



LEGAL BRIEFS

The Newsletter of the Law Firm of Gordon & Gordon, P.C

Spring 2008

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Attorneys at Law

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*As Your Attorney, We
Are Working For You*

- Brain Injury Lawyers
- Automobile
- Wrongful Death Actions
- Traumatic Brain & Head Injuries
- Serious Personal Injuries
- Workers' Compensation
- Environmental Law
- Toxic Tort
- Mass Tort
- Legal Malpractice
- Medical Malpractice
- Municipal Law
- Defective Products
- Drug Litigation
- Matrimonial Tort
- Employment Law
- Discrimination

HARRISON GORDON WINS \$1.5 MILLION DOLLAR SETTLEMENT

An 86-year-old man who suffered a brain injury and his 81 year old wife, who suffered minor injuries, settled their case for \$1.5 Million Dollars.



The clients were backseat passengers in an automobile driven by their son-in-law, when he made a left hand turn into a parking lot and was struck by a bus. Our client suffered a skull fracture, which caused a brain hemorrhage that required a craniotomy as well as other injuries. Our client maintained that he was left with a significant cognitive impairment that manifested in memory difficulties and confusion. Defense counsel contended that his memory loss and other cognitive problems were the result of dementia and not as a result of the accident disputed this. ER records indicated early signs of dementia. However, our neurological expert attributed 90% of the cognitive problems and memory loss to the accident and only 10% to the early onset of dementia. There was a dispute by both parties as to whether or not the driver of the car in which our clients were passengers was in the right or left lane when the bus struck him. We had to obtain a traffic reconstruction expert to determine who was at fault for the crash and how it occurred. There were numerous depositions of all parties, medical experts, and the police officer that came to the scene of the accident and traffic reconstruction experts. This case was further complicated by the fact that clients resided in both New York and Romania and spent considerable time in both places. Darlene Abry, our paralegal was instrumental in many important aspects of this and other cases. This case was finally settled through Mediation before a Retired Superior Court Judge. ■



MILLIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CLIENTS



Partner, Michael Gordon and his team of associates, Kelly Pokrywa and Steven Schepps, have secured more than \$11 Million Dollars in environmental settlements recently for clients injured or inconvenienced due to environmental contamination in their neighborhoods.

Plaintiffs successfully represented by Gordon & Gordon, P.C. include residents surrounding an abandoned manufacturing facility, neighbors and homeowners in the vicinity of a gasoline station with leaking underground stor-

age tanks and a municipality that lost tax revenue because of the unacceptable delay by an industrial polluter in cleaning up its contaminated property within the City.

The Environmental Team at Gordon & Gordon in 2007 filed a number of Natural Resource Damage cases representing the State of New Jersey against defendants such as Occidental Chemical, Public Service Electric and Gas and J.T. Baker. ■

TWO SUPER LAWYERS TOP 100 LAWYERS IN NEW JERSEY

Law and Politics and the Publishers of New Jersey Monthly Magazine have named Harrison J. Gordon and Michael Gordon as Super Lawyers. This is an outstanding achievement. Both Harrison and Michael Gordon were chosen by their peers, through independent research and by a ballot system that was mailed to over 32,000 attorneys in the State of New Jersey. Harrison Gordon was named as Super Lawyer and top 100 lawyers for the year 2007 in New Jersey in recognition of his achievement in Plaintiff Personal Injury and Michael



Gordon was named as Super Lawyer and top 100 lawyers in New Jersey in recognition of his achievement in Environmental Litigation 2007. In addition, Michael Gordon was also given the distinct honor of having a feature

article written about him in the 2008 edition for serving as environmental consultant for an episode of the hit T.V. series “The West Wing” which received the 2003 Environmental Media Association Award.

Harrison J. Gordon is a nationally known pioneer in brain injury litigation and has been practicing in the area of brain injury litigation for over twenty years. He has been elected to be a member of the board of trustees of the Brain Injury Association of New Jersey and many more groups, and has lectured for the Brain Injury Association of New Jersey on the subject of traumatic brain injury and the legal rights of victims, families and caregivers on numerous occasions throughout the 1990s and recently in the years 2000, through the current time due to Mr. Gordon’s expertise and experience. He is past President of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America – New Jersey. Both Harrison and Michael Gordon are also members of the “Million Dollar Advocates Forum”. The Gordon & Gordon law firm has been selected for inclusion in the bar register of pre-eminent lawyers and rated A.V. by Martindale Hubbell and Lexis-Nexis—the highest possible rating for law firms for both legal ability and ethical standards. ■

HARRISON GORDON SPEAKS AT BRAIN INJURY AND ATLA-NJ EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION SEMINARS

Harrison J. Gordon, Senior Partner of Gordon & Gordon, P.C., was an invited speaker at the Brain Injury Association of New Jersey’s Seminar entitled “Understanding New Jersey Law - The Peoples Bar Exam” at its 25th Annual Seminar on May 27, 2007. The Seminar was held at the Sheraton Eatontown Hotel and Conference Center in Eatontown, New Jersey. Mr. Gordon presented an interactive presentation where the audience participated in a question and answer session providing them with information on their legal rights and issues and other interesting topics in New Jersey law. Attending this seminar were people with brain injuries, family members, professionals working in the field of brain injury, medical doctors, neuro psychologists, psychiatrists, neuro psychiatrists, rehabilitation nurses and social workers.

Darlene Abry, our paralegal, assisted Mr. Gordon with the presentation and managed the exhibit.

Mr. Gordon who is Past Ethics Chair of the Supreme Court of New Jersey Ethics Committee District VC was also an invited speaker at the Association of Trial Lawyers-New Jersey Meadowlands Seminar on October 20, 2007 on the subject of legal ethics of the trial attorney. The Seminar was held at the Sheraton Meadowlands, Secaucus, New Jersey. Mr. Gordon presented an interactive presentation where the audience participated in a question and answer session providing them with information on legal ethics. Both presentations were highly acclaimed and well received.

Mr. Gordon has been invited back to speak at the Brain Injury Association’s Annual Seminar on May 14, 2008. ■

\$600,000 DOLLAR SETTLEMENT AGAINST BAR SERVING LIQUOR TO INTOXICATED PATRON AND AUTOMOBILE DRIVER

Harrison J. Gordon recently settled a case against a Tavern for serving liquor to visibly intoxicated patrons. Our client and his friends were patrons at a local tavern and left visibly intoxicated. The driver lost control of the vehicle and struck a tree, which immediately killed the driver and the front seat passenger. Our client, who was a back seat passenger, sustained a skull fracture and subdural hematoma – Plaintiff was kept in medically induced coma and suffered severe cognitive injuries. This case was previously settled with the driver's insurance company for \$100,000.00 but, Harrison Gordon contended that the defendant tavern served the driver when he was visibly intoxicated and the plaintiff brought a dram shop action against the bar that resulted in the \$500,000.00 additional settlement. The full policy limits of the automobile policy and tavern insurance policy were exhausted.



STEVEN SCHEPPS RECOVERS \$150,000.00 FOR DRIVER

Our client was a truck driver who was driving her truck when she was struck by an automobile in snowy conditions. The other driver slid into our client's truck.



The defendant contended that our client was driving too fast for conditions. Our client suffered injury to her rotator cuff that required surgery and also injured her back and knee which were previously injured.

The defendant contended that her injuries healed well and that her current injuries were from a work related incident and not from this automobile accident. Defendant also stated that our client's back and knee injuries were from a pre-existing condition.

Steve did a great job by obtaining \$150,000.00 for our client.

NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY HONORS MICHAEL GORDON

Michael Gordon was recently honored by the New Jersey General Assembly for being recognized by the New Jersey Work Environmental Council (WEC) for his twenty-five years of legal work protecting the environment and communities of New Jersey. The General Assembly Resolution honors and congratulates Mr. Gordon for his meritorious record of service and commitment on behalf of the citizens and environment of New Jersey. On April 27, 2007, Mr. Gordon was honored at a reception where he was the recipient of the 2007 WEC Award by WEC, which is an alliance of 70 labor, community and environmental organizations working throughout New Jersey for safe, secure jobs and a healthy and sustainable environment. Congratulations Michael!



MICHAEL GORDON INVITED SPEAKER IN CHINA

Senior Partner Michael Gordon, has recently returned from China where he was the featured speaker at a Chinese Environmental Lawyers Roundtable at the China University of Law and Politics in Beijing. He also traveled to Inner Mongolia and participated in a site investigation concerning the contamination of fruit orchards by air emissions. Professor Wang Canfu who heads the Center for Legal Assistance to Pollution Victims (CLAPV) invited Michael. Mr. Wang invited Mr. Gordon because of his well-known expertise in environmental matters. While in China, Mr. Gordon led off the lawyers roundtable with a presentation entitled: "Twenty Five Years of Environmental Law and Litigation Fighting for People and the Environment: A Personal Journey" which was followed by a day long discussion on the status of environmental law in China and proposed changes that could result in greater rights for victims. During his weeklong visit as the invited guest of CLAPV, Mr. Gordon accompanied the lawyers from CLAPV to Inner Mongolia to conduct a site inspection to investigate the possible links from chemical emissions to the destruction of fruit orchards. Mr. Gordon lectured to lawyers and law students about methods to analyze the potential for proving the impacts originated from a local factory to cause the damage to the orchard.



Our Newsletter...

Is published for the benefit and information of our friends and clients.



Please call Connie Robbins at (973) 467-2400 or email her at gordonlaw7@aol.com if: (1) Your name and/or address has changed; (2) You do not wish to be on our mailing list; or (3) You want additional information on the topics of this newsletter.

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Steven Schepps Obtains \$160,000.00 In Total Benefits For Worker's Compensation Case

An Assistant Food Service worker suffered severe injuries to her neck, right shoulder, right arm and right hand while attempting to lift a large, heavy pot. The client sustained multiple cervical herniated discs. She received a permanent award of \$118,410.00 as well as temporary benefits of approximately \$11,000.00 and medical benefits of \$44,137.12.

Sarah J. Gurka, Esq. Joins The Firm

Sarah J. Gurka, Esq. recently joined the firm. Ms. Gurka handles personal injury cases involving traumatic brain injuries, occupational injuries, automobile, premises, environmental litigation, and mass torts. Previously, Ms. Gurka served as a Judicial Law Clerk to The Honorable Bryan D. Garruto, J.S.C. and The Honorable Jamie D. Happs, J.S.C., designated mass tort judges in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Middlesex County. Ms. Gurka graduated Douglass College, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey and Rutgers Law School.

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