

### Pay attention when you drive

"You have to be responsible for what you do," said Melvin Maddock. "In a vehicle like that you have a lot of responsibility and you just have to pay more attention to what's around you. There is nothing I can do about what happened; we just suffer the consequences."

Melvin's wife, Kerry, and their infant daughter, Christine, suffered terrible consequences as a result of a gravel truck driver's inattention. In 1997, they were in a car with a friend and going through an intersection on a gravel road. The truck driver did not pay attention to the "Yield ahead" and "Yield" signs and drove right into their car, crushing it between his truck and trailer. Although the friend walked away with minor cuts and bruises, Kerry suffered a terrible head injury and many broken bones.

In spite of being in a safety seat, three-month-old Christine died in the ambulance on the way to the hospital. Kerry spent weeks in ICU, trying to heal from terrible injuries and the loss of her first child. For a long time Melvin lost his family and all he could concentrate on was helping Kerry recover.

Melvin's uncle, a police officer, insisted he get a good lawyer and recommended someone local. That attorney knew the case was complex so he brought Fred Soucie in to help out. "We went out to dinner with him," explained Melvin. "And I trusted him right away. I didn't want to go with some huge down town Minneapolis firm or someone I only saw on TV. My lawyer said Fred was the one."



The case was very complex and required a lot of research and many depositions. Kerry, still suffering from brain injuries and the loss of her daughter, was healing slowly and does not remember the accident at all. The case finally settled the night before it was to go to trial.

"Fred fights for you, that's for sure," said Melvin. "He fought the other lawyers and is the best in the courtroom. I am glad he was in our corner. We got all kinds of advice from different people, but I tried to listen to Fred. I knew he was looking out not only for our case, but for our best interests."

Although Kerry will never fully recover her health, she and Melvin were delighted to welcome their son Chad Robert, who is now 2 and a new baby, Catherine Christine, just this past year. Catherine is named in memory of her big sister.

Fred Soucie commented, "This is an amazing couple. I am so glad they count us as their friends and stop by to see us from time to time."

If you have friends who have been injured in any type of collision or accident, please give us a call at 763 427 8888. Thank you.

### Accolades in the office

*Fred Soucie was recently selected as a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA), a national association of prominent trial lawyers and judges.*

*ABOTA is a unique organization because it is comprised of both plaintiff and defense lawyers and its membership in Minnesota includes the top personal injury lawyers in the state utilizing our wonderful jury system.*

*Membership in ABOTA is by invitation only. Prospective members such as Soucie must have extensive experience in trying civil jury cases to a conclusion and possess extensive additional litigation experience. In addition, they must exhibit virtues of civility, integrity, and professionalism.*

*Fred was inducted into the organization at a ceremony on May 7, 2004. The banquet also honored four Minnesota judges, all of whom have made a historic journey to serve as judges in Kosovo.*

... because bad things happen to *good* people

# SOUCIE & BOLT

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## Welcome Paul Kieffer

Paul Kieffer recently joined Soucie & Bolt as an attorney. He brings with him a long history of successful legal work and has a personal reason for wanting to help people who are hurt.

"It happened to my family. Before I was born, my parents lost three children, their house, and all their possessions when a military plane crashed into their home. Because insurance excluded military causes, the insurance company would not help them. My dad's employer helped them get a good lawyer. Over the years they have used attorneys for this and that, but they always talked about those lawyers who helped them when they really needed it. I do this work because I can really help people when they need it the most," Paul said when he joined the firm.

Paul Kieffer has more than 19 years of experience in personal injury matters, including nine years in private practice and 10 years as an insurance adjuster. One of the advantages of working in insurance is knowing all the ins and outs of what an injured person is facing and how to work effectively on their behalf. He has created significant results for clients, including six-figure settlements in employment discrimination and harassment cases, as well as extensive work in personal injury.

Paul obtained his law degree from William Mitchell College of Law in 1994. He has a Bachelor of Science degree, with honors, from Winona State University, and he is a graduate of Neil Armstrong High School in Plymouth, Minnesota.

Paul and his wife, Shiela, live in Robbinsdale with their two daughters. They are members of Scared Heart

Catholic Church. Paul founded and still works on The Twin Cities Championship, a charity golf tournament that has raised more than \$25,000 for the Fairway Foundation, a charity which aids at risk youth through various gold mentorship programs. He is also volunteer basketball coach and active in his children's schools. Paul is a member of the American Bar Association, the Minnesota Trial Lawyers Association, and the Minnesota State Bar Association.

We welcome him to our team and know he will work hard on your behalf.

*As always, if you know of someone who has been injured or killed in an accident, car collision, electrical or power line incident, or other circumstance that requires expert legal help, please call us at 763 427 8888.*