



LAW OFFICE OF KENNETH E. BERGER, LLC

April 2017 Newsletter

SAFETY FIRST
JUSTICE ALWAYS

“A Lesson From Morris Dees”

Morris Dees co-founded the Southern Poverty Law Center. Before he was taking on Jim Crow and the Klan, however, he was just a country boy who everyone called “Bubba.” I’m reading a biography about Morris called “A Lawyer’s Journey” that I would recommend to lawyers and non-lawyers alike.

The biggest lesson – and there are many – is that it isn’t where you start, but where you finish. Morris was born to a sharecropper in rural Alabama. He spent his summers in cotton fields and raising cattle, helping his daddy provide for the family. Throughout his childhood and into his 20s, all Morris had known was segregation. He was not a civil rights activist in the early days, and by his own admission, was too busy making a living to pay much attention to what was going on, even after moving to Montgomery.

It wasn’t until the late-1960s, after Morris had made a small fortune in publishing, that he found himself called to alleviate the suffering of blacks, women, poor whites, and immigrants. Yet once he dedicated himself to the cause of



justice, he went all in – risking name, life, and fortune – when he had nothing to gain other than a clean conscience. That was more than enough for Mr. Dees, who is now a civil rights icon, especially within the legal community.

From a farm on borrowed land in the Deep South to the Supreme Court of the United States, Morris Dees’ story is a reminder that life is not defined as much by circumstances, as by choices, and Mr. Dees chose to fight the good fight.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Berger'.

FOR REFERRING ATTORNEYS:

If you are one of our many referring attorneys, we want to thank you for allowing us to serve. Your trust means a great deal.

We seek to strengthen your relationship with the client by providing him/her with a great experience, as well as a great result. Additionally, we always make it a point to emphasize that you are truly the person to thank, as it was your good judgment that allowed us to take part in their representation.

If questions arise in the coming month concerning a life-changing injury or wrongful death case, we are here to help. From simply answering your questions to being associated on or referred the case, please let us know what we can do to benefit you and the client. Likewise, if you have a potential client call us directly, be sure to have him/her say who made the referral so we know who to thank.

To discuss anything from litigation tactics to our core values, call us at (803) 790-2800 or email kberger@bergerlawsc.com.

BEST AMONG US:



Ally & Eloise Bakeshop

Ally & Eloise Bakeshop opened the doors to their Forest Drive store almost 5 years ago by Columbia native, Aleka Selig, who comes from a long line of bakers. After going to culinary school in New York and realizing Columbia didn't have a bakery that did what they do, Ally & Eloise (named after herself and her beloved French Bulldog, pictured left) was born. Their mission is to craft homemade, irresistible baked goods of the highest quality with customer service to match. Ally & Eloise specializes in creating gourmet indulgences such as fine cookies, cakes, cupcakes and French macarons, all of which are a great addition to any engagement party, bridal shower, birthday party, or for just snacking on. If you find yourself craving a mid-day snack, you can stop by either their Forest Drive location or their new Main Street location. For special orders, you may call 803-708-2982 or email Aleka and her team at allyandeloise@gmail.com.

FIRM SNAPSHOT:

Andrew Johnson

We are blessed to have enough people asking us to be of service that our firm is continuing to grow. With that, we are excited to introduce our new Associate Attorney, Andrew Johnson. Andrew was born and raised in Greenwood, South Carolina in a small community with people who took care of each other, which is why he has a great passion for working to help and protect the rights of others. He earned his Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina School of Law and later became a staff attorney at the South Carolina Court of Appeals before joining our team. He and his wife, Patti, met prior to law school and now have two wonderful children, Connor and Robin. In his spare time, Andrew enjoys watching sports, reading, and cooking. He will be a tremendous asset for our firm and our clients.



CASE RESULT:

Video Evidence Forces Insurance Company to Pay Policy Limits

A teenager gets off work at a mall in Myrtle Beach. She and her friends pile into her grandmother's car. They head out on US-501. The teenager reaches an intersection. She tries to make a "running left" in order to beat the oncoming traffic. However, our client's vehicle is traveling straight through the intersection. The negligent teenager turns in front of him, causing a massive, head on collision. Our client, who we will call Tommy, is knocked unconscious. His right lung collapses and an extended hospitalization is required.

The teenager's insurance company, 21st Century, blames our client for the wreck. They claim Tommy ran the red light. The teenager's passengers say they cannot recall what color the light was at the time of the collision. Supposedly independent witnesses come forward and claim Tommy was at fault.

Between phone calls, FOIA requests, and private investigation, we are ultimately able to get security footage from a nearby gas station that shows exactly what happened. As Tommy had told us all along, the teenager never stopped, but instead turned/veered left directly in front of him, in violation of South Carolina's "Right of Way" laws. The at fault driver's negligent actions were the clear cause of the accident. The videotape contradicted the Defendant's version of events, and forced her insurance carrier to accept full liability. And it turns out that those supposedly independent witnesses were actually friends of the Defendant's grandmother who lied in claiming they saw the collision.

Though it should have been done months earlier, 21st Century ultimately paid the six-figure policy limits which, along with substantial Personal Injury Protection coverage, helped fully compensate Tommy for the harm caused by the lying, reckless driver.

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APRIL 2017 NEWSLETTER

CLIENT REVIEW:

5.0 ★★★★★

via Google

Billy from Columbia, SC

“My experience with Kenny’s office was life changing. I have stage four Esophageal Cancer and a limited time left on this earth. Kenny was able to expedite my settlement, without compromise, so I could enjoy the fruits of the settlement with my family. He found a law that expedited my claim, while also making sure my medical condition was taken care of. The compassion exhibited by Kenny and his firm was profound. I have continued to receive calls and other communications from Kenny making sure I am still okay, checking on me just because. My family and I remain very grateful to Kenny and his staff, and are forever indebted to his causes, as he is also involved in the development of relations between the general public, government and charitable organizations. I am sure he will reach far into the arena of community services and serve as an advocate for justice. Thank you Kenneth E. Berger, you are my champion, you are a champion for justice!”

