

Aggressive Plaintiff Representation in Personal Injury, Insurance Bad Faith and Workers' Compensation Cases



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HEMMINGS & STEVENS, P.L.L.C.

A nurse in the middle of examining a patient at a county health clinic suffers a serious neck fracture when a visiting child knocks over her chair.

A massive gasoline spill causes hundreds of thousands of dollars in damages to a gas station and the surrounding area. Both the trucking company's insurer and the gas station's owner's insurer deny the claim.

Unusual and often tragic accidents like these happen every day. And, while they cannot undo the damage, experienced trial attorneys Aaron Hemmings and Kelly Stevens can help victims obtain the financial compensation they need and deserve. In fact, the partners successfully represented the nurse and the gas station owner in the cases described above. They obtained a settlement of \$375,000 for the nurse. And a lawsuit against the trucking company and the owner's insurance agent for negligence and a claim against the owner's insurer for insurance bad faith resulted in a recovery of \$275,000.

Their firm, Raleigh-based Hemmings & Stevens, P.L.L.C., offers a full range of legal services to diverse clients, but its focus is the vigorous representation of individuals who have been injured or harmed by the negligence of others, hurt on the job, or had a claim wrongfully denied by their insurance company.

"We're very aggressive in protecting clients' rights and pursuing fair compensation for people with injuries due to medical negligence, nursing home negligence, workplace accidents, automobile or trucking accidents, or defective products," Hemmings says. "We also represent individuals and businesses in insurance bad faith cases" involving life insurance, property damage, disability insurance, homeowners' insurance, insurance agent negligence, and business and business owner's insurance. "Our goal in these cases," he adds, "is to ensure that our clients' insurance carriers honor the insurance contract and pay all valid claims."

Hemmings, who tried three jury cases in 2007, recently won an arbitration award of \$1.31 million in an insurance bad-faith case in which his client's disability insurer denied her claim based on a very vague definition of disability. The award included policy limits along with prejudgment and post-judgment interest with costs.

Stevens, who devotes nearly half her practice to representing those with occupational injuries or illnesses, knows the ins and outs of the state's Workers' Compensation Program and the workings of the North Carolina Industrial Commission. "Most people don't understand the system or what they're entitled to, so it's important to have an attorney who does," she says.

Like those in most states, North Carolina's Workers' Compensation Program is no-fault, Stevens says. "All that matters is that the employee was injured by an accident on the job or suffered a work-related illness or disease," she explains. "You don't have to prove the employer was negligent, and it typically doesn't matter if the employer was negligent."



Aaron Hemmings is active in litigating cases in state and federal courts in North Carolina, and in mediation and arbitration. He and his partner are members of the North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers. Both completed an intensive professional training program in trial advocacy sponsored by the National Institute for Trial Advocacy.



Kelly Stevens is a two-time presenter at a continuing legal education seminar sponsored by the National Business Institute, "Gaining the Best Settlement in Auto Injury Cases." The past two falls, she was invited to speak at the Legal Nurse Consultant Institute sponsored by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Nursing Continuing Education Program.

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"We're dedicated to helping people who have been hurt, and their families," Stevens adds. "Our clients deserve an attorney who is not afraid to try their case or get them the benefits they're entitled to."

The partners accept cases on a contingency fee basis, which means there are no attorney fees unless the case is won. There is no charge for an initial case evaluation. For more information, call 919.277.0161 or visit www.hemmingsandstevens.com.

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