

January 2009

Dear Client,

Happy New Year! Clients often ask why their cases take so long to reach a verdict or settlement. Personal injury or wrongful death lawsuits can typically last one to four years, depending on the county where they are filed. We know you are anxious to resolve your case and we pride ourselves in bringing cases to justice as quickly as possible. However, despite our best efforts, lawsuits are often delayed. In this letter, we will address the most common causes of lawsuit delay and explain the way we work through these delays:

- (1) **Research and preparation-** We spend time thoroughly investigating the facts of your case before we file the complaint. We often face delays when gathering records and other important documents and evidence. A thorough review of this information is required in order to adequately prepare your case for filing.
- (2) **Discovery-** Depositions are the cornerstone of any suit and we use them to further build your case. We face delays when we schedule depositions because we have to coordinate the schedules of everyone involved in the lawsuit including you, all attorneys, and expert witnesses. This step becomes even more complicated when we involve doctors and medical experts because their schedules are generally booked months in advance.
- (3) **Delays by the opposing side-** We play a proactive role in advancing your lawsuit and rely upon the defense to react. Defense attorneys have economic incentive to prolong litigation because they bill their clients by the hour. The defendants, who are often insurance companies, also benefit from delay because it keeps their money in the bank, earning interest as long as possible.

Throughout your case, we do everything possible to advance litigation. We combat delays by encouraging the court to keep strict discovery deadlines. We make phone calls, draft letters, and file motions to compel in order to put pressure on the defendants to comply with our requests. We also work to respond quickly to the defenses' requests for information.

- (4) **Crowded courts-** When a case is filed, we get in line behind hundreds of other cases. Cook County courts see the highest volume of lawsuits of any county in the country so we expect and prepare our clients for delays.
- (5) **Delays in settlement-** We will never settle before completely understanding the true impact of a defendant's negligence on you or your loved ones. Therefore, even if your case never makes it to trial, settling your case takes time while we seek out the best opportunities for settlement without reducing the value of your case.

The length of a lawsuit depends on the nature of the individual case, but we strive to make certain your case is handled in a timely manner. Years of litigation experience have taught us the most effective ways to handle your case when faced with these and other common delays.

The legal process is long and complex. Throughout this process, we are constantly working to bring justice to you and hold all wrongdoers accountable. We are committed to achieving the best possible results for you in the shortest amount of time, while ensuring that justice is served and you are fairly compensated.

Please feel free to call or email us anytime with questions regarding your case.

Very Truly Yours,



Steven M. Levin and John J. Perconti