

P2 / Please join us as we celebrate the service anniversaries of two key staff members: Chelle and Jennifer.

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the CONTINUUM

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Takacs McGinnis Elder Care Law, PLLC | 201 Walton Ferry Road, Hendersonville, TN

Johnson Named Partner at Takacs McGinnis

The move begins the latest phase of growth for the nation's most influential elder care law firm

It's official! Chris Johnson is now one of the partners at Takacs McGinnis Elder Care Law.

If you're a client or friend of the firm, you probably saw it coming. The addition of Chris Johnson as the firm's third partner is just the latest step in the evolution of an elder care law practice that has been an industry leader for nearly three decades.

The firm known today as Takacs McGinnis Elder Care Law was launched as Family Law Practice of Timothy L. Takacs on September 1, 1992 in rented office space at 130 Walton Ferry Road.

After relocating the firm to its current location at 201 Walton Ferry Road in 1995, Tim began experimenting with enhancements to the traditional asset-focused practice of elder law in order to better meet the needs of his growing list of clients. Ultimately, Tim broke with elder law tradition and hired his first care coordinator in 1998. Later that year, Tim renamed the firm Elder Law Practice of Timothy L. Takacs and stopped accepting non-

elder law cases. By the early 2000's, Tim had documented his new approach to elder law, called Life Care Planning, and began teaching other attorneys how to implement the practice model.

In 2011, Barbara Boone McGinnis, a geriatric nurse practitioner with experience as an executive in long-term care facilities, joined the firm as an associate attorney. In 2016, Barbara's partnership was announced, and a year later, the firm re-branded as Takacs McGinnis Elder Care Law.

As their caseload continued to grow, Tim and Barbara set their sights on adding a third attorney. Eventually, they discovered Chris Johnson, who had been working as an elder law attorney for another local firm.

Tim, Barbara, and Chris are committed to maintaining Takacs McGinnis' position as the most in-

novative elder care law firm in the nation.

Several enhancements to the firm's service offering are already in the works, including the addition of

more robust financial support for clients and the launch of a service line for older adults aging without the benefit of family support. A physical relocation is also on the horizon. The firm's spacious new office building on Saundersville Road should be complete by the end of 2020.



Partners Tim Takacs, Barbara Boone McGinnis, and Chris Johnson

Today, under the guidance of the three partners, Takacs McGinnis Elder Care Law and their multi-disciplinary staff will be setting the standard for innovation and excellence in the elder care law field for decades to come.

The digital edition of this article includes a longer story with many more details. View it at <https://bit.ly/2LrRGrg>.

Team Tidbits

Chelle & Jennifer Celebrate Years of Service

In this issue, we celebrate the dedicated service of two employees.

Chelle Guidry is celebrating her eleven-year anniversary. Since joining the firm as a receptionist on December 29, 2008, Chelle has been a key contributor. Today, as legal assistant, she handles a variety of behind-the-scenes support and administrative tasks that contribute to the overall client experience. Chelle's favorite part of the job is seeing how relieved people are after their initial meeting with the Takacs McGinnis team. "You can see it in their faces and in their body language as they walk out the door," she says.



Chelle Guidry

On January 14th, Paralegal Jennifer Berkon is celebrating one year of service with the firm. Jennifer serves as the primary contact for clients developing Estate Plans and Elder Care Protection Plans. For Jennifer, the most rewarding part of her role is seeing how her efforts generate peace of mind for clients and their families. "I like helping them see that they don't have to stress out about paying for care," she adds. "There's always something we can do to preserve assets or make the money they have last longer."



Jennifer Berkon

Please join us in congratulating Chelle and Jennifer on their service anniversaries!



LearningCafé recap

CLIENT EDUCATION SERIES

Medicare Enrollment Periods

In this issue's Learning Café recap, Medicare Specialist Joshua Hunter talks about a topic that has been confusing seniors for decades: Medicare enrollment periods.

There are five major enrollment periods for Medicare beneficiaries.

1. Initial Enrollment, which for most people, happens the year a person turns 65
2. Annual Enrollment: Oct. 15—Dec. 7
3. Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment: Jan. 1—Mar. 31
4. General Enrollment: Jan. 1—Mar 31
5. Special Enrollment Periods that happen throughout the year when life events occur.

The digital edition of this article features a video of Joshua Hunter talking about each enrollment period along with the video transcript. View it at <https://bit.ly/2DQ4io4>.



Did you know that the digital edition of *The Continuum* often contains bonus content?

Email us at continuum@tn-elderlaw.com to subscribe to the digital edition.

If you know someone who might benefit from this publication, we encourage you to share it.

Guest Column

Consider an Uninsured Motorist Umbrella Policy

It's the best way to protect your family from uninsured drivers

Many folks think they are fully covered because they pay an arm and leg for insurance only to find out after a wreck, they didn't purchase the right types of coverage, or enough coverage.

In Tennessee, you are required to have two types of insurance: bodily injury liability and property damage liability. Bodily injury liability coverage pays for damages you cause to other drivers, passengers, and pedestrians. Property damage liability coverage pays for the costs of damages you cause to the other driver's vehicle(s) or other property.

There's also a third type of insurance called Uninsured/Underinsured (UM/UIM) coverage. This is a supplemental type of auto insurance coverage which helps protect you and your passengers in the event you are hit by an uninsured or underinsured driver. Did you know there's one more cost-effective level of protection you can add to protect yourself and your family? It's called a liability umbrella policy.

What is a Liability Umbrella Policy?

A liability umbrella policy is a supplemental insurance policy purchased on top of your regular liability coverage. It provides an additional layer of insurance security on top of your primary insurance policy if you are sued personally for significant property damage and serious bodily injury. A liability umbrella policy comes into play when your insurance isn't enough to cover the

damages caused.

In addition to a liability umbrella policy, in Tennessee, you can also purchase an uninsured/underinsured motorist umbrella policy which will protect you in the event an uninsured or underinsured driver injures you or your passengers.

A uninsured motorist umbrella policy protects you and your passengers. It also protects you as a passenger, bicyclist, or pedestrian in a case where you're hit and the at-fault driver doesn't carry enough insurance and your own regular uninsured/underinsured motorist policy limits have been exhausted.

Shop Smart

Liability umbrella policies are typically recommended to those who have a family, own property, or have significant assets. However, everyone can benefit from having an UM umbrella. It's important to note that most auto insurance companies do offer liability umbrellas but do not offer UM umbrellas. When talking to your agent, be specific and ask questions about who is covered and what is covered.

What Umbrella Liability Policy Should I Buy?

Most insurers cap the amount of auto liability coverage they will sell you at \$1 million. Buy as much as you can.

How Much Do Umbrellas Cost?

An umbrella policy with UM coverage typically costs somewhere between an additional \$200 to \$350 per policy term.

Considering what's at stake, spending a little extra to protect the ones you love is well worth the coin.

The digital version of this article contains more information. Read it at <https://bit.ly/38bnASQ>.



Rocky McElhaney is an award-winning trial attorney, founder and CEO of the Rocky McElhaney Law Firm. Rocky has helped thousands of Tennesseans financially recover from life-altering wrecks and has become an authority on all matters of insurance and personal injury. For more information, call (615) 425-2500 or visit RockyLawFirm.com.



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The Continuum is a quarterly newsletter designed to enhance the service Takacs McGinnis Elder Care Law, PLLC provides to clients. Please direct feedback, questions and comments to continuum@tn-elderlaw.com.

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