

Decisions, Decisions...

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She increased fluid administration, antibiotics, and ordered consultations with a cardiologist and a pediatric intensive care doctor. Unfortunately, none of Doctor B's orders were carried out in timely fashion. Eight hours passed before Suzy was transferred. She did not receive fluids or antibiotics for hours. No pediatric intensive care doctor ever saw Suzy, and a cardiac consultation did not occur until one hour before her transfer. Once at the pediatric intensive care hospital, despite heroic lifesaving attempts by the staff, Suzy died 19 hours after her transfer.

Attorney Cal Warriner resolved this case against the two pediatricians and the first hospital for a confidential sum. The family is hopeful that by exposing the nature of Suzy's illness, and the failures on the part of the doctors and the hospital, no other family will have to suffer the same heartbreak and misery. ■

Routine Auto Accident Causes Years of Litigation

Doctor S had practiced dentistry in Palm Beach County most of his adult life until 1994, when a cervical disc disease caused him to discontinue his practice. Doctor S then went on to become a consultant and professor of dentistry.

In 1996, Doctor S was driving northbound on U.S. 1 in Lake Park, Fla. As he reached the intersection of Hawthorne Drive, a vehicle failed to yield the right of way and struck Doctor S's car. The Lake Park Police Department concluded that the at-fault driver, who fled the scene of

the accident, was totally responsible for the crash.

After being treated and released from a local emergency room, Doctor S went to see his ophthalmologist. He was diagnosed as having a ruptured and detached retina in his right eye. In an attempt to salvage the vision in his affected eye, Doctor S underwent laser surgery. Unfortunately, the surgery proved unsuccessful, and Doctor S was left legally blind in his right eye.

At the time of this crash, Doctor S carried \$25,000 in Personal Injury Protection (PIP) and \$10,000 in Medical Payments coverage on his own automobile insurance policy with USAA Insurance Company. However, USAA took the position that the detached retina was not caused by the traffic accident, but rather was due to Doctor S's history of hypertension.

In October 1999, Doctor S hired attorneys Jack Scarola and Darryl Lewis to represent him in his claim for the benefits denied by USAA. Mr. Scarola immediately filed suit against USAA, seeking payment of the unpaid bills, as well as attorney's fees and costs. After a year of litigation, the carrier eventually paid all of Doctor S's PIP and Medical Payments benefits, interest on the benefits withheld, and attorney's fees and costs incurred by Doctor S in bringing the action.

Having resolved the PIP/Medical Payments claim, Mr. Scarola and Mr. Lewis turned their attention to the uninsured motorist coverage on Doctor S's USAA policy. Nearly six years after the crash, the case was resolved on behalf of Doctor and Mrs. S in the amount of \$500,000. ■

Anniversaries

Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley would like to recognize our employees each quarter for their hard work and dedication. **Congratulations to all.**

January

1/01	John A. Shipley	26 years
1/22	David K. Kelley Jr.	21 years
1/13	Bonnie D. Landrigan	16 years
1/19	Suzanne L. Valentage	15 years
1/12	Pam G. Roberts	15 years
1/02	Steve M. Smith	10 years
1/25	Shannon A. Kent	9 years
1/17	Laurie J. Briggs	8 years
1/22	Vivia R. Ware	6 years
1/22	Phoebe J. Harris	5 years
1/20	Nancy J. LaSorsa	5 years
1/12	Ellen F. Brandt	4 years
1/25	Joni A. Baker	3 years
1/31	Karen L. Kreuscher	2 years
1/04	Jennifer L. Faerber	1 year
1/02	Josephine M. Walsh	1 year

February

2/22	William A. Norton	14 years
2/05	C. Calvin Warriner	14 years
2/24	Donna M. Howey	10 years
2/10	Joanne B. Cline	10 years
2/10	Linda T. Wells	5 years
2/10	David J. White	5 years
2/05	Wayne A. Adams	3 years
2/20	Gretchen Dore	1 year
2/20	Christopher C. Deckert	1 year

March

3/01	Earl L. Denney	34 years
3/06	Helene E. Walker	13 years
3/12	Marilyn Hoffman	12 years
3/25	Lisa R. Roig	11 years
3/21	Amy H. DeFau	8 years
3/15	Harry A. Shevin	3 years
3/15	Sean C. Domnick	3 years
3/20	Robert W. Pitcher	2 years
3/06	Stacey Kniseley	2 years

