

The JLF Report

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Mark Joye: "S.C. Super Lawyer"



Joye Law Firm partner Mark Joye received one of the top honors which can be bestowed upon a South Carolina attorney when he was chosen as a South Carolina "Super Lawyer" by the South Carolina Super Lawyers screening committee for 2008. The Super Lawyers' magazine was first published in 1991 and it became a national publication by 2003. Today, Super Lawyer publications are published in all 50 states. Unlike many "Who's Who" publications, the persons honored by Super Lawyer publications do not pay anything to be included as an honored attorney. Instead, the persons recognized by the magazine are chosen based on nominations by their fellow attorneys, followed by an exacting screening of the candidates by the publisher's research department.

The factors considered in evaluating the candidates for the honor include previous verdicts and settlements, experience, honors and awards, special licenses and certifications, professional activities, community service, previous publications, and other outstanding achievements. In any given year, less than 5% of the lawyers

licensed to practice in a state are chosen.

Mr. Joye was one of 23 South Carolina lawyers recognized as a "Super Lawyer" in the plaintiffs' personal injury category, the area of practice he has focused on since he joined the Joye Law Firm 15 years ago.

For his part, Mr. Joye down-played the honor, stating, "It is certainly humbling to be included in a group of such outstanding lawyers but I know that anything I have accomplished in the past is of little importance. Instead, I stay focused on my current clients, who will need stellar legal work going into the future."

Mr. Joye became nationally renowned for his work in the product liability field when he was the lead attorney in a 1997 trial in a case where a young child was killed due to a defective latch on a vehicle's rear door. The federal jury in this case returned a verdict for the plaintiff in the amount of \$262.5 million, which remains the largest verdict ever rendered in a personal injury case in South Carolina. Mr. Joye has recently completed a term as the president of the Charleston Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates and he is slated to serve as the president of the South Carolina Trial Lawyers Association within the next few years.

JLF Website Named Best In State

The Joye Law Firm was honored to have its website (www.joyelawfirm.com) receive the first place award from South Carolina Lawyers Weekly for having the best law firm website for a South Carolina medium-sized law firm. A medium-sized law firm was defined as any law firm with 6 to 25 lawyers. This category makes up the majority of the law firms in South Carolina.

In awarding the Joye Law Firm this honor, the judges used by South Carolina Lawyers Weekly commented on the site's ease of use, the inclusion of pertinent firm and legal news, and complete lawyer biographies. Additionally, the highly informative and easy to access features of the home page earned the Joye Law Firm its first place honor, including practice area overviews, consistently updated firm news, information on educational DVD's, and updates on community involvement. The judges also remarked on the website's high visibility in search engines and the depth of the content throughout the site. (Source: South Carolina Lawyers Weekly, March 24, 2008, 07SCLW0529)

Ken Harrell, the law firm's managing partner, was thrilled with the firm's receiving the award. "We have put a lot of time and energy into developing a website that allows potential clients and current clients to obtain information which they find to be valuable," said

Harrell. "I would like to acknowledge the great work that has been done by the website team with C.J. Advertising, the company which handles our marketing efforts. They have done great work on our behalf in developing such an exceptional website."

Harrell also noted that the firm's website includes some features which distinguish it from anything he has seen on websites for other South Carolina law firms. These unique features include clips from informational DVD's in regard to workers' compensation and automobile accident claims (which anyone can receive a free copy of by requesting the same) and news updates produced by the EXP network. The news updates include a recent piece produced on a touching story involving the winner of the Joye Law Firm's halftime free-throw shooting contest at this year's Piggly Wiggly Roundball Classic.

If you have not visited the law firm's website recently, the firm would ask that you take a few minutes to do the same. We feel certain that you will learn something new by visiting the site.



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JLF - SPCA Golden Paw Sponsor



For the second consecutive year, the Joye Law Firm served as a "Golden Paw" sponsor for the Frances R. Willis SPCA oyster roast in Summerville. The Willis Center is dedicated to finding loving homes for pets in need. This year's roast was held on Saturday, February 9, at the Miler Country Club in Summerville. Several JLF staff members and attorneys attended the roast, which raised several thousand dollars for the Willis Center. Chris Nisbet, the Dorchester County coroner and an organizer of the event, stated, "We've always been able to count on the Joye Law Firm for community events like this. It's businesses like this that make the lowcountry such a wonderful place to live."



Proposed Workers' Compensation Bill To Exclude Undocumented Workers From Coverage *A Bad Deal For South Carolina*

by JLF Attorney Ken Harrell

The question of how to deal with the spiralling number of undocumented workers in our state is a difficult one. Unfortunately, some of the legislative proposals being made regarding the same are not well thought-out, and that is certainly true of any proposal to exclude these workers from coverage under the Workers' Compensation Act. I do not question the good intentions of this proposal, but this will not solve the underlying problem. In support of this, I would point out the following:

1. The vast majority of employers who hire undocumented workers are fully aware that they are doing the same. This is why efforts to crack down on these employers during the 2008 legislative session were fought so hard by the state's Chamber of Commerce. To dispute this is naive. These workers are hired because they are cheaper. Some would also argue that they bring a stronger work ethic to the physical tasks they are asked to perform. (A few years ago, I had moisture damage to my home which required the replacement of the majority of the floor joists. I had multiple contractors tell me they would never find a crew of American workers who would do this work.)

2. The only entities who would benefit from the exclusion of undocumented workers from the workers' compensation system are the insurance companies,

which receive workers' compensation premiums based on all wages paid by an employer regardless of whether a portion of the wages have been paid to undocumented workers.

3. Because of the physical nature of the work done by most undocumented workers, their injuries tend to be among the most severe injuries sustained by our state's workers. To prevent these workers from being covered by workers' compensation will only shift the burden of paying for their medical costs to local hospitals and to the state's tax payers.

I will not belabor the moral issues related to this proposal, other than to note that it certainly seems inconsistent with the message about being conscious of what we do to the "least of these, my brethren." If the legislature wants to strengthen penalties for employers who illegally hire undocumented workers, which would hopefully result in these workers having to go to other states to find employment, I have no problem with that. However, I would like to hear anyone explain why it would help South Carolina to shift the burden of caring for undocumented workers who suffer catastrophic injuries from out-of-state insurance companies (which have received premiums from South Carolina employers) to South Carolina's tax payers.

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Joye Law Firm Supports The Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy



JLF Partners Ken Harrell and Mark Joye share a table at this year's banquet.

On January 24, 2008, members of Joye Law Firm, LLP, and some of their spouses, attended the Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy's 17th anniversary banquet at the Charleston Area Convention Center. Various members of the Chaplaincy were presented with awards for their dedication and service. Guest speakers included Rusty Thomas, Chief of the Charleston County Fire Department, and John S. Pistole, the Deputy Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy is an organization consisting of two full-time chaplains and 19 volunteer chaplains. The Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy's primary mission is to provide pastoral care and counseling for the employees and families of law enforcement and emergency service agencies, as well as the general public during times of crisis. The Chaplaincy also assists the



JLF Attorney Brady Vannoy and wife Cynthia.

Coroner in notifying individuals who have lost a family member in an unexpected manner, assists the Mobile Crisis Unit and SWAT teams in hostage negotiations and other local emergency situations, and provides follow-up visitations in the home or in the hospital for crime victims and

their families.

In recent years, members of the Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy have assisted victims of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, Louisiana. Its chaplains provided and continue to provide support for the emergency workers who responded to Sofa Super Store fire on June 18, 2007, in Charleston, and the families of the Charleston County Fire Department members who lost their lives in that fire. Many of the families of the firemen whose lives were lost in that tragic fire attended the banquet. Chaplain Rob Dewey, the founder of the Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy, has said, "We are there for the family and our emergency personnel. We must get them through that moment in one piece."

JLF is grateful to have been a beneficiary of the Chaplaincy's services, albeit under very heartbreaking circumstances. In 2006, a long-time JLF employee unexpectedly and tragically died while at work. Chaplain Dewey and another chaplain generously came to the office to provide grief counseling to all JLF employees. JLF part-



JLF Attorney Pat Jennings (at left) is shown here with JLF Attorney Matt Jackson and wife Leah.

ner Reese Joye said, "Charleston is fortunate to have such a dedicated and committed group of individuals serving those in need. JLF is proud to support this invaluable organization."

The Chaplaincy is a non-profit organization that is funded solely by donations to continue its ministry. These donations come from various churches and other religious and service organizations, private businesses and individuals. JLF takes pride in being able to assist in funding the Chaplaincy. If you are interested in additional information about the Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy or are in need of its services, the telephone number is 843.724.1212.



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Attorney Frank Hartman Joins Joye Law Firm, L.L.P.



A native Charlestonian, Frank Hartman attended the College of Charleston, where he received a Bachelor of Arts in History and a minor in political science in May 2000. He then attended the Florida State University School of Law, where he received his Juris Doctorate in May 2006.

While earning his law degree, Mr. Hartman studied international law. He studied at Oxford University, England, and also attended Erasmus University School of Law in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Additionally, he participated in several community outreach programs as part of his curriculum in law school.

Mr. Hartman also clerked for the Honorable Jocelyn B. Cate in the Charleston Family Court.

His other interests include Gamecocks football, guitar playing, reading and Thomas Jefferson.



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