



KMLG IN BRIEF



HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Kontos Mengine Law Group

January, 2018

Making Justice Possible

Social Media Edition

What is social media?

According to the dictionary, social media is a collection of websites or other online means of communication that are used by large groups of people to share information and to develop social and professional contacts.

What are social media platforms?

There are many different social media platforms, but the most prevalent platforms are Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat and LinkedIn.

How popular is social media?

Social media is extremely popular and continues to grow. According to 2017 statistics, 81% of Americans admitted to having a social media profile. This number increased 5% from 2016. In 2008, only 24% of people used social media, exhibiting rapid growth in popularity.

The statistics include all types of social media platforms, but Facebook is the most popular site with over 2 billion profiles worldwide. In the United States alone, an astounding 79% of the population use Facebook.

Why you should care about social media.

Increasingly, social media is becoming more ingrained and playing a bigger role in our everyday lives. The use of social media can impact your ability to get into college, get a job, keep a job and even influence your online purchases.

You should care about social media and be cognizant of how you use social media, including what is posted online and how you share your information with others.

Why the Attorneys at KMLG care about social media.

The use of social media can have various legal consequences. For example, stalking, harassment, cyber bullying, and even posting evidence of committing crimes online can land you in court with criminal charges.

Social media can also impact civil matters, such as personal injury claims. How so? Well, the entire basis of a personal injury lawsuit is to recover damages because your life has been negatively impacted due to the injuries you sustained as a result of someone

else's negligence. It is a defense attorney's job to refute your claims by showing that you exaggerated your injuries and/or your life has not been negatively impacted. For instance, a picture of you on social media having a nice dinner out with friends may be used against you. If you can go out to dinner and socialize, then you cannot possibly be injured or have suffered any negative impact. Seem unfair? Of course it does, but this is a tactic that is commonly used by defense attorneys and it is quite successful in discrediting personal injury claims.

You need to be cognizant of every single posting on social media. Always ask, how will this post affect me, and who is my audience?

Your audience is just as important as your posting. Always make sure your social media accounts are set to private. This ensures that only your contacts can see your posts and it makes it harder for defense attorneys to get your information.

Are social media posts public record?

YES. Anything that you post publicly on the internet or that others post about you is public record. The posts may be used as evidence against you during a personal injury claim. Make sure that your social media accounts are private! Private messages are not public record and can only be accessed by court order, subpoena, a warrant or consent.

KMLG's advice for social media use.

After you have been in an accident, it is best to suspend or close your social media accounts. At the very least, make sure your accounts are private! Posting anything online after an accident can be harmful to your claim, even if you think the post is harmless and not related to your accident or injuries.

You should also request that your friends and family refrain from posting anything about you after an accident, specifically anything related to the accident.

The bottom line is that social media can only hurt your personal injury claim and it is best to refrain from using it if you are involved in an accident. Please call the attorneys at KMLG and we can assist you with your personal injury claim and further advise you on the use of social media.

Helpful Hints for the New Year:

The start of a new year is always a good time to evaluate your insurance coverage. You should take a look at your current policy and discuss the areas below with your insurance agent:

- Confirm with your agent that you are FULL TORT (Different from full coverage)
- Ensure that your liability limits will adequately protect you if you are in an accident
- Ensure that you carry underinsured/uninsured motorist coverage
- Ask your agent about GAP insurance
- Evaluate whether you need wage loss coverage

If you are involved in an auto accident, please call us anytime to assist.

CONTACT US ANYTIME
For a **FREE** consultation
to see if you have a case!
Consultations are always free

kontosmengine.com

603 Stanwix Street
Two Gateway Center, Suite 1228
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
(412) 709-6162



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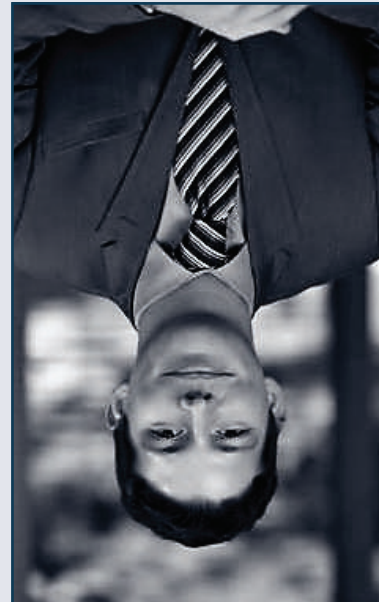
Honorable Mention

Katie Killion was inducted in the Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County. Admission into the Academy is by invitation only and there is a small amount of limited spots each year. The Academy represents the most experienced and proficient litigators. Anthony Mengine and George Kontos are also long-standing members of the Academy of Trial Lawyers.

603 Stanwix Street
Two Gateway Center, Suite 1228
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
412-709-6162
www.kontosmengine.com

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KMLG is pleased to welcome our newest associate attorney, Christopher Imman. Chris is a 2015 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. Chris was a law clerk at KMLG prior to becoming an attorney. During that time, he gained experience in practicing personal injury. Chris also has a Master's Degree in Business Administration and is proficient in handling business/corporate litigation. We are so excited that Chris had joined our team!



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*Meet
our new
attorney*