

In The Spotlight with: David Sheldon, Attorney at Law

By Kate Feeks

Attorney David Sheldon appeared on *Law Talk* with host John Celebrezze to discuss personal injury law. This show aired throughout the month of September on Wadsworth Cable (WCTV) Public Access Channel 15, Brunswick Area Television (BAT) Public access Chanel 21, and Armstrong Cable Access Channel 37 in Medina County along with Clear Picture Channels 21 & 22 in Wooster and Massillon and is up on You Tube.

David Sheldon is a Medina attorney who focuses his practice on personal injury and criminal law. David is well known in the Medina community with 24 years of experience in his field. David began his criminal work as an assistant county prosecutor in Cuyahoga and Medina Counties. He has experience arguing cases before the United States District and Appellate Courts, and all levels of state courts.

A personal injury is an injury to the body and/or mind. In a lawsuit the plaintiff claims damages caused by the negligence of another. Damages can include bodily injury, intentional infliction of emotional distress and negligent infliction of emotional distress.

“There are many ways personal injury can occur, for example failure of duty of care which resulted in injury, intentional injury (assault and battery), someone could be injured by a defective product, a product that is unsafe and causes injury to the plaintiff, people slip and fall, there are a lot of ways personal injury cases come about.” Sheldon explained.

The majority of personal injury cases come from automobile collisions. When people are injured in an automobile crash most do not hire a lawyer to protect them. But those that do consider factors like lost work time, pain, medical expenses and inconvenience.

“I think most people say to themselves, I didn't put myself in this situation, that person violated..., they rear ended me, they ran a red light, so I should be reasonably compensated. People don't know what exactly they are entitled to under the law so a personal injury attorney can inform them of what type of things they can expect.” Sheldon stated.

Attorneys can be hired on a contingency fee basis. A contingency fee is a fee for services provided where the fee is payable if there is a favorable result. If a lawsuit is settled, in or out of court, the contingency fee is calculated as a percentage of the client's recovery. “... most personal injury attorneys in the industry charge approximately 1/3 of any gross settlement or gross judgment amount” noted Sheldon.

The majority of the personal injury cases are settled by negotiating with the insurance companies. The benefit to hiring an attorney is to allow an expert to work with the insurance company to ensure the case is settled fairly and to provide protection to the injured client.

To learn more about personal injury cases watch for the interview with Attorney David Sheldon and John Celebrezze that aired throughout the month of September on *Law Talk*.