

# Detroit Legal News

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## DAILY BRIEFS

### Ex-police detective faces charges in embezzlement case

HAZEL PARK, Mich. (AP) — A former police detective in suburban Detroit faces charges in connection with the embezzlement of about \$68,000 in forfeiture funds.

Sean Boucher, 45, was scheduled to be arraigned Thursday in 43rd District Court in Ferndale on conducting a criminal enterprise and embezzlement charges, according to the Michigan Attorney General's office.

Boucher turned himself in Wednesday to state police.

The charges follow an investigation by the FBI Detroit Area Public Corruption Task Force into incidents between 2013 and 2017.

The attorney general's office said Boucher was placed on administrative leave in September 2017, suspended by the Hazel Park Police Department and later resigned.

Under state law, funds and property used during or derived from criminal activity can be seized and used to support law enforcement operations through training, equipment and other resources.

The Associated Press left a message Wednesday seeking comment from Boucher.

### WLAM offers speaker series on 'What's My Worth?' Feb. 23

The Women Lawyers Association of Michigan's Gender Equity Committee is proud to present the three-part speaker series of "What's My Worth?"—conversations exploring compensation, promoting, and self advocacy for women in the legal profession. During these conversations, WLAM will explore different facets of this topic with interactive and informal presentations.

The series kicks off Tuesday, February 23, from 5 to 6 p.m. with a virtual fireside chat with Courtney Nichols who will share thoughts about preparing for salary discussions for big firm life and how to learn about self value.

The second session will be offered Thursday, March 25, from 5 to 6 p.m. with a focused discussion with Syeda Davidson and Angela Baldwin who will explore topics of self advocacy for women in the law, the paradox of apologizing, and leadership.

The third session (date TBD) will feature Rita White and Liz Joliffe as business owners who will discuss identifying opportunities of worth, self-promoting, and creating their own brand.

In each of these presentations, attendees will receive helpful tips as well as have the opportunity to voice questions and concerns regarding these important topics.

To register for the online series, visit [www.womenlawyers.org](http://www.womenlawyers.org) and click on "events."

### Women's Bar Association hosting online Bar Briefs

The Women's Bar Association (WBA), Oakland County region of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan, will host an online Bar Briefs—an informal happy-hour style networking event—on Wednesday, March 17, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

To register for the virtual event, visit [www.womenlawyers.org](http://www.womenlawyers.org) and click on "events."



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## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### Cooley Law graduate receives Leadership Achievement Award

BY SHEILA PURSGLOVE  
Legal News

Cooley Law School alumnus Rick Conklin always had a passion for the law—and while earning his undergrad degree in communications from Grand Valley State University, realized Lady Justice was calling his name.

Evidently it was the right decision for the Grand Rapids native, who attended the local campus of WMU-Cooley Law School where he was on the Dean's List and Honor Roll. At last November's virtual Honors Convocation, he was one of three students who received the law school's top honor, the Leadership Achievement Award.

Conklin says he appreciated Cooley's approach to teaching practical applications, the small class sizes offering more individualized learning, the fact that most of the professors had practiced in the local legal community, and that the campus fostered a mentorship program.

He served as secretary of Moot Court, and strongly recommends law students try the program at least once.

"It's a great way to interact with other students and to get a chance to improve your writing and advocacy skills," he says. "It pushes you outside your comfort zone and gives you experience you can't get in a classroom."

Conklin also recommends the Hillman

Advocacy Program, an annual three-day seminar that offers law students the opportunity to network with lawyers and judges and get exposure to courtroom skills such as opening and closing statements.

"The practical applications of this program are invaluable, and I strongly encourage any attorney who has not gone to it to check it out," Conklin says.

In his 3L year, Conklin served as president of the West Michigan Student Bar Association (WMSBA), where he previously served as a senator.

"It's been an honor and as well as an interesting experience due to the effects of having to operate remotely during COVID-19," he says. "One of the things I enjoyed most was being able to work more with the amazing faculty at Cooley Law School."

"I also enjoyed being able to work with a dedicated group of students on the WMSBA



Rick Conklin

Executive Board. This group was able to transition to working remotely which allowed us to help law students during lock down and all their hard work allowed us to still be able to host our annual in-person 2020 WMSBA Barrister's Ball which raised over \$1,000 for the Hospice of Michigan's Anchors Program for Children, one of only a few dedicated pediatric hospice services in the country."

A short-term goal for Conklin, who also served as a teaching assistant for Professor Devin Schindler, is to pass the Michigan Bar Exam and start work as a law clerk at Plachta, Murphy, and Associates in Grand Rapids.

"My long-term career goals are to continue to grow as an attorney with the help of my mentor Bryan Reeder, managing partner at Plachta, Murphy, and Associates, and to continue to help and make a difference in my community," he says.

"Part of being a good lawyer, in my opinion, is to be able to understand a client's issue and break down the law surrounding that issue into something they can understand, which will help them make informed decisions."

In his leisure time, Conklin is passionate about the great outdoors—and enjoys hiking, backpacking, camping, and rock climbing. He also is an FAA Commercial Drone Pilot and runs his own business.

See **STUDENT**, Page 5

## Local Voice

KEVIN KOMAR  
Sinus Dramis Law Firm

### Health insurance proving not good enough for young drivers in state

In Michigan, drivers must purchase insurance to operate vehicles on public roadways. Until mid-2020, when a Michigan resident purchased auto insurance, they automatically were purchasing lifetime unlimited medical coverage for themselves and their resident family members in the event they were hurt in an auto accident. Starting in 2020, Michigan residents could begin purchasing varying levels of insurance protection for themselves with their auto insurance carriers. Depending on the situation, a Michigan resident can even choose to opt out completely of having medical coverage for themselves on their auto insurance policy. But having a choice is a good thing, right?

When it comes to medical coverage on auto insurance the best choice is maintaining unlimited medical coverage. Many question if it is worth it to pay a higher premium even if they have health insurance? The answer is "yes" and in many instances the premium is not that much higher.

As a lawyer who handles car accidents and claims for auto no-fault benefits, I am now witnessing the effects many people are experiencing due to their "choice" when deciding the level of medical coverage on their auto insurance policy. Let me provide two real-world scenarios I've already personally encountered due to a person choosing less than unlimited medical coverage.

In scenario number one, a drunk driver struck a young man on his way home from work. The victim suffered an injury that required surgery and a hospital stay. Before the accident, the victim had health insurance, so he opted out of buying medical coverage on his auto policy. However, when the accident occurred, he found nothing but red tape and denials from his health insurance carrier and a ridiculously high deductible. To date, his health insurance still has not paid a dime and continually gives one excuse after the next for the denials. His doctors are not getting paid so now he cannot get the therapy he needs for post-surgery. If he had purchased medical coverage through his auto plan, then these expenses would be paid, he would be getting treatment, and his credit would not be getting destroyed. Now he must chase the drunk driver through the court system in hopes that the drunk driver has sufficient auto coverage and that might take years to

See **KOMAR**, Page 5

## ASK THE EXPERT

BY KIM WARD  
MSU Today

### The First Amendment and Free Speech



"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances." — The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

Nancy Costello, director of the First Amendment Law Clinic and supervisor of the McLellan Free Speech Online Library in the Michigan State University College of Law, discusses the First Amendment and freedom of speech. The First Amendment Law Clinic is the only program in the country solely dedicated to the protection of student speech and press rights.

In simple terms, what is the First Amendment and what does it do?

The First Amendment to the United States Constitution is part of the Bill of Rights and protects freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, freedom of the press and the right to petition. The First Amendment is one of the most important amendments for the protection of democracy.

When was it created?

The First Amendment is part of the Bill of

Rights. To protect individual rights, the framers of the U.S. Constitution added 10 amendments to the document in 1791, four years after the Constitution was ratified.

What does the First Amendment say about freedom of speech?

Generally speaking, it means that the government may not jail, fine or impose civil liability on people or organizations based on what they say or write, except in limited circumstances.

President Donald Trump recently was suspended from a number of social media platforms. Is this a violation of his First Amendment rights?

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or any similar social media platform can censor any person's speech because they are private companies. Censorship is when an entity punishes individuals for their speech or prevents the speech from being expressed. Free speech is the ability to express one's thoughts and opinions without fear of being punished by the government.

The First Amendment protects against the government from censoring speech. None of these social media platforms are part of the government, so President Trump cannot claim his First Amendment rights have been violated.

President Trump was impeached a second time for "incitement of insurrection." What is incitement speech?

Incitement speech is not protected by the First Amendment. Incitement speech is when someone encourages lawless action, and that

lawless action is imminent and likely. It could be argued that Trump incited the mob violence on Jan. 6 in his summoning and assembling of supporters at the White House rally, his repeated claims that he won the election and his exhorting the crowd to go to the Capitol. Among other things, the president told the crowd, "If you don't fight like hell, you're not going to have a country anymore." Not long after Trump's speech, members of the crowd converged on the U.S. Capitol, broke through doors and windows, invaded the Senate and House chambers and private offices, and had violent clashes with police resulting in deaths.

What types of speech are not protected under the First Amendment?

Types of speech that aren't protected include:

- Incitement to imminent lawless action
- Defamation
- True threats
- Fighting words
- Perjury
- Blackmail
- Solicitations to commit crimes
- Child pornography
- Obscenity defined by community-based standards

Does the First Amendment only protect U.S. citizens?

There's no citizenship requirement for First Amendment protection. If you are a resident of the United States, you have freedom of speech, religion, press, assembly and petition.

## State creates task force to address racial disparities in state's child protection system

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has created a task force to prevent and eliminate systemic racism in the state's child protection system and transform it to make family well-being and preventing abuse, neglect and trauma the top priority of the department's Children's Services Agency.

MDHHS is partnering with MPH, a nonprofit public-private partnership created to support MDHHS, to establish the Child Welfare Improvement Task Force to address racial disparities in child welfare. The action is an acknowledgement of the beliefs of Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and MDHHS that systemic racism is a public health threat.

The independent task force will be co-chaired by David Sanders, executive vice president of systems improvement at Casey Family Programs, and Tommy Stallworth, director of the Michigan Coronavirus Taskforce on Racial Disparities. MPH will convene the task force, led by Dr. Paul Elam, chief strategic officer.

MDHHS believes overrepresentation of children of color in the child protection system requires a fundamental system change. Children of color enter foster care at higher rates and stay in care longer than their white peers. They are more likely to be placed in institutional facilities rather than in family homes, remain there for long periods, and leave the foster care system without a family.

While 16% of children in Michigan are Black, children who are Black make up 29% of the state's foster care population. While 31% of children in Michigan are children of color, they make up 51% of the foster care population.

As a result of these experiences, Black and brown children and their families are at greater risk for adverse health, social, and economic effects that can last a lifetime.

"As well-intentioned as we are, our current system perpetuates injustices and keeps us from meeting our core values," said JooYeun Chang, executive director of MDHHS's Children's Services Agency. "This is primarily driven by systemic issues and we must therefore

acknowledge and then address systemic racism and bias wherever it exists.

This task force provides an opportunity to set a path for the future where racial and ethnic equity and justice is assured. This will transform our child protection system into a family well-being system that prevents harm to children by supporting their families and communities before abuse or neglect occurs."

MDHHS has acknowledged the disparate treatment of Black children and families as a barrier to achieving that goal and has identified specific strategies to address this challenge.

"We recognize that deep systemic racial biases exist in this country and that the child welfare and juvenile justice systems have an important role in dismantling underlying injustices and setting a path for a future where racial and ethnic equity and justice is assured," Sanders said.

Stallworth agreed. "The over-representation of children of color in foster care in Michigan is unacceptable and demands a fundamental change in our system," he said.

The Child Welfare Improvement Task Force's goals are to support MDHHS to improve the child protection system to provide safe, fair and equitable treatment of all Michigan's children and families. The task force will:

- Be responsible for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of the strategies identified by the Children's Services Agency, assessing whether the agency is implementing the identified strategies, and seeking necessary community support — including legislative support — to implement effective strategies.

- Oversee the planning, implementation and evaluation of this new approach. The goal is to fully implement a new approach that improves safety and equity and reduces unnecessary and potentially harmful investigations of Black families.

- Provide policy and practice recommendations to improve equity in group care of children who are removed from their homes.

MPH is a Michigan-based, nonprofit public health institute leading public health efforts across the country.

Official Newspaper: City of Detroit • Wayne Circuit Court • U.S. District Court • U.S. Bankruptcy Court

### On the Money

4 tips for starting or reinventing a business in tough times

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Life insurance trustee absolved of policy lapse — this time

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News transcripts show ideologically extreme politicians get more airtime

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**OFFICER:***Man released without charges*

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turnoff to pull over, when he hit a parked truck. Willis said the moment the car stopped, he put his hands up and touched the roof of the car.

The officer came to his car door with his gun drawn, yelling "get out" before he struck Willis in the face with a closed fist, according to the lawsuit. He then pulled Willis out of the car, pushed him to the ground, hit him in the face and pressed his gun into Willis' back as he handcuffed him, Willis said.

Willis described the gun slipping from his back a few times, the last time discharging and hitting the ground a few inches from his back.

"I could feel the direct heat and the gas moving from the muzzle blast," Willis said. "Just feeling that heat and taking that breath's pause, (asking myself) is pain going to come after this? Did I actually get hit? Am I going to be OK? Just hearing the sound and calculating is he going to fire again? All of those questions were circling in my head."

The lawsuit alleges the officer

used racial slurs when addressing Willis and told a bystander who had come to see what was happening that the police "do not kill innocent Black men." Willis alleges the officer asked the bystander to watch him because the officer hadn't placed his car in park and it had rolled onto the grass of a nearby property.

He said the officer picked up a shell casing from the ground before State Police and Center Township officers arrived to investigate. Willis said he asked why he was being detained and was told it was still being determined.

Willis was later given a field sobriety test and was told he failed because he was shaky and had an elevated heart rate. He was taken to the State Police barracks and then to the hospital where he submitted to a blood draw to prove he was sober.

He was released hours later without being charged. He said investigators told him they would be in touch about any investigation into the officer's actions. But Willis said Tuesday he was never contacted. Both he and his parents unsuccessfully requested the officer's name, he said.

**ADAMS:***Appreciate the obligations*

From Page 3

decline to cover it, the trustee may have to make a frank evaluation of the insured person's life expectancy, taking age and health into account. Although perhaps a morbid task, such an assessment may be necessary to determine whether the insurance policy can continue to meet the purposes of the trust and the needs of the beneficiaries if funded by premium loans for the remainder of the insured person's life.

The trustee should also consider whether the accumulated cash value in the trust policy or policies can be reinvested in a new insurance policy that may have a reduced death benefit but can be purchased with a single up-front premium. If so, the trustee must compare that alternative with the risk that the existing policies in the ILIT will lapse or become substantially impaired if they continue to be funded with the policy loans. It was just this kind of analysis that shielded an ILIT

trustee from substantial personal liability in the Indiana case of *In re Stuart Cochran Irrevocable Trust* in 2009.

The take-away is that a trustee of an irrevocable life insurance trust, like any trustee, assumes fiduciary obligations that go beyond the mere instructions in the operative trust agreement. Before accepting such a charge, the potential trustee needs to appreciate the obligations they are taking on. And upon accepting those obligations, the trustee must carry them out diligently, with prudence and loyalty to the interests of the trust beneficiaries, and not merely to the creator of the trust.

*Adams Leclair LLP is a litigation law firm based in Rochester, New York focused on commercial disputes and construction advocacy. The team of attorneys can provide specialized counsel in fiduciary liability cases. Contact Adams Leclair LLP at 585.327.4100 or Tony Adams at aadams@adamleclair.law.*

**Political Scene****NEW YORK****Riot lawsuit just part of Trump's post-impeachment problems**  
*Election loss could hasten resolution of two sexual misconduct lawsuits*By MICHAEL R. SISAK  
AND JIM MUSTIAN  
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Acquitted by the Senate of inciting last month's U.S. Capitol insurrection, former President Donald Trump faces more fallout from the unrest, including a lawsuit from a congressman Tuesday. But his biggest legal problems might be the ones that go much further back.

In one of what is expected to be many lawsuits over the deadly riot, Democratic U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson accused Trump of conspiring with far-right extremist groups that were involved in storming the Capitol.

Trump, who made a fiery speech to supporters prior to the riot, could also be hit with criminal charges — though courts, wary of infringing free speech, have set a high bar for prosecutors trying to mount federal incitement cases.

But riot-related consequences aren't the only thing Trump has to worry about.

With his historic second Senate trial behind him, here's a look at the legal road ahead for Trump:

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS**

Atlanta prosecutors opened a criminal investigation into whether Trump attempted to overturn his election loss in Georgia, including a Jan. 2 phone call in which he urged the state's Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger to "find" enough votes to reverse Biden's narrow victory.

Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis, a Democrat elected in November, announced the probe Feb. 10. In the call, Trump told Raffensperger: "I just want to find 11,780 votes, which is one more than we have" to get to erase Biden's lead, and argued that Raffensperger could alter the results, an assertion the Republican secretary of state firmly rejected.

Details of the call, such as Trump's focus on the vote total, "lets you know that someone had a clear mind, they understood what they were doing," Willis told MSNBC last week. "When you're pursuing the investigation, facts like that — that might not seem so

important — become very important."

Willis' office declined to identify who was under investigation but said it was focusing on "the matters reported on over the last several weeks," including Trump's call. The Washington Post, the Associated Press and other media outlets obtained a recording of the call Jan. 3.

Trump spokesperson Jason Miller described the Georgia inquiry as the continuation of a "witch hunt" — a term Trump himself has used to describe some investigations — and the "Democrats' latest attempt to score political points" at the expense of the ex-president.

Karl Racine, the attorney general for Washington, D.C., has said district prosecutors could charge Trump under local law that criminalizes statements that motivate people to violence.

But the charge would be a low-level misdemeanor with a maximum sentence of six months in jail.

Federal prosecutors in Washington, meanwhile, have charged some 200 Trump supporters with crimes related to the riot, including more serious conspiracy charges. Many of the people charged said they acted in Trump's name.

But the bar is very high to charge Trump with any crimes related to the riot. There has been no indication that Trump would be charged in the riot though prosecutors have said they are looking at all angles.

Trump could also be sued by victims, though he has some constitutional protections, including if he acted while carrying out the duties of president.

Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr., a Democrat, is in the midst of an 18-month criminal investigation focusing in part on hush-money payments paid to women on Trump's behalf, and whether Trump or his businesses manipulated the value of assets — inflating them in some cases and minimizing them in others — to gain favorable loan terms and tax benefits.

Vance's office hasn't publicly said what it is investigating, citing grand jury secrecy rules, but some

details have come out in court fights mounted by Trump's lawyers over prosecutors' access to his tax records. Trump's lawyers have gone to the U.S. Supreme Court twice to block a subpoena for the records, with a ruling on the latest challenge expected in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, Vance's prosecutors have been speaking with Trump's former lawyer and longtime fixer Michael Cohen about the payoffs he arranged to porn actress Stormy Daniels and model Karen McDougal during the 2016 campaign so they wouldn't go public about alleged affairs with Trump, as well as Trump's relationship with lenders Deutsche Bank and Ladder Capital and other issues.

Last month, Vance's office sent subpoenas to local governments in the New York City suburbs seeking information about a sprawling Westchester estate Trump owns there, and 158 acres of land he donated to conservation land trust in 2016 to qualify for an income tax deduction.

Vance, whose term expires at the end of the year, hasn't announced if he will seek re-election, leaving questions about the future of any Trump-related prosecutions.

Trump no longer has the cloak of immunity from federal prosecution he did while president, although federal prosecutors in New York who had been looking into the hush-money payments have essentially abandoned that probe.

The same U.S. attorney's office in Manhattan also appears to have moved on from its investigation of Trump's inaugural committee. That inquiry examined the committee's spending, including whether foreigners illegally contributed to inaugural events.

A major donor to the inaugural, Imaad Zuberi, pleaded guilty to charges of tax evasion, campaign finance violations and failing to register as a foreign agent. He's scheduled to be sentenced Thursday in Los Angeles.

**CIVIL INVESTIGATIONS**

New York Attorney General Letitia James' civil investigation focuses on some of the same

issues as Vance's criminal probe, including possible property value manipulation and tax write-offs. Trump's company, the Trump Organization, claimed on millions of dollars in consulting fees it paid, including money that went to Trump's daughter Ivanka.

James' office issued subpoenas to local governments in November 2019 for records pertaining to Trump's estate north of Manhattan, Seven Springs, after Cohen provided Congress with Trump financial statements that listed the 213-acre property was worth \$291 million in 2012 — far higher than the \$56.5 million value that a Trump-commissioned appraisal placed on it in 2015.

James, also a Democrat, is also looking at similar issues relating to a Trump office building in New York City, a hotel in Chicago and a golf course near Los Angeles. Recently, her office has won a series of court rulings forcing Trump's company and a law firm it hired to turn over troves of records.

Investigators have yet to determine whether any law was broken. If criminal wrongdoing is uncovered, James' office could pursue charges through a county district attorney or with a referral from Gov. Andrew Cuomo or a state agency.

**REVISITING RUSSIA PROBE**

The Justice Department, under attorney general nominee Merrick Garland, could still pursue matters left uncharged in Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election.

While campaigning for the White House, Biden said he would not direct the Justice Department to pursue charges against Trump, nor stand in the way of investigations it might take up on its own. In one of his first acts as president, Biden issued an executive order requiring all executive branch political appointees to sign a pledge that they won't interfere with Justice Department investigations.

Mueller's report included multiple accusations of Trump obstructing justice, including firing FBI Director James Comey over his unwillingness to say Trump was not personally under

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investigation; pressuring Comey to end an investigation into Trump's national security adviser Michael Flynn; and instructing White House counsel Don McGahn to have Mueller removed amid media reports that his team was investigating whether Trump had obstructed justice.

**LAWSUITS**

Trump's election loss could hasten the resolution of lawsuits brought by two women who've accused him of sexual misconduct.

Lawyers for Summer Zervos, a restaurateur who worked with Trump as a contestant on "The Apprentice," asked New York's high court last week to dismiss as moot Trump's appeal that argued a sitting president can't be sued in a state court.

Zervos came forward during Trump's 2016 campaign with allegations he subjected her to unwanted kissing and groping when she sought to talk to him about her career in 2007. Trump denied her allegations and retweeted a message calling her claims "a hoax," leading Zervos to file the defamation lawsuit against him.

A defamation lawsuit brought by E. Jean Carroll, a former Elle magazine columnist who accused Trump last year of raping her in the mid-1990s, is on hold as an appeals court weighs Trump's argument that the United States government, rather than Trump as an individual, should be the defendant.

Government lawyers have argued that statements he made about Carroll — including that she was "totally lying" to sell a memoir — fell within the scope of his work as president because Carroll was, in effect, questioning his fitness to hold public office.

A ruling in Trump's favor would allow the Justice Department to represent him in the matter and could put taxpayers on the hook for any payout that might result. It's unclear whether the department would maintain that position under Biden.

The Associated Press generally does not identify people who say they have been sexually assaulted, unless they come forward publicly as Zervos and Carroll have.

**STUDENT:***Conklin is member of VFW Auxiliary Post 702*

From Page 1

"I have a passion for drone photography, which allows you to see the world through a new perspective," he says. "Creating Drone 616, LLC was a way to merge my passion for drone photography and my love for the outdoors."

"I've had the pleasure of working with businesses and organizations in Grand Rapids, providing content to promote their business in a unique way. I've also developed a passion for exploring the complex and uncertain area of drone and Unmanned Aircraft Systems law."

An Eagle Scout and assistant Scoutmaster, Conklin says the Scouting program provided him with experience and skills that made him into the person he is today.

"And after attaining the rank of Eagle Scout, I knew I needed to pay it forward and become an assistant Scoutmaster to help continue to foster the values like leadership and strong character," he says. "Scouting was rewarding not

just because it promoted my love of the outdoors, but also allowed me to spend time with my family and create friendships that are lifelong. I strongly recommend this program."

Through the Scouting program, Conklin became involved as a precinct delegate for Grand Rapids Charter Township, serving from August 2014 to the present.

"When I was asked to step up, I was more than happy to answer the call," he says. "Since my election and re-elections, I've been able to participate in decisions that directly affect my community, as well as continue to represent strong values instilled throughout the Scouting program."

He has also served as an assistant debate coach for his former high school, and judged debate competitions for the Metro Debate League in Grand Rapids.

"I was able to take the valuable skills I learned on the varsity debate team in high school, and help students learn those skills as well," he says.

During undergrad and into law

school, Conklin spent four years working for a security firm, primarily as a Fire Safety Officer at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans.

"I enjoyed being able to visit with the members and to hear their stories while giving back to them by ensuring their safety," he says.

A member of VFW Auxiliary Post 702, he finds it rewarding to work alongside dedicated individuals that share in his passion of giving back to veterans, including volunteering at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans.

"It's rewarding to volunteer because of the selfless sacrifice so many veterans have made to allowing us the freedoms we enjoy," he says. "I view it as a way of honoring both of my grandfathers who were veterans."

Conklin credits family support for his success.

"Family is super important to me," he says. "I wouldn't have been able to accomplish as much as I have without the support of my parents, my grandma, and my fiancée."



Think of her as an exercise machine with hair.

You don't have to join a gym to get a workout. Recent studies show that every hour of moderate physical activity can add two hours to your life. So there's no need to radically alter your exercise habits to improve your health, and live longer! Just enjoy everyday activities like walking the dog. Washing the car. Cutting the grass. Playing golf. Or just taking the stairs instead of the elevator.

Don't sweat it if spinning classes aren't your style. Just get out and do something physical each day. You'll feel better, and live longer. Besides, the stair climber at the gym won't fetch your newspaper.



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**KOMAR:***Situation will only get worse*

From Page 1

finally resolve. All the while, he is not working and probably will not be able to purchase a new vehicle with credit that is destroyed. By the way, the drunk driver never had to serve a day in jail.

In scenario number two, another victim of a distracted driver severely fractured her hand and suffered a fractured vertebrae in an accident. Before the accident, she opted to purchase \$50,000 worth of medical coverage rather than unlimited medical on her auto policy. She has a state sponsored Medicaid plan, so she figured she was okay for coverage.

The problem with that is the victim soon learned \$50,000 does not go very far when she had to spend 5 days in the hospital undergoing numerous tests for a fractured vertebrae and ultimately having surgery with pins placed in her hand. She will require two more surgeries and therapy but her \$50,000 in medical coverage is exhausted. But she has health insurance, right? The problem is the treating surgeon she likes is one of the best in the state. However, the surgeon is part of a prac-

tice that will not accept her health insurance. Now she must find a new surgeon for a very complex hand surgery. If she had at least purchased \$250,000 for a few dollars more, then her medical care would have been surely taken care of. The distracted driver did not have any auto coverage.

The bottom line is that opting out of no-fault medical coverage or purchasing limited medical coverage is turning out to be a very risky situation for Michigan drivers. Health insurance carriers are not all created equal and as time goes on this situation will only get worse, it will lead to more lawsuits, and ruin more credit. The purpose of the no-fault act was to provide speedy coverage for those injured in auto accidents. Drivers are now in unprecedented times and facing greater complexities than ever before. As a Michigan car accident lawyer, I strongly encourage everyone to keep their unlimited medical coverage and budget to save money elsewhere.

Kevin Z. Komar is a member of the *Sinas Dramis Law Firm personal injury team.*