

THE LAW OFFICE OF KENNETH E. BERGER, LLC

Safety First,
Justice Always
SEPTEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

"The Sun Rises and the Sun Sets"

Around Memorial Day, we had our best week in firm history. The following week, my dear dog, Rex, who many of you came to know and adore, passed away. As many folks do in times of loss, I turned to the Bible for wisdom and prayer for strength. Loss hurts, and while the best thing for pain always seems to be time, it is strength and wisdom from sources far greater than I that always give me what I need to keep fighting the good fight.

Ecclesiastes is no more my favorite section of the Bible than Ernest Hemingway's "The Sun Also Rises" is my favorite piece of fiction, though both have provided context and meaning at appropriate points in my life. It is from Ecclesiastes 1:5 that the quote derives, and it is the quote that reminds me no matter how high we climb or far we fall, there is always a new day – with all the joy or heartbreak that may come – and another after it.

Over the last few months, the sun has continued to rise and set again. My fiancée, Grace Faulkenberry, and I recently brought a new English bulldog puppy home, and like his predecessor, what he lacks in discipline he makes up for in character. The firm is also rolling strong and going to the mat every day for good people who should be treated with dignity and honor, not enmity and disdain.

There will continue to be exhilarating wins and heart-breaking losses, those we can help and those we cannot save, but no matter the individual moments, the sun will continue to yearn for its place and from there, rise once more.



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

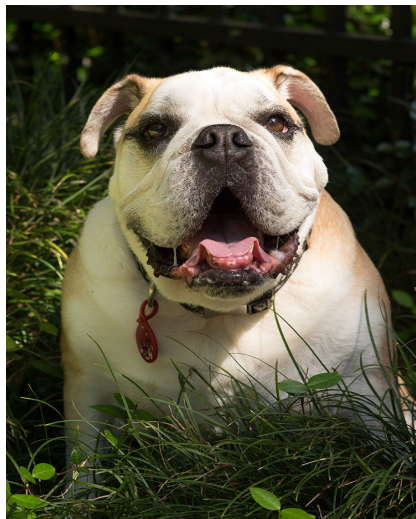
Disclaimer: Any result I may achieve on behalf of one client in one matter does not necessarily indicate similar results can be obtained for other clients. In addition, some of these results were obtained in connection with other firms. I am a South Carolina injury lawyer, not a miracle worker. I evaluate every case on its own merits and only accept a limited number of new cases every year.

A Tribute to the World's Greatest Law Dog

Born on February 17, 2012, Theodore "Rex" Berger, a native of Georgia, joined the firm at a young age. Based on his award-winning pedigree, we knew Rex would have no trouble digesting both legal concepts and lots of treats. What we could not anticipate was how much joy he would bring to our office and clients. Even defense attorneys appeared to respect Rex's authority and stature.

Away from work Rex enjoyed tug of war, short walks, jumping on the couch, chasing his dad in circles, napping, and eating. Like the president whose name he bears, he was as committed to justice as he was to adventure.

Sadly, on May 28, 2019, Rex left this world for heaven. He was our sweet angel, a best friend, and a beloved member of our family. Rex will live on in our memories, and many years from now when people ask how our firm started, they will hear about a young lawyer and the bulldog he loved like a son.



Best Among Us



Brick Lewis, SC State
Firefighters' Association

This month we're proud to feature Brick Lewis, the director of administration at the South Carolina State Firefighters' Association (SCSFA). Brick is no stranger to public service. During his time in Columbia, he has worked for the City of Columbia, the Columbia Police Department, and the Columbia Fire Department. Brick joined the SCSFA in April of 2018, and he loves that his new position allows him to help firefighters on an even greater scale. In his role, Brick keeps our state's firefighters and first responders informed of the many resources, services, and trainings offered by the firefighters' association.

With more than 17,000 members, the SCSFA serves firefighters in our state by providing them with supplemental health insurance benefits as well as training on how to manage stress after traumatic events. One of their most important initiatives is focused on the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters. Approximately 60 to 65 percent of South Carolina's firefighters are volunteers, but there is a severe shortage in our state and across the country. If you would like to learn more about the volunteer fire/rescue service, visit scvolunteerfire.org. To learn more about all of the SCSFA's programs, visit <https://scfirefighters.org>.

Firm Snapshot

Andrew Johnson Published in the South Carolina Young Lawyer

Our associate attorney, Andrew Johnson, was published in the *South Carolina Young Lawyer*, a quarterly newsletter published by the Young Lawyers Division of the South Carolina Bar.

In his article, "Show Me the Money: The Fight Over Access to a Defendant's Financials," Andrew discusses the importance of determining a defendant's financial background in a civil case, especially when pursuing punitive damages.

Congratulations, Andrew!



Case Results

Seven Million In Seven Days

Between May 16 and 22, we were able to resolve a series of very important cases for some extraordinarily deserving families. These were not overnight results, but rather the product of getting to know, care for, and champion the cause of wonderful people who were robbed of a family member.

One family lost a wife and mother. A different family lost a husband and daddy. And a third family lost a child, who only moments earlier was talking to his momma and looking forward to spending time with grandbabies. I am close with each of these families, though two of them were strangers to me only a couple years ago. Whenever you're dealing with the loss of life – when someone is literally taken away – you know money is never going to breathe life back into their lungs. That is not the purpose of the law, however. The laws of our com-

munity exist to protect further harm and to impose accountability on wrongdoers; the law recognizes the inherent value in getting to hug a parent, hold a child, and grow old with a soulmate.

I take no joy in tragedy. It makes me sad. When survivors hurt, I hurt with them. I take pride, however, in giving these families a voice - in upholding their rights and guiding them through a justice system that exists to give meaning to what they still have: love.

While these families and their love for each other were arguably the most important factor in the outcomes, the tremendous work of great co-counsel, including Randy Hood, Shawn Deery, and Nick Cotten, were also critical. These are fine lawyers who I enjoyed battling alongside in the good fight.

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Client Review

5.0 ★★★★★

via Facebook

Lindamarie O., Car Accident Client from Columbia, SC

“When I started college at Carolina, I never imagined I would be in a car accident my sophomore year and have to navigate legal and medical assistance for the rest of my time in Columbia. Kenny and his team helped to lessen the burden and stress by empowering me, educating me, and walking beside me every step of the way. He is trustworthy and engaged. I highly recommend him!”

