

COPLAN+CRANE CHRONICLES

COME SEE US!

This year, Coplan + Crane will be taking part in Downtown Oak Park's "Thursday Night Out."

Every Thursday from 5 to 9 p.m., Marion Street will be blocked off so people can enjoy outdoor dining, entertainment and family-friendly activities offered by local restaurants and businesses.

"Thursday Night Out" starts May 24 and runs through August 30.

Stop by our tent to say "hi!"

TABLE OF CONTENTS

\$2,000,000 for Family of Woman in Scalding Shower Death	1-2
Seminar Addresses Fetal Monitoring in Birth Injury Cases	2
Firm Happenings	3
Support Staff Spotlight	3

\$2,000,000 FOR FAMILY OF WOMAN IN SCALDING SHOWER DEATH

At Coplan + Crane, we work to get justice for clients by holding negligent parties accountable. In one case, the negligence of multiple parties led to the tragic loss of a young wife and mother.

In 2016, an Indian couple and their one year old child were living in a rented condo in the Chicago suburb of Arlington Heights. The husband had recently become an American citizen, and the wife was in the process of getting her citizenship. They worked multiple jobs to save money for a house of their own, and they had almost saved enough.

One morning, the husband was at work, and their child was with relatives. The mother had an appointment later in the day and went to take a shower.

But while she was in the shower, the water temperature suddenly spiked, and she was hit with a blast of superheated water. The burns led to her death.

Investigators determined the temperature of the water she was exposed to was 152 degrees Fahrenheit. A comfortable shower for most people is water that is 100 to 105 degrees.

Researchers at Harvard Medical School have determined that exposure to water heated to 150 degrees can cause second-degree burns instantly and third-degree burns in two seconds. The spike in water temperature this wife and mother experienced was so sudden that there was no time for her to escape.

When Coplan + Crane began looking into this case, we did our own investigation. We wanted to know how this could happen.

"There is no reason for anybody in a home to be exposed to 150 degree water when they turn on the faucet," says Ben Crane.

We learned that an undersized water heater had been installed to serve multiple units in the condo complex, and that the return system was not working properly, allowing dangerously hot water to accumulate. We learned that the proper permit to install the water heater had not been obtained, and that it had not been installed by a licensed plumber – both of which are required by code.

(continued p2)

MOST PEOPLE ASSOCIATE BURNS
WITH FIRE, BUT
LIQUIDS
CAUSE ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF ALL BURNS.

\$2,000,000 FOR FAMILY OF WOMAN IN SCALDING SHOWER DEATH (CONTINUED)

On behalf of the woman's family, we took legal action against the condo association, the property association and the owner of the unit that the family was renting.

We were able to settle the case for a total of \$2,000,000 – the full insurance policy limits carried by the parties.

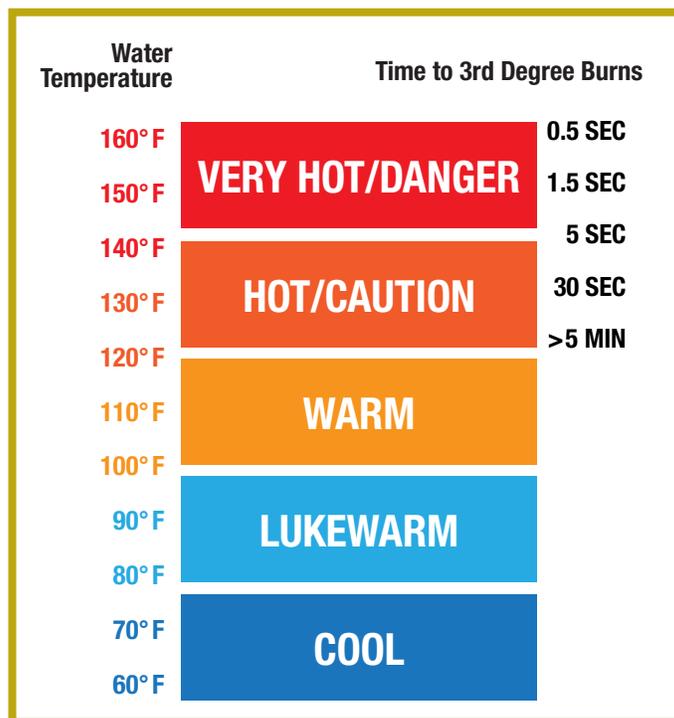
Our firm continues legal action against the manufacturer and distributor of the hot water heater for selling a unit that was dangerous and defective.

By holding negligent parties accountable, we also hope to raise awareness about the importance of acting responsibly to avoid dangerous situations that put the lives of others at risk.

"Nobody should ever have to go through this again," says Ben.

Third degree burns
include irreversible damage to epidermis and subdermal tissue

Second degree burns
include blisters and scarring



SEMINAR ADDRESSES FETAL MONITORING IN BIRTH INJURY CASES

The attorneys at Coplan + Crane are always looking for opportunities to increase our understanding of certain topics in order to better serve clients. In early March, Ted Jennings attended a seminar on "Electronic Fetal Monitoring In Birth Injury Cases" at the Kimpton Hotel Palomar in Philadelphia to learn more about how this technology can help attorneys in birth injury cases.

Fetal monitoring involves the use of a monitor attached to a belt that records the baby's heart rate as well as the mother's contractions. The monitoring is displayed on a computer screen and recorded as a continuous "strip."

"It's how the baby talks to us," says Ted. "You can tell a lot about fetal well-being from a fetal monitoring strip."

Fetal monitoring can let doctors and nurses know when the baby is in distress and when immediate intervention needs to be taken. This can involve repositioning the mother or giving her oxygen or nutrients that will be passed on to the baby.

If intervention is not taken, lack of oxygen or nutrition can seriously injure the baby, who may sustain permanent brain damage.

Electronic fetal monitoring data can be used by medical experts to help attorneys establish that medical professionals did not meet the standard of care.

Coplan + Crane has previously used electronic fetal monitoring data as evidence in birth injury cases. Working with Kevin Burke (who was with another firm at the time), we obtained a \$12 million settlement in Rockford, Illinois for the family of a baby who suffered permanent brain damage, paralysis and cerebral palsy.

In Decatur, Illinois, we obtained \$1.3 million for the family of a baby who suffered a permanent injury to his brachial plexus (the bundle of nerves leading to the arm) because of errors made by medical professionals during birth.

The seminar offered a step-by-step guide for plaintiff attorneys on understanding the science behind fetal monitoring strips and how to use that information in cases. It was taught by medical professionals as well as some of the top birth injury lawyers in the country.

"There was a lot of information that we can put to immediate use in the representation of our clients," says Ted.

FIRM HAPPENINGS



The staff at Coplan + Crane helped raise money for a good cause while enjoying a fun night out by taking part in “March Gladness,” a month-long fund-raiser for Oak-Leyden Developmental Services.

Each Thursday in March, an area restaurant agreed to donate a portion of their sales to the agency, which provides therapeutic, educational and family support services for infants and young children with developmental disabilities and delays.

Our staff went out on March 15th to Lake Street Kitchen + Bar in Oak Park. Other participating restaurants included Cucina Paradiso, Maya Del Sol and Oak Park Brewing Company, all in Oak Park; Fatduck Tavern & Grill in Forest Park; and Big Guys

Charbroiled Sausages in Berwyn.

Ben Crane is active in Oak-Leyden Developmental Services and is a member of the board of directors.

Ben Crane and **Stephen M. Blecha** spoke at the “Ultimate Guide to Expert Witnesses,” a two-day legal seminar held in Naperville on March 21 and March 22. The seminar provided lawyers with expert witness strategies and practical insights on using experts to full advantage.

Ben discussed “Admission Hurdles for Expert Testimony,” including the admissibility of non-scientific expert testimony, the admissibility of what you give your expert, whether an expert’s opinion is hearsay and limits for expert opinions and the use of inadmissible evidence.

Stephen talked about “Qualifying the Expert’s Opinion,” discussing the Daubert and Frye standards for expert testimony; considering the character, competency and qualifications of experts; and determining whether the expert’s methodology is acceptable.

“These are difficult concepts, but they’re really important for attorneys when handling complex litigation,” says Ben. “It’s a great honor for our firm to be invited to present.”

... SUPPORT STAFF SPOTLIGHT ...



JULIA DWYER, Paralegal, attended Elgin Community College receiving a full scholarship in the Paralegal program from the Board of Trustees. She graduated with honors, earning an Associate Degree in Applied Sciences - Paralegal. After working as a legal secretary and litigation paralegal with Jones Lemon Graham & Norman

in Geneva, LLP, she left to join The Norman Firm, PC, in Elburn, where she worked as a paralegal and office manager. She joined Coplan + Crane in 2017.

As part of the Coplan + Crane team, Julia works primarily on litigation matters. She works closely with both the attorneys and clients to facilitate management of cases from start to finish.

“I enjoy working with our clients and helping them in navigating the legal process; it can be intimidating” Julia says. “I appreciate sharing my knowledge of the process and delight in supporting others.”

Julia lives in DeKalb, where she spends much of her free time playing with her three children, practicing yoga or belly dancing.



BRADLEY EDWARDS, Paralegal, graduated from a Missouri Western State University with a degree in Legal Studies. He was an intern with Legal Aid, which provides legal services for low income residents. He also worked with the Innocence Project, dedicated to the exoneration of men and women who were wrongly convicted.

After graduation, he went to work for the law firm of Gamache & Myers in St. Louis. He then moved to Illinois and began working for Coplan + Crane in 2017.

As part of his job responsibilities, Bradley organizes and maintains records in the office and helps with other tasks as needed. He also gathers the records attorneys and paralegals need to move cases forward.

“Clients are treated like family members here,” says Bradley. “We all work together to try to find better outcomes for our clients.”

Bradley lives in Chicago. He enjoys trying new restaurants, going to jazz festivals and visiting art galleries.

OAK PARK'S PERSONAL INJURY LAWYERS



COPLAN+CRANE
COPLANCRANE.COM

**Call 708.358.8080
to schedule a
free case evaluation.**



ACCIDENTS HAPPEN

OFFICE INFORMATION

1111 Westgate Street | Oak Park, IL 60301

**Call us at (708) 358-8080
or toll-free at (800) 394-6002**

www.coplancrane.com



COPLAN+CRANE

1111 WESTGATE STREET
OAK PARK, ILLINOIS 60301

EDITORIAL NOTES

Rebecca Burchell
Intake Specialist
708.358.8080 Voice
708.358.8181 Fax

 Like us on Facebook

 Follow us on Twitter

Advertising Material

This newsletter is published as a source of information only. The material contained herein is not to be construed as legal advice or opinion. Readers should seek specific legal advice before taking any action with respect to matters mentioned in this publication. ©2018 Coplan + Crane. All rights reserved.