

Featured Case:

U.S. Judge appoints an Executive Committee, including Lance Cooper, to help lead the litigation against GM.

U.S. Judge Jesse Furman in the Southern District of New York announced the Co-Lead and Executive Committee attorneys who will lead the litigation against GM. Judge Furman is overseeing more than 100 cases related to the GM ignition switch recall.

Lance Cooper will be serving on the Plaintiff's Executive Committee and will be devoting a significant amount of time and resources to these cases. Lance is also the lawyer for Melton vs. GM, which helped expose the ignition switch issue and led to the initial recall in February of 2014. Brooke Melton was killed in a 2005 Cobalt in 2010 due to a defective ignition-switch.

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Gift of Hope Charity Event **Join us in helping Liberia**



Over 4,000 people have lost their lives as a result of Ebola in West Africa, and there are nearly 8,500 cases of those still carrying the disease. This devastating outbreak has left thousands of children to fend for themselves without parents. Many are even ostracized because of the contact they had with their parents who had the disease. Prior to the Ebola epidemic, West Africa was already in severe poverty. The country has not been able to contain the outbreak which is continuing to have a catastrophic impact on their economy. Planting season has been put to a halt, which will create long term shortages and pressures on food prices. For some, this will mean not being able to eat at all.

Our office has always had a strong passion to help the orphans in Liberia. Over the past few years, nearly half of our team has visited Africa to do mission work with the organization, Orphan Aid Liberia. Isaiah 1:17 says, "Seek justice...defend the cause of the orphans," and at The Cooper Firm we feel strongly about carrying out this mission.

Join us this holiday season as we give back to a nation that is in dire need due to the Ebola crisis and as we defend the cause of the orphans in Liberia. On December 16, from 11:00 am-2:00 pm and from 4:00-6:00 pm The Cooper Firm and Orphan Aid Liberia will partner together for a networking charity event. Come visit with us and hear about the work being done to help Liberia and help us as we raise money to help these children.

If you are unable to make it out to our event and still would like to help, you can contact Victoria Schneider at victoria@thecooperfirm.com or at **770-427-5588** for more information. ♦

Never Give up Hope

The truly impactful story of how a life-changing injury did not injure the hope of a young man.

Matt was only 21 years old when he fell from a ladder, causing him to suffer a catastrophic brain injury. He was assisting another contractor on his job at the time. "Life can change in the blink of an eye," Matt's mother, Karen shared. For her and Matt, it changed forever. After Matt was taken to the hospital, the doctors shared with Karen that Matt only had a matter of minutes left to live. Three days later, Matt was still alive. The doctor then told Karen that Matt would never be cognitive, but that he would be in a vegetative state and would not fully recover from his injuries. He was sent home after five weeks.



Matt and his mother Karen

Four months later, after hourly care and stimulation by his mother, and with the help of neighbors, Matt awoke from his coma and continued to improve daily. Karen constantly pushed Matt to keep fighting, and Matt never stopped recovering. Karen's husband died the same year of a heart attack. Regardless of the dark days they both had, Karen and Matt pushed forward and never gave up hope. Karen frequently carried Matt and put him on the couch whenever they had company. One day as she was helping him get out of bed, he told her that he wanted to sit on the couch with her. He then started to remember things and to ask more and more questions. It was the start of a very positive change for Matt. Despite a very painful infection in his face, he learned to be able to express his feelings and thoughts through speaking. Karen constructed beams and bars for him to attempt to walk. Matt would frequently push himself to do more each day and push his body to heal.

"Don't be afraid of the pain and injury," she shared. "Your child is behind that and they want you to fight for them."

Ten years later, Matt is about to move into an apartment on his own. He holds a part time job at PetSmart. He enjoys being with a brotherhood through a local center and playing poker. Recently, he has even been able to ride horses again, which is one of his greatest passions. He is a strong man and continues to push his body to stay healthy.

Karen hopes to encourage other families who are dealing with similar issues. "Don't be afraid of the pain and injury," she shared. "Your child is behind that and they want you to fight for them." She hopes that one day Matt will be able to share his story with others to motivate them to keep fighting when it is not easy. Matt and Karen are true examples of why you should never give up hope. ♦



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"We are grateful that Judge Furman appointed us to the Executive Committee. This position will allow us to build upon the work in Melton in order to uncover the whole truth about GM's knowledge of these defective switches and their efforts to conceal these defects from our clients and the public," Cooper stated.

The ignition switch in the affected vehicles may move from the "run" position to the "off" or "accessory" position, disabling power steering and brakes during operation, also possibly deactivating the airbags. If you or someone you know was injured as a result of a vehicle that is under the ignition switch recall, feel free to call our office. ♦



Holiday Safety Checklist

As you start to trim your tree and deck your house for the holidays, safety may be the last of things to check off your list. The statistics show that safety should not be forgotten, however. Annual averages of 230 home structure fires start with Christmas trees. The results are catastrophic - four deaths, 21 civilian injuries, and \$17.3 million in direct property damage each year. As you spruce up your home over the holidays, be sure to keep these safety tips in mind:

- 1 Always turn off your holiday lights when you leave the house and before going to bed.
- 2 Keep open flame candles away from Christmas trees and in an area they cannot be knocked over easily. Be sure to blow the candles out whenever you leave your house and before going to bed.
- 3 Make sure that lighting cords are not frayed. Look for certification marks when purchasing new lights to make sure they meet the applicable standards on safety and performance.
- 4 Never connect two extension cords together. Use a single cord long enough to reach the outlet.
- 5 Keep outdoor lights away from metal gutters and use plastic tape or clips as opposed to nails to hold lights in place.
- 6 Have someone hold the ladder when hanging decorations to prevent falls.
- 7 Test your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms to ensure they are in proper order before the holidays.
- 8 Keep all combustible materials away from gas furnaces.
- 9 Make sure proper maintenance is done on your furnace and venting system. Replace your furnace filter frequently during heating seasons.
- 10 Always replace broken bulbs with the correct wattage and do not leave any exposed wires.

We hope you enjoy the holiday season as you practice these safety tips in your home.





Relentlessly Pursuing Justice

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“Lance took the time to explain things in detail when I asked and did not pressure me when I told him that I needed additional time to make decisions. Responses to my calls and questions were answered quickly. His supporting staff is top notch. I would highly recommend his firm.”

- D.P., Cooper Firm Client