



# LAW OFFICE OF KENNETH E. BERGER, LLC

February 2019 Newsletter

## SAFETY FIRST JUSTICE ALWAYS

### “One, Two, Three...”

A few years ago, we settled our first million-dollar case. Last year we had a two-million-dollar result, and a couple others that must remain confidential. This year began with a \$3,000,000 settlement, and we are currently working on some cases that should eclipse all those numbers. As time goes on, I suspect our results will extend into eight and possibly nine figures. That is not where we began, however.



We opened our doors on January 3, 2011, and I vividly remember the bank alerts in those early years letting me know our operating account had dipped below \$10,000. I also recall being at an outlet store in Myrtle Beach and deciding to forego a 3-for-\$10 deal on socks because I needed the gas money to get home. Even when things were as tight as a pair of GoldToes, I believed we were heading in the right direction. I knew that if we remained dedicated to our core values,

our challenge would not be surviving, but instead managing growth.

All things come in the right time, and progress often has a sequence all its own. Wherever you may be in your process, whatever area of life these words may apply to in this moment, I encourage you to keep pushing ahead. I know we will.

A blue ink signature, appearing to be 'KEB', written in a cursive style.

## 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](mailto:kberger@bergerlawsc.com).

## BEST AMONG US:

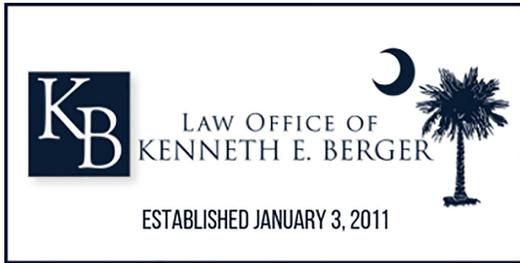
### Patti Graham, SC FAST

This month we're excited to feature Patti Graham, the state coordinator of South Carolina First Responders Assistance and Support Team (SC FAST). SC FAST, a group through the SC State Firefighters' Association, was established in 2012 to provide training and support to our state's first responders – firefighters, paramedics, 911 telecommunicators, and law enforcement – to help them overcome mental health challenges after witnessing traumatic events.

SC FAST was the first statewide team of its kind in the nation. As the state coordinator, Patti works with regional coordinators to set up training sessions across South Carolina. Sessions can be as small as a one-on-one training or can be as large as needed. SC FAST uses a peer support model, which means all training sessions are led by volunteer first responders. Patti has seen firsthand how SC FAST has helped first responders. She said, "We've seen lives changed, marriages saved, lives saved - just by connecting someone with help. Just letting people know they're having a normal reaction can be really helpful for them." If you would like to learn more about SC FAST, please visit <https://scfirefighters.org/fast/> and like/follow their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SCFAST/>.



# FIRM SNAPSHOT:



On January 3, 2019, we celebrated our firm's 8th anniversary. With each passing year, it's easy to get engrossed with how much our team has grown or how the appearance of our building has changed, but what's most important is how many people we've been able to help.

We are truly grateful to be able to serve our community and the people that make it so great. Thank you for an incredible 8 years - we look forward to many more.

# CASE RESULT:

## Bars That Violate the Law Must Pay for the Harm They Cause

It is against the law for a bar to serve someone beyond the point of intoxication. It is even worse to do so, then allow the drunk person to leave your bar and get out on the road with our families. This is how innocent people's lives are broken and often lost. Bar owners know it, bartenders know it, and people who get drunk at bars know it, too.

Lawmakers also recognize this reality, and that is why they passed safety laws which attempt to prevent not only drunk driving, but overserving as well. Sometimes it's hard for a bar to know someone is drunk. Other times it is very easy. For example, if you serve a 5'9", 140 lb. young man so much liquor and beer in a single afternoon that he walks in completely sober then leaves a few hours later with a 20% blood alcohol level, you have broken the law. It ain't that hard to tell someone is drunk when they're at 2.5 times the legal limit...especially if you're sober, and even more so if you're the one who has been serving them all the drinks.

Yet, that is what happened on the afternoon of January 10, 2016, at a Columbia bar. Less than an hour after leaving, the overserved, grossly-intoxicated driver crossed the centerline and crushed a teenager on the way to work. The teenager lived, and despite his broken bones and surgeries, I am glad to say his spirit remained strong throughout a case that lasted almost three years to the date of the incident. His name is Travis, and on his behalf, that of his family, and my own, I ask that we all do our part to hold drunk drivers and lawbreaking bars accountable to the fullest extent of the law. If we do not, no one else will.

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FEBRUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER

# CLIENT REVIEW:

5.0 ★★★★★

via Google

Faith T., DUI Accident Victim from Columbia, SC

“I highly recommend the Law Office of Kenneth Berger. All the staff treated me great. I was well-informed at all times on my case. They were concerned for my well-being and did everything to help me. I felt like family from my first meeting to my last.”

