



Legal News

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Two Locations To Serve You:

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Practice Areas:

- Personal Injury
- Auto Accidents
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- Truck accidents
- Dog Bites
- And More...

Get Connected to Attorney Shelly Leeke

In the virtual world of the internet, social media connects people and keeps them up to date on the web. We invite you to make a connection with the Shelly Leeke Law Firm. Become our friend or a fan of the firm on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, join us on Linked In, and tell us what you think on Avvo. We want to stay connected with you.



Visit LeekeLaw.com

I am happy to announce our updated website is now live. The firm continues its' commitment to providing quality accident and injury information to South Carolina residents. The Information You Need, Before You Hire a Lawyer Or Talk to The Insurance Company. *Shelly Leeke*

Guest Article: Take Your Financial Health to Heart



Dorothea Bernique is a leading financial literacy trainer in Charleston who cares about the financial health of residents in the tri-county area. She offers hope for financial freedom through classes, community seminars and corporate training. To register for a class or schedule training for your business, call 843-225-4343 or visit her online at www.increasinghope.org.

There is no question that times are tough. The real question is, what can we do about our finances and saving ourselves and our families from becoming victims of the financial crisis? The most important step toward becoming financially healthy is to first, face the truth about your situation.

One of the biggest challenges that we face as a non-profit organization is the fear, shame, pride and embarrassment of what people might think or say if they knew you were living on a budget or attending a class on finances or money management. *What if someone else found out about it? What would they say, what would they think?* The truth, other people are not who we need to worry about. The person that really matters is the one facing us in the mirror and the others we love and care for.

I say the decisions we make with our finances are *matters of the heart* because every decision begins with our emotions. The things we place value in are determined by how we feel in our heart first, and then manifested through our actions. You may look good on the outside, but find it is difficult to feel good inside because of the lack of financial peace in your life. The overdue bills, over commitment to work, and time spent worrying about how you're going to make it, can take a toll on our health. The challenges we all face to do better with our finances would not be so tough if they first became a desire of the heart. When you desire something, you sacrifice for it; you do what's right to get it! I challenge you to take another look in the mirror and ask what you would like to accomplish in the area of your finances. Make it a *matter of the heart!* What are you willing to throw overboard in order to survive this current financial storm? Budgeting, saving, investing, paying bills on time, having good credit, cutting back to save...training is available to you, if you are ready to face what's in your heart! Get your finances right and you will look good, feel good and be on your way to leaving a legacy for others to follow.

You can do this! Allow us to come along beside you as you make your financial health a priority in your life. Don't you want to be financially healthy?



Thank You! We Appreciate Your Referrals.

Ask The Attorney: Accident Law

Question: What is the statute of limitations for filing a lawsuit for an accident in South Carolina?

Answer: Generally, you will have three years to file a lawsuit in South Carolina for a personal injury action (car accident, pedestrian accident, wrongful death, dog bite, etc.) However, there are certain cases where the

statute of limitations is less than three years, so it is very important that neither you nor your lawyer wait until the last hour to address the issue of whether or not to file a lawsuit for your case.

In my office, we will not accept a case that is closing in on the statute of limitations. It is very important to start preparing for a possible lawsuit early on in order to ensure that all evidence is gathered and preserved in the event that a settlement cannot be

reached and filing a lawsuit is necessary.

If you have a question for Ask The Attorney just send it to Info@LeekeLaw.com and put "Ask The Attorney" in the subject line. Or if you need to speak with a qualified personal injury attorney you can call 843-297-8485 to schedule a FREE consultation.



Shelly M. Leeke
Attorney At Law

RECENT CASES & VERDICTS:

Horseplay, Dog Attacks & Dangerous Drains

Boy Paralyzed During Horseplay at High School Track Practice

A high school boy was held upside down by his ankles, and accidentally dropped by classmates while playing around at track practice. The former high school runner is now a quadriplegic as a result, and has permanent personality changes. The teacher in charge of supervising the teens was found guilty of negligence. The parties settled for 18.4 million dollars.

Hefty Fines for Speeding on I-26

By now we have all seen the construction on I-26 heading towards Columbia. Construction zones mean decreased speeds

and can be quite a burden on motorists. However, too many workers are struck each year due to drivers speeding through work zones.

After catching one local driver racing at a record 114 mph in the construction zone on I-26, highway patrol is cracking down. Troopers are now writing tickets upwards of \$455 for drivers caught speeding in the designated construction zone.



Dogs Attack Realtor Showing House

A Pennsylvania realtor was walking up to a house he was scheduled to show when he was attacked by the owner's three dogs. The dogs' owner allegedly opened the front door and let her unleashed dogs out and failed to intervene to discipline them as they attacked the realtor. The parties settled for \$300,000.

Woman's Foot Caught in Store Drain, Settles for \$300k

A woman was grocery shopping when she stepped into an uncovered drain on one of the store's aisles. She and a store employee eventually worked the foot out of the drain. The woman suffered over \$40,000 in medical bills. The lawsuit alleged the drain posed a dangerous condition in the store. The parties settled for \$300,000.

The Free Book Accident Victims Can Rely On!!

Do you know someone who may need the type of information we make available in "The South Carolina Accident Book"? This book provides more information about how to deal with insurance adjusters, handle accident and medical forms and how to hire the right lawyer for your case than most lawyers provide in a free consultation.

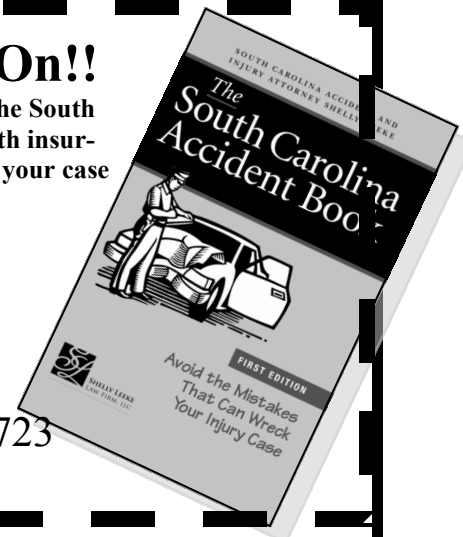
The book is perfect for anyone who has:

- Been in a car/truck accident that wasn't their fault
- Been attacked by a dog
- Been injured at work
- Been on a bicycle and hit by a careless driver

Been hit by a careless driver while walking or crossing the street.

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Or E-mail: Info@LeekeLaw.com



PARENTS WHO CONTROL THE CAR KEYS HAVE SAFER TEEN DRIVERS

A recent research study of over 5,000 high school teens reveals that teenagers with their own cars or with free use of a car are much more likely to get in crashes than those who share a car. Furthermore, crashes are much less common among teens whose parents set clear driving safety rules. This study may shed some light on a grim government data statistic- more than 7,000 people nationwide were killed in crashes involving teen drivers in 2007, and more than 250,000 teen drivers were injured.

More than 2,000 students who reported driving on their own were the focus of one study. Seventy percent said they had their own cars or were the primary driver the car they drove.

Among these "primary" drivers, 25 percent had been involved in crashes, versus just 10 percent of teens who shared driving access. The researchers say the lower crash rate among shared vehicle drivers does not reflect less driving time, but is more likely due to having to ask for the car keys, which in turn helps parents monitor their kids' driving. Compared with teens who had unlimited access to a vehicle, teens whose parents set clear rules and monitored their whereabouts had half as many crashes and much better driving habits. This group was also 71 percent less likely to drive while drunk and 30 percent less likely to use a cell phone while driving than teens with unrestricted access to a vehicle. The findings are in two studies by researchers at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. They were released Friday and are in the October issue of *Pediatrics*.



Getting a driver's license and car are often viewed as rite of passage for U.S. teens, but there are serious risks with such young drivers on the roadways. "With teen drivers, you have to recognize that it's a public health issue," said Dr. Jeffrey Weiss, a Phoenix pediatrician who co-wrote an American Academy of Pediatrics report on teen drivers. Parents must teach teens that driving is different from other steps toward independence, said Dr. Laura Koplin Winston, the study's lead author. "Just at the time their teen is pulling away, they need to get back involved to spare them heartache."

Winston said it's alarming that so many kids have their own cars or feel that they have free use of one. She said that freedom can lead to "a sense of entitlement about driving" that may make them less cautious.



What Are the Bicycle Laws for SC?

1. Cyclists must ride to the right side of the road
2. Ride no more people per bicycle than there are seats provided
3. Bicycle must be equipped with a light on the front and a red reflector on the rear
4. Bicycle must be equipped with a bell or horn
5. Bicycle must be equipped with working brakes
6. ALL cyclists MUST wear a helmet

October Calendar

- National Teen Drive Safety Week
Oct 18th - 24th
- America's Safe Schools Week
Oct 18th - 24th
- National School Bus Safety Week
Oct 19th - 23rd



National School Bus Safety Week

October 19-23, 2009

(National School Bus Safety Week is always held the third full week of October.)

COMMUNICATION POLICY: Generally Ms. Leeke does not take unscheduled phone calls. This allows her to focus and pay more attention to individual cases resulting in higher quality legal services. This policy also helps Ms. Leeke resolve cases more quickly. **This is a lot better than the endless game of "phone tag" played by most attorneys and businesses today.** To schedule a phone call or in-person appointment with Ms. Leeke call 843-297-8485.



SHELLY LEEKE
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Request your
FREE copy of the
popular book
South Carolina
accident victims
rely on.**

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Be Safe Be Seen this Halloween 10 Safety Tips for Kids, Parents, and Homeowners

1. Only go to houses that have the light on.
2. Don't eat candy that has been opened or looks suspicious
3. Wear reflective clothing (try using reflective tape)
4. Put pets away to help prevent them from biting
5. Warn children not to pet animals they don't know
6. Always walk on the Left side of the road facing traffic
7. Avoid wearing masks when walking from house to house
8. Keep all yard props clear of little feet to trip on
9. Carry only soft toy swords, bats and other costume props
10. Walk, Don't Run



Witches' Brew Chicken Soup

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon butter or margarine
 - 4 skinned and boned chicken breast halves, chopped
 - 1 large onion, chopped
 - 3 carrots, chopped
 - 2 garlic cloves, minced
 - 2 (14-ounce) cans low-sodium chicken broth
 - 1 tablespoon chicken bouillon granules
 - 1 teaspoon ground cumin
 - 1/4 teaspoon ground red pepper
 - 3 (16-ounce) cans great Northern beans, rinsed, drained, and divided
 - 1 (4.5-ounce) can chopped green chilies
 - 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
 - 1/2 cup milk
 - 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- Toppings:** shredded Cheddar cheese, sour cream, sliced green onions, cooked and crumbled bacon



Preparation

- Melt butter in a large Dutch oven over medium-high heat; add chicken and next 3 ingredients and sauté 10 minutes. Stir in broth and next 3 ingredients.
- Bring to a boil; reduce heat, and simmer, stirring occasionally, 20 minutes. Stir in 2 cans of beans and chilies.
- Mash remaining can of beans in a small bowl. Whisk together flour and milk, and stir into beans. Gradually add bean mixture to soup mixture, stirring constantly. Cook 10 minutes or until thickened. Remove from heat, and stir in cilantro. Serve with desired toppings.

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We care enough to send you the REAL DEAL!

Our newsletter is **100% home-grown**...unlike other firms that send clients, associates, and friends an impersonal newsletter that has been created by a service. Our newsletter is written by us!

