

# Legal Tracks

A Publication of Hill, Peterson, Carper, Bee & Deitzler, P.L.L.C.

## Life's Last Respite

You may someday place a loved one in a nursing home, the toughest decision a family can make. In that instance, you will expect and deserve the delivery of professional care in a peaceful, safe and loving environment.



Unfortunately, nursing home neglect and abuse is all too real. Sadly enough, some West Virginia nursing homes have received only one out of the five stars used to rate nursing homes under the Medicare grading system.

**Some of the most common nursing home abuse indications include:**

- Falls (documented or not)
- Unexplained bruising or broken bones
- Unexplained weight loss or gain
- Skin deterioration (such as bedsores)
- Failure to change sheets or clothes as needed
- Allowing residents to lie in their own waste

The elderly or disabled have a right to protection against nursing home abuse. If you suspect that a nursing home is mistreating someone whom you love or care about, report your concern the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (listed in Verizon blue pages).

The *Law Firm of Hill Peterson Carper Bee & Deitzler* has attorneys who protect the rights of nursing home residents. Please call our staff attorney Doug Spencer if your family member or friend is a victim of nursing home abuse.

**Our practice continues to grow by referrals from our clients and friends. Thank you for recommending Us.**

## Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure

On Saturday, May 2, 2009, a T.E.A.M. (Together Everyone Achieves More) from Hill, Peterson, Carper, Bee & Deitzler participated in the Komen 5K "Race for the Cure". The team was compiled by HPCBD paralegal Amy Childers-Foster.

The Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation is the world's largest grassroots network of breast cancer survivors and activists fighting to save lives, empower people, ensure quality care for all, and energize science to find the cures.



The Hill, Peterson, Carper, Bee & Deitzler team finished 2nd overall in the race. The team included Harry and Kathe Deitzler, Amy and Greg Foster, Sherri and Tyler Fraser, Stephanie Green, Wendi Ellis, Penny Bice, Ray Long, Sue Holvey, Ron Walters, Ralph Rodighiero, Brad Kohler, Marc and Jeremiah Weintraub, Jennifer Ginsberg, Rachel Kutskill, Betty Jo Mitchell, and Chloe Gibson. Penny Bice's grandson, Jordan Wyatt (Age 2), was our youngest participant.



To make a donation, view upcoming events, or obtain additional information, please visit the Susan G. Komen for the Cure website at <http://www.komenwv.org>.

## Hill, Peterson, Carper, Bee & Deitzler says Goodbye to a Long Time Friend and Staff Member

After 19 years of dedicated service to the firm, Wendi Ellis is leaving us after June 12 to join her husband Brian who was recently transferred to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Wendi and her family will be residing in Edmond, Oklahoma. Although she has worked primarily for partner Harry Deitzler, Wendi will be truly missed by everyone here at the firm. Amy Childers-Foster will be taking over Wendi's duties after her departure. Wendi's farewell party is Friday, June 12, 6:00 p.m. at the office.

Wendi recently passed the APC exam (Advanced Paralegal Certification exam) given by National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA). The exam covers 13 areas of discovery. Wendi's successful completion makes her a Certified Advanced Paralegal in Discovery. In the future, some fortunate firm in Oklahoma will be getting a valued addition to their staff. E-mail Wendi at [wellis@hpcbd.com](mailto:wellis@hpcbd.com).



*Wendi Ellis with Governor Joe Manchin*



The Law Firm of  
**HILL, PETERSON, CARPER, BEE  
& DEITZLER, PLLC**  
304-345-5667    1-800-822-5667    500 Tracy Way  
Charleston, WV 25311

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## Who Do I Send the Bills To?

The most frequently asked question when a client finds himself or herself with a stack of medical bills following a motor vehicle crash that results in hospitalization is "Who do I send the bills to?" To protect your credit, get the bills paid, and receive insurer negotiated discounts, the most logical sequence is as follows:

1. If health insurance is available, submit all bills to the health insurance carrier first.
2. After health insurance or similar coverages make payment, submit the remaining bill (copayment and/or deductible amount) to your own car insurance carrier if you have medical payments coverage.
3. If neither coverage is available, ask your attorney about a "letter of protection" (a document that may allow you to continue receiving treatment pending payment from the responsible driver's coverage).
4. When the case is ultimately resolved, pay the remaining medical bills and repay the insurers who previously made payment pursuant to requests # 1 and 2 above.



**If you have questions or need clarification, e-mail or call HPCBD partner Harry Deitzler ([hgdeitzler@hpcbd.com](mailto:hgdeitzler@hpcbd.com)).**