included The Alliance For Children & Families Of The Lehigh Valley, American Cancer Society, Life Choices Inc., March Of Dimes, National Eating Disorders Association, National Kidney Foundation Of The Delaware Valley, Polycystic Kidney Disease Foundation, Salvation Army, Shriners Hospital For Children and Waggin' Tails Animal Shelter.

Each member of the Cohen & Feeley team is dedicated to giving back to the community all year long, with special emphasis in helping those less fortunate during the holidays. Cohen & Feeley partner, Dennis Feeley stated, "Martye and I are extremely proud of our associates and staff for their enthusiastic participation in the firm's holiday projects to benefit local charities".

INJURY VICTIMS RALLY IN HARRISBURG TO PROTEST UNFAIR CAPS

Recently, the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association (PaTLA) sponsored a rally in Harrisburg on March 9th to protest the imposition of caps in every civil lawsuit, including auto accidents, medical malpractice, workplace accidents, and product liability.

On March the 12th, the Pennsylvania Senate passed a piece of legislation in the form of a proposed constitutional amendment which would allow the legislature to place caps on the amount that victims could recover in medical malpractice cases. The Senate Bill 9 has now been sent on to the House of Representatives where it must also be voted upon and/or amended. Thereafter, if passed, it must return once again to the Senate and then back again to the House before it would appear on a ballot. We were disappointed that the Bill was not defeated in the Senate, but the Bill was so seriously modified, that in its present form only medical malpractice cases would be affected.

Victims of serious personal injury from across Pennsylvania gathered in the Capitol Rotunda and talked with their legislators, telling them their personal stories, and saying, "NO TO CAPS." The rally became extremely important because it occurred only one day before the Senate voted on whether or not to place caps on all types of lawsuits.

If you were able to attend the rally, we want to thank you for your participation. If you would like to become involved in this important battle to preserve victims' rights, we suggest that you write your local House of Representative, since they are the next step in the process that could seriously limit the amount that could be recovered by those who have suffered injury in medical malpractice claims. In your letter please explain to your legislator how you were injured and how it has affected you and your family. Tell them in your own words that you strongly oppose any attempt to take away the power of the jury by imposing caps on any kind of damages. Please be sure to include your name and address in your letter so that your elected officials recognize you as a voter.

"Now, more than ever, with the passing of Senate Bill 9, it is important to contact your legislators and voice your opposition to caps", stated Dennis Feeley.

A listing of your district and corresponding legislators may be found by logging onto www.vote-smart.org. Or, if you prefer, this information is available by calling Cohen & Feeley at (610) 258-0111.

You may also assist by participating in another important PaTLA project. Through the Caps Cases Program, PaTLA is bringing the accounts of individual victims who have suffered a serious personal injury directly to members of the Pennsylvania legislature. Your story, detailing your injury and how this injury has affected your daily life, as well as the lives of your family, along with a photo, can be mailed to Stacey Scholl at Cohen & Feeley. This information will then be forwarded to PaTLA who will bring it to the attention of individual legislators so that they may put a story and face together, and understand the significant personal side of the caps issue. Please join the fight to protect the rights of injured victims!

IMPORTANT READING – NEWSPAPER ARTICLE ENCLOSED

In order to bring our clients the latest information available, we are enclosing a copy of a recent article from *The Morning Call* newspaper that we believe our clients will find interesting. Obviously, some of the information, which has been released concerning doctors leaving Pennsylvania, is erroneous, false and misleading, at least according to the good research conducted by *The Morning Call*.

MARGOLIS ELECTED TO EASTER SEALS BOARD

Cohen & Feeley is proud to announce that attorney Steven J. Margolis was elected to the Board of Directors of Easter Seals of Eastern Pennsylvania, which serves the counties of Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, and Northampton. Steven indicated that he considers it an honor to serve on the Board of a group that provides service to more than 2,700 adults and children with physical disabilities and developmental delay. He stated that, "Working to aid a non-profit organization like Easter Seals of Eastern Pennsylvania is a natural extension of what we do at Cohen & Feeley; it is giving aid and support to those in our community who need it most. I'm just honored that Easter Seals of Eastern Pennsylvania is trusting me to give my assistance to their wonderful organization".

MARTIN D. COHEN HONORED AT PENN STATE RENAISSANCE DINNER

On March 30th, Penn State Lehigh Valley hosted a Renaissance Scholarship Dinner honoring Martin D. Cohen. He has been involved with Penn State since the 1980's when he established the Julius Cohen Memorial Scholarship at Penn State Lehigh Valley. He has also established scholarships at other Lehigh Valley colleges. Cohen is a past member of the Lehigh Valley Advisory Board, where his leadership and dedication helped to shape and guide the direction of the campus for many years.

Since 1977, Renaissance Scholarship Fund Dinners have been held throughout the Penn State system to recognize important University and community leaders. The money raised is used to endow scholarships in the honoree's name. These dinners have funded endowed scholarships providing financial assistance to "the brightest of the neediest" Penn State students.

SPEAKERS AVAILABLE

Cohen & Feeley will be pleased to provide your company, club or organization with an attorney to speak before your group. Please contact Stacey Scholl at, (610) 258-0111 to make arrangements.

ATTENTION ATTORNEYS

Cohen & Feeley is available to accept referrals from attorneys, or act as consultants to other lawyers. Appropriate referral fees are paid to forwarding attorneys. We invite referring attorneys to contact us directly with any questions or for additional information.

BARIATRIC SURGERY CAUTION

Morbid or severe obesity has become a major health concern within the United States and more individuals are turning to surgical weight loss procedures. Gastrointestinal surgeries are serious and many complications can arise. The procedures either seal off a portion of the stomach to greatly reduce the amount of food that one can consume or the small intestine is rearranged to reduce caloric absorption.

This is high-risk surgery and should only be performed by an experienced surgeon with a history of successful bariatric surgery outcomes. Common life threatening post surgical complications include the leaking of gastrointestinal fluids from the surgical connections which can cause infection, abscess, peritonitis and death. Therefore, post-operative care and the monitoring of a patient's convalescence, as well as, appropriate patient education concerning post surgery recovery are essential.

Cohen & Feeley is handling several cases related to bariatric surgery medical malpractice. If you or a loved one has suffered personal injury due to medical negligence occurring with weight loss surgery, please contact us immediately.

ABOUT OUR FIRM

Cohen & Feeley represents clients in the following areas:

- Motor Vehicle Accidents
- Birth Injuries
- Defective Products
- Catastrophic Injuries
- Major Commercial Litigation
- Medical Malpractice
- Slip & Fall
- Drug Injuries
- Bad Faith Insurance
- Nursing Home Injuries & Abuse

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