

# RAISING THE BAR

**Morris James** LLP  
Attorneys-at-Law  
PERSONAL INJURY GROUP

## LAWYER BASHING?

Susan D'Alonzo Ament  
Broom Street Office

Over the past 32 years, I have represented many people who have been seriously hurt in automobile accidents or accidents at work. They come to me at a time when they are facing many difficult challenges - legally, emotionally and medically. I like being able to help them sort out all of the issues associated with their case and help relieve their stress.

I am always amazed by lawyer bashing - nasty lawyer jokes, name calling such as ambulance chaser, and general disrespect or fear of lawyers. Certain folks have a view that some lawyers are greedy. I have found that couldn't be farther from the truth. I think lawyers are the MOST caring and charitable people I know... always ready to help. And doesn't that make sense? The majority of attorneys will tell you they became lawyers to help people.

Here are a few facts that support my opinion that lawyers are good and giving people. Recently Sojourners' Place, one of the nonprofit boards I am on, sponsored a dinner and auction. When I reached out

to my partners and asked if they would support Sojourners' Place (whose mission is to assist homeless men and women on their journey to self-sufficiency through case-managed, residential programs), twenty-seven of my partners quickly responded "yes". Wow! I was grateful, but not surprised. I also called another lawyer friend, Mike Kelly, Esquire, who responded with a very quick "yes!" to volunteer as Auctioneer at the event. Several of my attorney friends either handmade or donated beautiful gifts for the auction.

Here at Morris James, many of the attorneys donate their time regularly to non-profit organizations including Girl Scouts, Children's Beach House, St. Thomas More Society, Prevent Child Abuse, American Diabetes Association, Habitat for Humanity, Catholic Diocese Foundation, Philippine-American Association, and the Delaware Adolescent Program, Inc., among others.

In our Personal Injury Group, Mike Owen is active in the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Delaware program, while Pete Jones and Kevin Healy are two of several Morris James attorneys who volunteer many hours to coach high school students to compete in the Delaware High School Mock Trial program.

The goal to serve is not unique to Morris James but is prevalent throughout the entire Delaware Bar. One of the Inns of Court I am involved with is the Pro Bono Inn of Court. Inns of Court are designed to improve the skills, professionalism and ethics of the bench and bar. The Delaware Bar Association assists attorneys and coordinates the pro bono efforts between pro bono agencies.

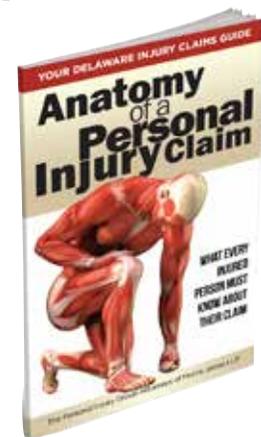
One group I have been privileged to be on the Board of for many years is the St. Thomas More Society. The Saint Thomas More Society is a collection of attorneys of various faiths committed to follow the examples of Saint Thomas More in their professional and personal conduct and to promote and foster high ethical principles

in the legal profession and in the general community.

Many Delaware Attorneys volunteer to represent children in Family Court through the Office of Child Advocate. Personally, I am honored to have the opportunity to try and make a difference in a child's life whether in a small or large way. The children represented are going through very difficult challenges, including neglect and abuse. It is rewarding to gain their trust, develop new lifelong friendships, and try to assist the Court in their decision-making process.

Attorneys are blessed with special skills and talents and I am always amazed at how generous Delaware attorneys are in sharing their talents. Perhaps they are guided by Isaiah 1:17 - *Learn to do good, seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.*

The next time you hear someone speak negatively about a lawyer or tell a bad lawyer joke, I hope you will think of this article and set the person straight. Lawyers are good and caring people whose goals are to help others.



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## ATTORNEY SPOTLIGHT

*Clayton E. Bunting, Esquire*  
Georgetown Office

Clayton E. Bunting is our Morris James resident Personal Injury Partner in our Georgetown, Delaware office where he has concentrated on accident personal injury and workers' compensation claims for some 35 years. Clayton was born and raised in Selbyville by a family engaged in the plant nursery business, as well as public service.

He was named after his paternal grandfather who served on the Highway Commission, State Board of Education, and as President Pro -Tem of the Delaware Senate, when his maternal grandfather also was a Representative in the House; his father, Eugene Bunting, was Secretary Of State and State Chairman of the Republican Party in Delaware.

After graduating from Fork Union Military Academy in Virginia with honors as a Cadet Captain, Clayton obtained his BS degree in Business Administration at the University Of Richmond, where he served two terms as president of his college fraternity, Kappa Alpha Order, and national undergraduate president in his senior year, traveling and speaking at many of the over 130 chapters at college campuses and banquets nationwide. He was awarded a Juris Doctor degree at the University of Baltimore Law School in 1976, where he emerged from competition as the number one law student chosen by the law faculty in oral argument and brief writing, representing the law school in the National Moot Court competition. Clayton has practiced actively in the same Georgetown office since graduation.

Clayton and his wife, Debbie, live in Georgetown, where they raised their three children, Amy, Andrew, and Clayton, Jr. The birth of Andrew on June 29, 1984, permanently changed their lives. Andrew was born with Down Syndrome. The advice to institutionalize Andrew was ignored and his continued residence in their home has proved a significant blessing, despite the later challenges from his contracting juvenile diabetes, requiring multiple blood tests and insulin injections each day. Amy presented them with their first grandchild, Lela Elisabeth Dukes, now almost three, with another on the way. Clayton maintains that the richness of this experience has helped him appreciate the need for

patience and compassion with injured clients facing fearful uncertainty with medical and insurance related pressures that often surface through irritability and understandable emotional strain.

Clayton enjoys the highest AV peer review lawyers' rating for legal knowledge and ethical practice, having additionally been recognized by lawyer peer review rating as a top Delaware workers compensation lawyer in Delaware Today Magazine. He is also a member of numerous professional associations and chaired a golf tournament later named The Clayton Bunting Golf Classic for the primary benefit of the American Red Cross, which cited him for numerous awards. Clayton currently serves as President of the Sussex Pines Country Club, in Georgetown, where he continues to address and amend a sometimes embarrassing short game.

## FALL WORD SEARCH



SCARECROW

APPLES

AUTUMN

FALL

NOVEMBER

LEAVES

ACORN

SQUIRREL

HARVEST

RED

BROWN

PUMPKINS

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

ORANGE

YELLOW

TREES

BACK TO

SCHOOL

RAKE

CORN

W	T	Z	B	A	C	K	T	O	S	C	H	O	O	L	H	D
B	X	Y	W	A	S	Y	J	E	O	G	W	S	Z	D	I	N
M	N	Q	J	E	D	R	I	U	O	C	T	O	B	E	R	R
R	X	O	V	M	D	P	R	X	A	S	R	B	P	K	B	O
S	B	A	V	D	B	R	O	W	N	Y	A	Z	K	R	U	C
M	E	H	H	E	O	Q	O	O	I	A	K	V	Q	U	X	A
L	J	P	G	L	M	E	F	R	V	D	E	I	J	M	S	C
Y	E	L	L	O	W	B	S	T	A	W	M	D	O	L	W	L
S	X	C	X	T	R	E	E	S	O	N	U	A	L	J	L	R
E	N	D	O	R	Z	Y	E	R	I	X	G	E	V	A	T	E
P	M	Y	C	R	N	G	C	Y	O	B	R	E	F	S	I	D
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M	U	M	E	A	S	G	G	U	W	V	R	K	J	Z	L	M
B	A	T	C	Y	W	E	Q	X	X	A	Q	B	W	R	P	U
E	I	S	E	K	U	S	A	F	H	D	H	V	D	M	P	F
R	L	H	K	M	W	P	U	M	P	K	I	N	S	X	A	J

# EVENTS & NEWS

## A TRIP DOWN THE BRANDYWINE!

On Saturday, August 8th, 2015, Mike Owen and his little brother Purcell, spent the day canoeing down the Brandywine River in celebration of Purcell's sixteenth birthday. Their journey included traversing two dams and seeing various wildlife including turtles, wild birds and

other wild animals native to Delaware. Mike and Purcell have been part of the Big Brothers Big Sisters and Boys & Girls Clubs Programs of Delaware for the past three years.



Standing L-R: Kylie Laws, Patsy Dominick, Al Ament, Nancy Faline, Samantha Grayson, Susan D'Alonzo Ament, Linda Adams (retired), Kevin Healy, Rita Powell, Heather Yoc-Santos, Madelyn Jeffery. Sitting L-R: Irene Hermansky, Gail Collins, Mike Owen, Star Serrano, Keith Donovan, Cathy Rossi, Marie Masciantonio, Cindy Bacon, Angel Colón, Clayton Bunting, Bernadette Kerr, Dee Jensen, Pete Jones, Christine Gillan

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Heather Yoc-Santos  
Dover Office

Having started with the PI Group in February 2005 and is paralegal to Keith Donovan in our Dover location. Heather loves working for this firm and says she couldn't ask for a better employer. She really believes that this firm is the best!



Heather enjoys working on Workers' Compensation cases because she feels that workers' comp clients need our help with most comp cases, especially our Spanish speaking clients, and other foreign clients. They do not know to what benefits they are entitled and often are afraid that if they make a claim they will be fired from their job. Heather also finds working on cases from the Office of Child Advocate to be very rewarding. The children they represent really have a pull on her heart strings and Heather goes above and beyond to help on these cases.

A Graduate from Wesley College with a Bachelor's Degree in Legal Studies, Heather has five (Yes! FIVE!) children ranging in ages from 22-2 years old, and one grandson who fondly refers to her as MiMi. For the past ten years, Heather has taught religious education at St. Bernadette's Church and also volunteers to visit the sick homebound and at nursing homes. She enjoys watching suspense movies and any sort of investigation shows. Heather's daily goal is to always try to find the positive in any negative situation.



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