

## Client's Bill of Rights

Lawyers will tell you that it is impossible to offer a guarantee in the legal business, but we disagree. We say that law firm clients should settle for nothing less than a guarantee.

Remember, your attorney works for you not the other way around.

At Sherrod & Bernard we believe we can guarantee our clients quality service with personal attention. We believe that, as our client, you are entitled to have the:

- 1) Right to loyalty to you and your cause.
- 2) Right to be updated regularly and in a timely manner as to the progress of your case.
- 3) Right to our respect.
- 4) Right to expect competence from our firm and all who work here.
- 5) Right to know the truth about your case.
- 6) Right to prompt attention from our staff.
- 7) Right to have your legal rights and options explained in simple terms without a lot of legal mumbo jumbo.
- 8) Right to a fair written fee agreement with our firm.
- 9) Right to a fair fee for the services we provide.
- 10) Right to make the final decisions in your case.

## REFERRALS

We want you to think of us as your law firm. If you have a legal matter that needs attention, please let us know. If we cannot handle the matter, we will refer you to a firm that can.

## S&B GIVES BACK

Sherrod & Bernard proudly contributed to the following causes:

- Chapel Hill Touchdown Club
- Douglasville Pregnancy Resource Center
- Helping Hands Ministries, Inc.
- Ephesus Baptist Church
- Margaret Marchman Fund for Christian Education  
c/o First Baptist Church of Douglasville
- Wounded Warrior Project



Sherrod & Bernard was a proud sponsor of the Pregnancy Resource Center in their annual fundraiser this year. The event raised more than \$9,900, which will be used to assist women and families in 2013.

Pictured (left to right): Dawn Brown – Development Coordinator of Pregnancy Resource Center and Susan Joyce – Office Manager of Sherrod & Bernard.



## Sherrod+Bernard, P.C.

Attorneys at Law  
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## Sherrod & Bernard Food Frenzy



Thank you to all of our friends, clients, and employees who overwhelmingly donated canned food as a part of the Georgia Legal Food Frenzy. This food drive contest sponsored by the State Bar of Georgia will greatly benefit the Georgia Food Bank Association.

We also want to congratulate Renee Kell as the winner of a 3 night stay at Seagrove Beach, Florida. Renee was randomly selected among all those that donated to S&B's effort to help reduce hunger in Georgia.



## Hurt at work . . . now what?

by John W. Sherrod

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Over the last twenty-six (26) years, I have handled thousands of workers' compensation cases. Clients are usually unaware of the benefits afforded by employers for job-related injuries. During the initial meeting, I always clarify what workers' compensation pays and what it does not.



In Georgia, workers' compensation benefits fall into three (3) categories. First, the employer is responsible for payment of medical care associated with the job injury. This is not an unlimited right as the Employer always seeks to control medical treatment and costs. Medical benefits include such items as: office visits, diagnostic studies, surgeries, physical therapy and reimbursement for mileage in traveling to and from the doctors.

The second type of benefit is what most people have heard referred to as the workers' compensation check. This weekly check replaces lost income because of a disabling injury. The workers' compensation check is based on a percentage of the worker's average weekly wage. A supplement check should also be paid when the injury allows for light duty work but at a reduced earning job.

The final type of workers' compensation benefit is known as a permanent partial disability award. This benefit is paid when the doctors agree that the injury has permanent consequences. When a doctor gives the injured worker a permanent partial disability rating, the workers' compensation laws set out an amount that should be paid. This permanency award is usually tied to a settlement but can be paid weekly to the worker once he or she returns to work.

Pain and suffering along with punitive damages were not mentioned in the discussion above. That is because they have no place in the workers' compensation system. Likewise, a spouse of an injured worker has no claim for workers' compensation benefits absent a workplace death. Once again, workers' compensation benefits are limited to medical care, a portion of lost wages and a cash award if the injury has some permanency element.

In summary, this article is a general overview of the benefits that an injured worker should expect from his or her employer. In no way, should an injured worker rely on this article in proceeding through the workers' compensation system. Instead, I strongly urge an injured worker to consult with experienced workers' compensation counsel. I can assure you that the responsible employer and its insurance company have lawyers ready to pounce if the unknowing injured worker makes a mistake.

Sherrod & Bernard turned 21 and we marked the occasion with a firm photograph.

Pictured: (left to right): Regina Puckett - Paralegal, Emily Davison – Law Clerk, Stephanie Regas - Associate, John Sherrod - Partner, Susan Joyce – Office Manager/Paralegal, Ken Bernard – Partner, Brianna Gallardo - Receptionist, and Hannah Field - Paralegal.



## Thank you for the referrals...

A referral from a former client or friend is the greatest compliment our firm can receive. We are grateful for every referral – below is a list of the people who recently referred a friend or family member to our firm. We would like to publicly thank each and every one of them by listing them in our newsletter. Again, we say, "Thank You!" We at Sherrod & Bernard appreciate all our referring friends, even those inadvertently omitted. This list was generated solely from clients reporting how they found our firm. Thank you for your confidence in our legal team.

Chris Baggett	Terri Clayton	Amanda Edwards	Kevin Head	Leanne Roberts	Mark Walker
Matt Beshers	Scott Cochran	Tiffany Furness	Tracy Herrington	Richard Smith	Stephanie Wilson
Ashley Bedosky	Nathan Crouch	Crystal Harper	Tracy Liner	Tiffany Spears	Phil Wren
Dusty Bollen	Phil Miller	Diane Harper	Sam Marlow	Shannon Upton	Andy Anderson
Charles Bonner	Sherry Downs	Courtney Hayes	Lance Noles	Jerra Waddle	Drew Anderson
Julian Carter	Cade Parian	Renee Kell	Eric Ziegler	Jim Popham	Bobby Poole



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Call or visit  
[www.sherrodandbernard.com](http://www.sherrodandbernard.com)  
and enter your questions.  
You will get confidential  
answers from an attorney  
with no obligation.

## You are in a wreck - Do you Really Have Car insurance?

Many people only pay attention to their car insurance bills, but not their coverage, or whether they actually have coverage. Unfortunately, for many, they find out after a wreck that their coverage did not exist, or that the other person did not have coverage. For the later, carrying proper insurance, including UM (uninsured or under insured motorist coverage) with appropriate limits will provide financial protection for injuries you sustain to person or property as a result of someone else's neglect. But for the former, the only way to confirm coverage is to have the policy in hand, have updated insurance coverage cards, and check with the carrier (not the broker).

Lately, some brokers have been charged with keeping premiums and never binding coverage with a carrier. Most brokers are ethical, but the only way to know is trust but verify.

## Clients Beware of Social Media

In today's modern internet world, communications via social networking internet websites like Facebook, Twitter and MySpace are a reality that attorneys and clients must address in litigation. Please be aware that anything you post on any of these social network sites is NOT PRIVATE. The Defendants often monitor these sites and will actively pursue access to your communications if there is a lawsuit filed on your behalf. Whether you post something on your own site or you respond to something on another person's site or a blog, you have absolutely no expectation of privacy; and anything and everything you post (profiles, pictures, comments, blog communications, Instant Message communications (IMS), and E-mail) is able to be retrieved, monitored and may be discoverable by the Defendants. Remember – even if it is deleted, there are ways to retrieve the information.

You should absolutely avoid any communications of this type about your injury or the underlying facts of your claim. DO NOT THINK THAT YOU ARE HELPING YOUR CASE BY COMMUNICATING IN ANY WAY ABOUT THESE TOPICS. The flow of information should be controlled and should only be with the advice of the attorneys in our firm. What you think may be a helpful fact to communicate may in fact be damaging to your claim. Keep in mind that photographs and videos that you post or that you send to others may potentially hurt your case. While pictures are worth a thousand words, they often do not depict the full truth and can be used out of context.

## Sherrod & Bernard Attend Clinic Opening



The entire staff of Sherrod & Bernard attended the grand opening of Stewart Parkway Medical – a clinic that specializes in treating trauma patients in West Georgia.

Pictured (left to right): Ken Bernard, Dr. Eric Ziegler, Dr. Jorge Bueno, and John Sherrod.

### EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:

#### Emily Davison

In June, Sherrod & Bernard welcomed new staff member, Emily Davison. Emily is working in the firm's personal injury section. Emily is a life-long Douglas County, Georgia resident. She graduated from Alexander High School in 2005. In 2009, she graduated summa cum laude from the University of West Georgia with a B.S. in Political Science, and a focus in pre-law. She received her J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law in Athens, Georgia, on May 18, 2013. During her time in law school, Emily worked at an Athens area Family Violence Clinic for two semesters. She interned with the Douglas County Task Force on Family Violence for one summer. In both of these positions, she aided abuse victims with protective order filings.



## Soft Tissue Injuries Hurt

By Ken Bernard

MIST car wreck injuries, or Minor Impact Soft Tissue injuries, are a misnomer. They actually cause pain. While the insurance industry has attempted to cheapen the value of these cases, the fact remains that discomfort, pain, and inconvenience typically is the direct result of being hit by a negligent driver. Stated another way, but for the other driver causing the accident, medical treatment, pain, discomfort, and inconvenience would not be necessary.

So why does the injured party get treated like he or she is at-fault for needing medical treatment? And is a better description of the injury "Connective Tissue Motor Vehicle Injury"? The first question can be answered in two words - "insurance profits." The later can be summarized in one – yes!

There are four basic types of tissues: connective, epithelial, muscles, and nerves. Each plays an important function inside the body: supportive and binding other tissues together (bone, blood, and lymph tissues); covering tissue (skin and linings of various passages inside the body); muscle tissue (move skeleton and surround organs); and nerve tissue (carry messages throughout the body).

Injuries to soft tissues have a negative effect on the body as evidence by the role each tissue plays in a proper functioning body. If you need evidence of soft tissue or connective tissue injury, work in your garden today and see how you feel tomorrow. Now is the time to dispute misnomers. Soft tissue injures are real.



## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

By Hannab Field

Pineapple Angel Food Cake



Ingredients:  
 1 (16 ounce) package of angel food cake mix  
 1 (20 ounce) can of crushed pineapple with juice  
 1 (12 ounce) container of frozen whipped topping, thawed

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Spray a 9x13 inch pan with vegetable oil spray.
2. In a large bowl, combine cake mix and pineapple (with juice). Mix until well blended.
3. Pour batter into prepared 9x13 inch pan. Bake at 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) for 25 minutes or until golden brown. Let cool.
4. Serve with whipped topping.

## Tips to Keep Kids Safe

- Keep harmful products locked up and out of your child's sight and reach.
- Use safety latches or locks on drawers and cabinets where you keep dangerous items.
- Take extra care during stressful times.
- Call medicine by its correct name. You do not want to confuse the child by calling medicine candy.
- Always replace the safety caps immediately after use.
- Never leave alcohol within a child's reach.
- Seek help if your child swallows a substance that is not food. Call the Poison Help Line at 800-222-1222 or your doctor. Don't make your child vomit.
- Keep products in their original containers. Never put non food items in food or drink containers.
- Read labels with care before using any product.
- Teach children not to drink or eat anything unless it is given to them by an adult.
- Do not take medicine in front of small children. Children tend to copy adult behavior.
- Check your home often for old medications and get rid of them by flushing them down the toilet.
- Get rid of substances used for old-fashioned treatments such as ammoniated mercury, boric acid, camphorated oil, oil of turpentine and oil of wintergreen.
- There is more of a danger of poisoning when you are away from home, especially at a grandparents home.

Source – American Academy of Pediatrics