

SOUCIE LAW NEWS

APRIL 2010

We Care and We Can Help

GOLDEN YEARS INTERRUPTED • A NOTE FROM FRED • DOG BITE TIPS • A VISIT TO OUR FUTURE LEGAL PROFESSIONALS

GOLDEN YEARS INTERRUPTED

Fred and Mary Gundlach were enjoying what was supposed to be their "Golden Years." After a long career, which included service in the military, Fred was finally able to do many of the things he loved to do – fishing with friends and family, hitting the golf course, and taking long trips with his best friend, Mary. Reflecting on his retirement, Fred remarked, "Finally, I had it." Life was grand for Fred and Mary.

That all changed on the day Fred and Mary's granddaughter was to be married. As Fred and Mary were en route to the wedding they were made a turn off of Highway 10 onto County Road 11 near Monticello, Minnesota. Fred and Mary approached a line of cars stopped for a train crossing and they too brought their car to a stop. As they were stopped, another vehicle came up behind them and crashed into Fred and Mary's car. All of a sudden, "Wham! We were rear-ended," recalls Fred. The crash caused extensive damage to their car. Initially, Fred was "shook up" and "ticked off" and worried that this "out of control" driver might have ruined his granddaughter's wedding.

After the initial shock of the crash, Fred began having pain in his neck and shoulders. Next, Fred developed debilitating pain in his lower back. Fred's injuries prevented him from doing the activities that once made his retirement so enjoyable. Fred had to limit what he could do to 45 minute periods otherwise his back would cramp up. "When I kept having considerable back pain, I thought, this isn't right," says Fred. Fred recalls thinking that "this guy took my life away from me," and left me "a crippled old man."

Fred knew he was going to need a good attorney to deal with all of the insurance issues and one who would be a fierce advocate for him. He called Brian Carlson, a local attorney, who helped him with the initial process. Then, "the case got to a point beyond Brian's

expertise, and he called Soucie Law," remembers Fred. Fred met with Soucie Law attorney Terry Peterson. Reflecting on the initial meeting with Terry, Fred says "I liked [Terry]...and I was impressed with Terry's knowledge and self-confidence." Terry made him "feel at ease," says Fred, "I had the feeling he knew what he was doing."

Throughout the case, Fred had many questions, "probably dumb questions," he says, but Terry took the time to explain everything to him. "Again and again and again," according to Fred. He recalls that Terry and his team did "all they could, they weren't just sitting back waiting" for the other shoe to drop.

If a friend or family member of Fred's were to get in an accident, he would tell them, "Definitely get a good attorney. Go to Soucie Law and talk to Terry. He's been on both sides of the fence, so he knows how those insurance

guys work," says Fred. "But now he's on the good side," Fred adds. "I'm very very satisfied with the job they do," says Fred. "I felt that we became good friends. Terry got to know me and my wife, and we got to know him. That means a lot."



A Note From Fred

"It has been a real honor and privilege for us to have represented you. We have been blessed over the years to represent good people like you, deserving of justice. We are proud to have been chosen as your advocate.

It doesn't matter what accolades that Terry, Matt, or I have received. The thing we are most honored by is what you say about us. As a firm we do market our presence in the world, but in reality, most of our cases come from our current and former clients. God forbid you or yours ever need us again, but if you do, please call us so we can take care of everything for you while you get well."

A Visit To Our Future Legal Professionals

On September 21, 2009, Matt and Fred visited the William Mitchell College of Law to talk to the Phi Alpha Delta law fraternity about what it means to be a trial warrior. Matt, being a William Mitchell alum himself, gave students a list of do's and don'ts for their legal education and also their legal careers. The law fraternity is made up of current law students and acts as a way to unite students in service to their school, the profession, and the community.

Fred gave the students an opening statement from one of his cases, as well as a direct examination from another. One student recalls feeling emotional during the opening statement. She said, "I heard [Fred] and I thought 'this is why this guy is so good at what he does'... He doesn't just stand up there and read off a piece of paper...He makes you feel for his clients."

Fred also made a gift to the fraternity of some oral advocacy tapes that had belonged to a friend of his who died very young due to alcohol abuse problems. Fred took this opportunity to counsel students about the stresses of the profession and susceptibility to substance abuse.



Terry and his team did "all they could, they weren't just sitting back waiting" for the other shoe to drop, recalls Fred.

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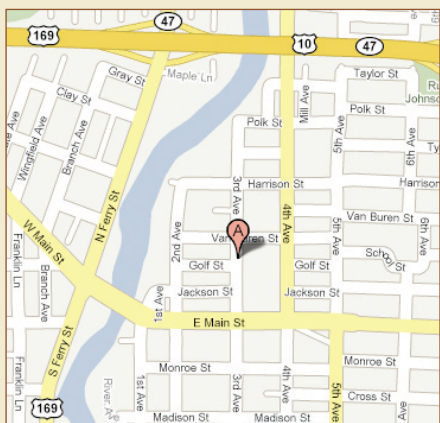
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DOG BITE TIPS

As we come out of the deep freeze of another winter, Minnesotans and their pets are making their way back outdoors for recreational activity. During this time of year, Soucie Law usually begins to see an increase in the number of calls from people who have been attacked or injured by a dog. According to the Minneapolis Animal Care and Control Environmental Services, more children are injured by dog bites than playground injuries, in-line skating, bikes, mopeds, ATVs and skateboarding accidents combined. Every 40 seconds someone enters an emergency room because of a dog attack.

Apart from contacting Soucie Law for a free consultation, below are a few items to consider if you or a loved one is injured by an animal attack:

- Report the incident to animal control and law enforcement
- Obtain identifying information from the pet owner and witnesses:
 - Name
 - Address
 - Phone number
 - Vaccination records for the animal
- Photograph injuries and scene of the attack
- Seek medical attention if necessary
- Consider talking with an attorney before talking with insurance adjusters



If you are a dog owner, remember that you are responsible for your pet's actions. Consider the following:

- Closely monitor your pets at all times, especially around young children
- Check leash requirements for your locale (some areas have strict definitions and requirements for the type and length of leash used)
- Properly train and socialize your pet

For additional information visit us at <http://www.soucielaw.com>.
Also check out the information provided at the CDC. <http://www.cdc.gov/homeandrecreationalafety/dog-bites/biteprevention.html>