

BODILY INJURY NEWS

The journal of the Thomas Miller Americas' bodily injury team

**Two sides of the
trial curtain**

**Civil litigation – A jury
consultant's perspective**

**Feeling Social – Current
trends in social media**



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Bodily Injury News

Bodily Injury News is the bi-annual newsletter of the Thomas Miller Americas' Bodily Injury Team.

The topics it addresses are highly relevant to all our Members worldwide given more than half of the Club's personal injury claims over \$100,000 are brought in the American courts.

We welcome your feedback on the topics we cover as well as suggestions on subjects to address in future issues. Please send your comments any of the Bodily Injury Team.

The information in this newsletter is not legal advice and should not be relied upon as such.

Another outstanding seminar



Welcome to this Winter Edition of Bodily Injury News. This issue brings you some of the highlights from the October Bodily Injury Seminar. The theme of the seminar was 'Dealing with Troublesome Cases.' The 25 attendees included representatives of all vessel types and the speakers possessed a broad range of expertise. For the first time, we invited a plaintiff's lawyer to speak at the Seminar, with the goal of providing insight into how plaintiffs' lawyers value cases and prepare for trial. There were some fireworks when the plaintiff's lawyer gave a point-counterpoint presentation with a well-seasoned defense trial lawyer. It was a very informative session into the process and strategy of a typical bodily injury plaintiff.

The other speakers included a national jury consultant, a Miami defense lawyer with particular expertise in social media research, a crisis communications specialist, and the Club's own Stuart Edmonston, Director of Loss Prevention, who introduced the Club's new Crew Training App, "Risk Ahoy."

The afternoon break-out session tasked the groups with deciding whether to take a hypothetical troublesome case to trial or to settle it. The exercise demonstrated the difficulties in putting a value on a case (we asked attendees to imagine they were the Club claims executive) when the facts seem to be in the shipowner's favor but other circumstances come into play, such as the demographics of the jury pool or the leanings of the judge. Once again, the break-out session was a hit with the attendees, although all would have enjoyed more time for discussion.

Following the Seminar, the attendees ventured into New York City for dinner and jazz.

Play for Pink

This was the second Play for Pink Golf Outing the Club has held, and once again, we were delighted by the support shown for the event. The 2017 Play for Pink raised more than \$170,000! You can read the report and see the pictures on pages.

New Joiner

Jim Dunlap joined the Bodily Injury Team in the Jersey City office. Jim earned his LLM from Tulane Law School and previously interned in the Jersey City office in 2016. We look forward to introducing him to you shortly.

2018

Please mark your diaries for two events next October, firstly our Play for Pink Charity Golf Outing on Tuesday 2nd October at Forsgate Country Club, to be followed on Wednesday 3rd October by our Bodily Injury Seminar to be held in our office in Jersey City. ■

Mike Jarrett

President & CEO, Thomas Miller (Americas) Inc.

Two sides of the trial curtain

The theme for this year's Bodily Injury Seminar was 'Creative Strategies for Troublesome Cases'. **Jim Dunlap** and **Noreen Arralde** explain how seeing both sides of the case leads to a more effective approach to litigation.

The theme for this year's Bodily Injury Seminar was "Creative Strategies for Troublesome Cases." Adopting a new approach, the Bodily Injury Team invited a leading plaintiff's lawyer, John E.D. (Jed) Powell, founding partner at Jed Powell & Associates, PLLC, to go head-to-head with a top trial defense lawyer, Will Pierson of The Pierson Law Firm in San Antonio, Texas, in order to illustrate the difficulty of deciding whether to try a case to a judge and jury or try to resolve the case without resorting to trial.

Deciding whether to try or settle a case is a difficult choice for Members, particularly when confronted with news reports out-of-control verdicts for seemingly insignificant events. At the UK Club, we caution Members to evaluate each case on its own merits, bearing in mind the difficulty that can

be encountered when trying to accurately value a case. Sometimes, the choice to take a case to trial can be made easier because of an unreasonable opponent or an unrealistic settlement demand. Other times, the value of the case can depend on factors unrelated to the actual underlying incident.

The goal in asking Jed and Will to speak at the seminar was to present strategies that may help a shipowner evaluate the risks of litigation and make an informed, objective decision regarding settlement or trial. By "stepping into the shoes" of plaintiff's attorney in order to understand plaintiff's strategy, a shipowner may be able to more objectively evaluate their own view of the case.

Jed emphasized the importance of "taking the blinders off" and seeing

both sides of the case. When a defendant refuses to even consider the case from plaintiff's point-of-view, Jed believes those are the cases in which he stands the greatest chance of success. A myopic defense is, in Jed's view, a losing strategy for the defendant.

Plaintiff's point of view

From plaintiff's viewpoint, Jed opined that every case filed by a successful plaintiff's attorney is one that he or she believes can be taken to trial with a substantial probability of success. Key to that success is plaintiff attorney's ability to present a clear and concise theme to the jury. Jed described that as a "post-it note" theory of the case. The more concise plaintiff's theme, the greater the likelihood that the jury will believe it. Jed challenged shipowners to evaluate their defense theme and determine whether it too would fit on a post-it note. In his experience, simple, straightforward themes are winners with juries, whereas diffuse, complicated, or multi-faceted themes are not.

The theme of the case should be presented in no more than three minutes. If the plaintiff's attorney is successful in framing the case, the jury may be polarized against the defendant before there is a chance to rebut the plaintiff's arguments. This is the plaintiff's attorney's objective – to set the jury against the defendant before the defendant has a chance to speak.

Once plaintiff has the theme of the case in mind, Jed noted that the factors that go into deciding whether to try a case or settle it are the same for both sides.

These factors include:

- How will plaintiff present himself or herself to the jury?



TROUBLESOME CASES



- Does plaintiff have any pre-existing conditions; if so what's the impact on the case?
- What is plaintiff's background; are there personal motivations?
- How will the defendant present itself to the jury?
- Does opposing counsel actually take cases to trial?
- Or does opposing counsel historically settle out early?
- Does opposing counsel have extensive trial experience? Win-loss record?

arguments in motions for summary judgment. In Jed's view, the battle is often won or lost in summary judgment. He thinks if he can get his case to the jury, he is likely to prevail.

Alternatives to trial

Will Pierson presented alternatives to Jed's theory of litigation. Will has tried about 300 cases to verdict with many notable defense verdicts. Will and Jed agree, however, that obtaining a defense verdict is expensive, and Will thinks shipowners should be open to alternatives.

Insight for the Defense

Anticipating plaintiff's theme for trial should not be particularly difficult. Defense counsel can monitor where plaintiff is expending resources in order to hone in on plaintiff's theme. Defendant should, in turn, try to craft an equally compelling and concise theme, although in Jed's view, the best defense is to prevent the claim from ever reaching a jury. Essentially, a case before a jury is already, at least, partially lost because even attaining a defense verdict is expensive. As such, shipowners would be wise to expend resources crafting and filing winning

As Will noted, justice comes at a cost to both sides: costs in money, costs in time, and high levels of stress. An alternative to these costs is to avoid trial and think "outside the box."

While plaintiffs and defendants may vehemently disagree as to a claim's value, at some point, the claim does accrue a true "value". An experienced defense attorney and claims manager are well placed to accept that value if they can think clearly and approach the particular claim as objectively as possible. Relying on personal biases or emotion may cause a defendant to undervalue a claim and derail settlement negotiations. This could result in a high verdict. It is important to value the claim as realistically as possible from the outset and periodically reassess the claim from time to time.

Factors that cannot be ignored in valuing a claim include:

- Venue placed in an economically depressed community
- Plaintiff-friendly judges
- Millennial jurors

Will cautioned that a major hurdle for defendants is that they often become so convinced of their own view of the claim that they fail to appreciate plaintiff's view. In this too, Will and Jed agree. Defendants need to rationally consider both sides of the case – early and often – before becoming locked into a trial they would be wise to avoid. ■

Thinking outside the box

Alternatives to trial

- Mediation
- Summary Trial where each side presents a summary of the evidence
- Advisory Opinion in which an independent party evaluates the evidence
- Panel of lawyers or retired judges review the evidence and disputed facts
- Arbitration
- High-low Arbitration
- Collaborative Law which is an agreement excluding representation by lawyers

A jury consultant's perspective

Markus McMillin recounts the insights shared by **Todd Fairbanks**, Vice President of Research and Lead Moderator for Jury Impact, a national trial research firm specializing in developing litigation strategies.



Given all these challenging hurdles to accurately evaluate a case, Todd explained the importance of doing jury research and understanding the many factors that can impact a trial result. Even the best defense case with the best expert witnesses can be sunk by an unfriendly jurisdiction, unfavorable juror predispositions, a company's reputation, recent headlines, a bad judge, or a jury susceptible to Reptile Theory arguments.

On the last point, Reptile Theory is a fundamental concept that the "reptile brain" is conditioned to favor safety and survival. A plaintiff's counsel attempts to generalize the defendant's conduct so that the jury members feel personally threatened by the defendant's alleged dangerous actions. The jury responds out of fear of danger to protect themselves and the community as a whole by finding the defendant liable in an attempt to eliminate the danger. The theory can be enhanced depending upon the plaintiff. Juror research has indicated that babies are 56% more likely to receive a larger damage award, while elderly and single parents are 44% and 41% more likely, respectively. Judges will sometimes intervene to stop such arguments, but one can't count on it. Research has shown that in order to fight Reptile Theory arguments, the defense has to develop a theme of personal interest to the jurors and humanize the defendant's position. Also, it helps to focus on choice, fairness and accountability.

Next, Todd discussed trials, jurors and social media. Although it was covered by another speaker in greater detail, Todd showed some examples of plaintiff's social media posts that unwittingly destroyed the plaintiff's credibility. One plaintiff claimed she couldn't work in her occupation as a

Based upon Jury Impact's years of research, Todd began by stating some startling facts and figures about jurors and how they think, feel and respond to cases:

- often feel stuck with jury duty
- make decisions based upon choice, fairness and accountability – and sometimes ignore the law
- primary drivers are sympathy, a desire to take care of the plaintiff, and the assumption someone needs to be responsible for an incident
- make snap decisions and then use new information to confirm their initial decisions
- are very good at identifying inconsistency and hypocrisy
- 78% of jurors said if a case makes it to the courtroom, they assume it has some merit
- 53% agreed to give money to pay for a plaintiff's medical bills – even if they didn't believe the defendant was at fault
- 44% admit sympathy affects their attitudes about a lawsuit – even if they are instructed not to
- 43% would decide a case based not on the law, but instead upon what they believe is fair
- when there are multiple defendants blaming each other for an incident, most jurors said it would have no impact on their decision; however, if there was an affect it is seven times more likely to favor the plaintiff
- 74% said they would consider adding lawyer fees when deciding an amount to award
- 35% would still consider adding fees, even if a judge specifically instructed them not to do so
- 51% would award more than requested to make sure a plaintiff is "taken care of"
- 46% would add interest, anticipating it might take time for the plaintiff to get paid or for some other reason such as future inflation

CIVIL LITIGATION

singer, but she had posted recent singing videos with her band online.

It's also important to do social media research on jurors prior to jury selection, if possible. It's quite surprising what people will post online. Often it will reveal conservative and/or liberal leanings, and assist the defense in deciding if this is truly a juror they want on the panel. Unbelievably, some jurors will also post information and opinions about the trial while it is ongoing, which could be grounds for dismissal from the panel.

Further, based upon Jury Impact surveys, 60% of jurors will Google issues in the trial, unless told not to do so. Even when told not to do so, 18% would still do it. Apparently, another part of our "reptile" brain is the desire to be right. When competing experts have conflicting testimony, jurors want the satisfaction of "knowing" for themselves. Thus, the best course of action for the defense is to do the research in advance and see what information is out there on the internet on a particular subject.

Todd then discussed trial strategies and themes. He emphasized that defendants should not be afraid to use technology

in the courtroom – in fact, most jurors expect it. Because many people today get their news in bite-sized pieces – attention spans are limited – using short videos to provide context can be very effective. So are the use of timelines and other demonstratives.

Importantly, if the defendant's entire case "story" can't fit on a post-it note, then the defendant is at a serious disadvantage. Often the side with the simplest story tends to win. When one is explaining their position, they are losing. Play to jurors predispositions – it's always easier to convince someone of something they already believe.

Further, try to focus on one or two key points at trial. Provide a few simple facts and figures, and don't make jurors do the math. Research indicates that most jurors average the two damage figures suggested by the plaintiff and defendant, so it's wise to offer an alternative to the plaintiff's number instead of remaining silent about it.

Witness preparation is critical. Videoing witnesses and having them watch themselves is the best way to identify and correct tics, troublesome body language and other issues that jurors may overanalyze. Important tip: ensure

your witness does not have a chair that swivels during a videotape deposition.

Don't be afraid to flip potential weaknesses into strengths. "Quiet" should be "perceptive" and "insightful" while those who talk too much are "passionate". "Inexperienced" could translate to "fresh perspective" or "energetic". If the facts support it, don't hesitate to argue your client went "above and beyond" or "surpassed" industry standards.

Finally, knowing your venue and jury pool is critical. Todd gave an example of an out-of-the-area attorney who showed up to trial in a small rural town driving a modest Subaru. After the trial with a good outcome, a juror commented she had seen the lawyer and his car in the parking lot and felt he was "just like us".

In sum, due to the infinite number of variables, predicting the outcome of a jury trial is difficult at best. But with proper research, preparation (including the use of social media before and during trial), strategies and honing one's case into one pointed "theme", a defendant's chances of a favorable outcome can increase. ■



Feeling social?

Rich McAlpin of the Miami firm, McAlpin Conroy, spoke about “Current Trends in Social Media” at this year’s Bodily Injury Seminar. **Dee O’Leary** recaps this interesting topic.



As is evident everywhere, social media is now part of everyday life. Almost everyone has either a Facebook, Instagram or Twitter account, or perhaps all three. Now people share some of the most mundane and yet highly personal aspects of their lives on social media. By the end of 2016, 2.8 billion people were using social media – even the president of the United States is on Twitter!

In recent years, social media has found its way into litigation, especially in personal injury cases – and it can be a great source of impeachment material. Like the plaintiff who testifies in deposition that he can no longer walk long distances, ride a bicycle, or go for hikes, and then posts photos and narrative on his Facebook page regarding his recent vacation, where he is seen mountain biking and hiking in the mountains. This type of information can be very helpful at mediation or trial to show plaintiff is exaggerating, or even lying, about his injuries.

Rich McAlpin provided some advice:

- Search for the claimant’s name in all social media outlets and Google.
- Pay close attention to their photos, interests and friends lists.
- Check dates of when the photos/status was posted to determine if it was posted pre-or post injury.

- Check to see if the claimant is “tagged” in any photos.
- When searching friends lists, look for “friends” with the same last name, as they might be family.
- Pay attention to “check-ins” for a pattern, this could be helpful for clandestine surveillance of the claimant.
- Preserve and store the information as soon as it is discovered as it can easily be removed from the social media outlet.
- Save postings with dates, if possible.
- Take screen shots of the posting as an extra step to preserve evidence electronically, as this shows that the information was not modified.
- Proper preservation is essential to combat potential evidentiary arguments at trial.

However, do not use any deceptive practices, including sending a “friend” request or setting up a fake profile to send a “friend” request.

Social media should be checked periodically, especially before plaintiff’s deposition, and again throughout the litigation process. While not every search will prove fruitful, it is worth doing repeatedly since it is relatively easy to do and free. ■



FACEBOOK

- 1.56 billion active users
- 4.75 billion pieces of content shared daily
- 300 million photos uploaded daily



TWITTER

- 974 million accounts
- 100 million are active daily
- 500 million tweets daily



INSTAGRAM

- 600 million Instagrammers
- 400 million are active daily
- 40 million photos and videos are shared daily



SNAPCHAT

- 166 million daily users
- 3 billion snaps a day

Recognizing risks

Stuart Edmonston, Director of Loss Prevention for the UK Club, gave the lunchtime presentation at the Bodily Injury Seminar, including showcasing “RISK AHOY,” the interactive game developed by Stuart’s team to educate crew members about risks at sea. **Linda Wright** reports on Stuart’s presentation.

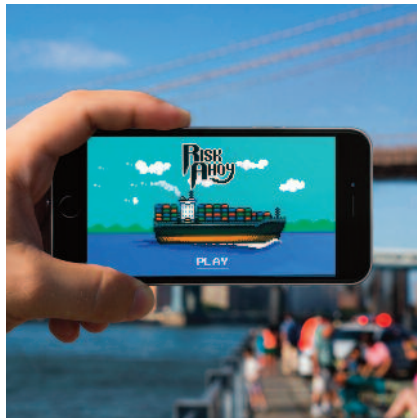
The UK Club Loss Prevention Team provides varied services to the Club’s Members, including shipboard assessments, crew seminars, targeted publications and bulletins, and access to the Club’s criminal investigative arm, SIGNUM. Members of the Club’s Loss Prevention Team have years of sea-going experience, giving the Team practical expertise to share with Members.

Stuart shared the Club’s claims experience, noting that “People Claims” (injuries and illnesses to crew, passengers, visitors, cargo handlers, etc.) account for 42% of the Club’s overall claims costs, outpacing every other category of claims. Of those claims, the overwhelming number (83%) are for crewmembers’ injury, illness, and death. Crew claims have been so pervasive as to total 76% of all People Claims’ costs. With injury and illness claims, the most costly of all Club claims, risk assessment advice is offered to all Members to assist in preventing or at least minimizing such incidents.

One way in which the Loss Prevention Team works with Members to prevent injury claims is through shipboard risk assessments, in which a ship inspector spends several hours or days, depending on the size of the ship, examining the spaces where injuries can occur. Through this detailed assessment, the ship inspector can ascertain whether onboard areas might be dangerous for crewmembers under certain circumstances, and can offer guidance on how safety can be improved. A report is issued upon completion of the inspection, detailing recommendations to eliminate the risks identified.

Another service offered by the Loss Prevention Team, which has been popular with Members, is the Club’s crew seminars offered for senior officers.

Emphasizing risk assessment meetings for crew, even prior to routine jobs onboard, the seminars stress preparing for all circumstances whether on or below deck. The Club’s Loss Prevention Team has the benefit of being able to review and study the underlying causes of the variety of incidents reported by our Members. Their hand-on experience combined with the statistics gathered from past cases allows the team to offer warnings and advice to Members’ crews on how to reduce risks.



Stuart also showcased the Club’s crime investigation unit SIGNUM. Unique to the UK Club, this unit is headed by former Scotland Yard senior detectives. They not only investigate maritime cargo crimes, but also other crimes that may occur, such as crew-on-crew violence, arson, fraud, stowaway problems, port-based organized crime. SIGNUM has demonstrated with graphical data, the importance of the Club’s crew pre-employment medical examination (PEME) program, which in 2017 celebrated its 20th year. The Club’s PEME-approved clinics around the world provide services in the US, Canada, Russia, most of the European Union, Egypt and South Africa, and most of Asia Pacific and Australia.

Loss Prevention’s timely publications are issued whenever a trend is noted by Stuart and his team. Risk Focus Bulletins cover not only cargo matters, but also incidents that could result in injuries, such as these recent titles: Lifeboat Release and Retrieval Systems; Engine Room Fires; Reducing Risk of Collisions with Fishing Vessels; Kidnap and Ransom – just to name a few.

Stuart also introduced the Club’s new Loss Prevention “gaming” initiative “RISK AHOY.” He explained that the gaming industry is worldwide and many of today’s crew members have grown up playing video games. Taking this gamified approach, the Club hopes to overcome barriers such as culture, language, and rank to engage crew on the issues of safety and loss prevention in a novel and fun manner. For shore-based staff, the game can act to raise awareness of the dangers on board ships, as well as piquing the interest of a younger generation to the maritime world, who may in the future consider a career at sea. “RISK AHOY” is an interactive game available on iTunes and Google Playstore, and has been intuitively designed to allow users to dip in and out of action with short, medium, and long modes available. Players navigate their ship through 38 levels of increasingly challenging difficulty, working their way through the various mini games, while identifying and avoiding common onboard hazards. A global “leader board”, which will allow seafarers to compete wherever they are in the world, is in development.

Members can review loss prevention issues by accessing the Risk Focus publications on the Club’s website. And Stuart or his team can be contacted if Members have identified a risk for which they need advice. ■

Villian, victim and vindicator

Bruce M. Hennes is the Managing Partner of Hennes Communications, a crisis management/communications and litigation communications consulting firm based in Cleveland, Ohio. He is an expert on government and public relations in the transport industry, and shared with the Bodily Injury Seminar his “words to live by” when responding to a crisis. **Julia Moore** summarizes Bruce’s presentation.

Despite best practices and intentions, a casualty can happen to any maritime organization, which may shine an uncomfortable spotlight on your business operations and thrust you, a maritime business professional, into the new and unfamiliar role of crisis communicator. Your response to that casualty or crisis could precipitate a public relations nightmare with severe financial consequences for your organization. Or you could diffuse the situation by deftly responding to the media’s inquiries. Bruce gave examples of both. Some cringe-worthy responses by high-ranking business executives have caused public relations nightmares, while other companies have emerged from mass casualties with their reputations intact and unharmed. In fact, some companies have enhanced

their reputations by responding to a crisis swiftly, candidly, and fully.

To assist Members understand the ways in which effective crisis communications can benefit their organization from a reputational and financial standpoint, Bruce provided communication tools aimed at minimizing reputational harm and potential liability.

Bruce explained that an organization may face a host of casualties which could generate attention from the media, such as:

- Collisions
- Chemical spills
- Criminal accusations
- Data breach

- Environmental disasters
- Explosions
- Ship fires
- Pirate attacks
- Sabotage
- Sexual misconduct
- And the list goes on...

Using a real-life casualty in which a passenger ferry collided with a pier in one of the nation’s most media-dense markets, Bruce gave the Members a vivid example of how demands from both traditional media outlets and social media sites can overwhelm an organization. Playing actual audio clips from the voicemail of the ferry company’s general counsel, Bruce demonstrated that trying to respond to the endless media requests for comment following a mass casualty could take every waking minute of every day. Within the first hour following this particular casualty, the ferry’s general counsel was deluged with requests for comment from every major national and local news organization, including television, print and internet. There were also countless requests from lesser known websites, each trying to grab its own headline. In addition, media outlets of all kinds were on the scene with photo and video recordings being transmitted to viewers. With this vivid, real-life example as a starting point, Bruce shared a few insights and strategies for damage control.

Controversies are tried in the court of public opinion

First, Bruce noted that it is important to understand that the court of public opinion is always in session.



CRISIS COMMUNICATIONS

Controversies are “tried” in the court of public opinion as often as, and long before, they ever reach a court of law. Second, the media filters the information it receives. The media does this for a purpose. Bruce explained that the fundamental role of reporters is to tell a story. Reporters do not now, if they ever did, see themselves as informing or educating viewers or listeners. It’s all about the story. The typical “story arc” for the media involves a villain, a victim, and a vindicator. In most cases, the villain will be the company presumed to have caused the damage, the victim will be those presumed to be impacted by the villain’s conduct, and the vindicator will be the reporter. Understanding this, effective damage control, and utilization of the media can mitigate how a story is written, or whether a story is written at all. Third, social media and the proliferation of cell phones have radically changed how information is transmitted. Damaging information can be – and is – instantly and widely disseminated.

The rules

Given this daunting backdrop, Bruce advised that there are rules for effective crisis communication that can help with damage control:

1. Tell the truth
2. Tell it first
3. Tell it all
4. Tell it fast

While some of these rules might seem counter-intuitive when a casualty could lead to litigation, Bruce offered some examples to show how, and why, these rules work. Bruce also noted that an apology – not an admission of liability – can benefit an organization from a public relations standpoint, as well as from a litigation and financial standpoint.

Another key piece of advice: do not ignore requests for comment, do not respond by stating “no comment,” and do not respond with an attorney’s carefully manicured statement when a simple, non-legalistic statement will do. Remember, the media is looking for a villain: if the company’s public statement is, “No comment,” or a lawyer on behalf of the company offers an explanation that sounds like legal obfuscation, the media will have found their villain.

An important element of effective crisis management is being prepared in advance with a plan for how to respond in the wake of a casualty or crisis. Some

of the essential elements of a crisis communications plan that every organization should have include: the creation of a crisis communication team; lists of contact information for members of the team, lists of any media contacts etc; the designation of a spokesperson(s) to work with the media; a clearly defined media policy (i.e. who should return that call to CNN) and guidelines for using social media in a crisis.

Circling back to the passenger ferry collision, Bruce said that the ferry company responded appropriately to the many media requests for information and provided a forthright and simple explanation as to what had occurred. The media did not find a villain since the company did not shy away from the media’s attention. By dealing with the matter in a straightforward manner, there was no place for the villain/victim/vindicator dynamic, so the media quickly moved on.

The Club recognizes the importance to our Members of protecting their reputation in the event of a casualty garnering public attention, and is always available to recommend suitable crisis communications experts. ■



Playing for Pink

More than \$170,000 was raised by Thomas Miller Americas and business associates at a Play for Pink golf day at Forsgate Country Club, New Jersey.

Some 108 golfers drawn from Members of the UK Club, as well as TT Club, insurance brokers and lawyers, participated in the event held in support of the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. UK Club board member Harley Franco and wife Lela of Harley

Marine, TT Club board member Anthony Fullbrook of OEC New York and Thomas Miller chairman Hugo Wynn-Williams carried off the winner's trophy, which was presented by US Shipping chief executive Al Bergeron. Club Members OEC, Royal Caribbean

Cruises, Overseas Shipholding Group, Chembulk Tankers, Foremost Maritime, Harley Marine, Dunlap Towing and Phoenix Bulk Carriers all participated in the event, with a growing contingent of guests coming from all over the US, and as far away as Venezuela and Panama.



Expertise and experience

A specialist group from both the New Jersey and San Francisco offices empowered with a significant settlement authority to deal with the particularly demanding cases of bodily injury in America.

This dedicated team supports Members based both in the United States and abroad in dealing with a diverse and complex range of personal injury and illness cases. The one common factor is the influence of US jurisdiction or emergency response.

The team has handled cases ranging from suspicious death, passenger's leisure activity injuries, long-term occupational illness, engine room and cargo handling fatalities, through to shore-side accidents, loss of limbs in mooring activity and even sexual assault.

As well as supporting Member's claims and enquiries directly, the team share their collective experience through the pages of "Bodily Injury News".

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