

The Townsley Law Firm

November Newsletter



Staff Member of the Month

Hannah Mayeaux is an attorney at The Townsley Law Firm. Being born and raised in Lake Charles has made Hannah passionate about helping the community and people in need. She and her team fight hard for justice every day.

Outside of being an attorney, Hannah is heavily involved in community organizations. She is a big sister for the Big Brother, Big Sister organization and serves on the executive boards for the Women's Law and Young Lawyers Sections, where she helps plan charity events. This year, Hannah planned Lake Charles' annual OktoBARfest, which raised over \$13,000 for Holiday Helping Hands, an organization that provides Christmas gifts for families in need.

Townsley Tips...

Whiplash and Other Soft-Tissue Injuries

A soft tissue injury is an injury affecting the muscles, tendons or ligaments. Common examples of soft tissue injuries include: sprains, strains and contusions.

Whiplash is a term used to describe soft tissue injuries to the head, neck and back, that occur when the head is moved forcefully back and forth in a whipping motion. These types of injuries are also called hyperextensions, cervical sprains and cervical strain injuries.

Symptoms of whiplash and other soft tissue injuries often take time to develop, meaning that injuries are not always detectable right away. Common symptoms include: pain, soreness, stiffness, swelling and discoloration.

Whiplash can happen in many settings like amusement park rides, athletic injuries and slip-and-fall or trip-and-fall accidents.

However, many whiplash injuries occur in car accidents when a sudden swerve, stop or impact causes the head to jerk quickly.

A common misconception about whiplash and other soft-tissue injuries is that they only occur in high-speed accidents, but this is not the case. The tissues of the head, neck and shoulders are delicate, they can be seriously injured even when the force of impact is low.

Sometimes, because symptoms of soft-tissue injuries are not always immediately evident, people may miss their chance to obtain fair compensation for the harm they suffered. It is important to stay diligent, listen to your body and seek help as soon as possible.

To preserve your right to seek maximum compensation, you should talk to an experienced personal injury lawyer before discussing the crash with an insurance company or accepting an offer of payment.

Recent Wins

\$1,200,000 - Jury Verdict
MED MAL - (Ruston/Shreveport, 2025)

\$1,100,000 - Jury Verdict
MED MAL - (Jennings, 2025)

\$1,000,000 - Settlement
MED MAL - (Cameron/Sulphur, 2025)

\$730,000 - Jury Verdict
MED MAL - (Kinder/Sulphur, 2025)

*****Visit our website for more information about how our firm can win for you*****

Visit Our Website:

townsleylawfirm.com

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[@townsleylaw](#)



McNeese Sports:

townsleylawarena.com



Story of the Month

Leukemia Awareness

Patty Kerssen



Feb. 6, 2020, started off like any other day for Patty Kerssen. That morning, she got up and dressed, ready to get blood work done for her annual doctor's check-up.

When she arrived at her appointment at 7:30 a.m., everything was normal. By 9 a.m., everything changed. Kerssen received a call from a nurse saying that she needed to go to the emergency room immediately.

At the emergency room, she was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia, an aggressive type of blood cancer. Kerssen was only 40 years old. Her next steps included figuring out plans for her son and daughter, who were 12 and 15 years old at the time.

Kerssen took her diagnosis and decided that she had to do everything she could to defeat this sickness. She said that her faith, kids, family, friends and coworkers, all gave her reasons to keep pushing.

Fighting cancer is one of the hardest things a person can go through, but Kerssen is an example of how the fight can be won.

The afternoon of her diagnosis, a friend drove her to M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. There, she started doing chemo right away. Within the first week, Kerssen started losing her hair.

At the M.D. Anderson beauty salon, with her kids' support, she shaved her head. Kerssen said that losing her long hair was sad, but she knew she had to do it to keep going.

For the next 10 months, Kerssen went through chemo cycles. Overall she went through seven rounds, each harder than the last.

After the seventh round of chemo, in November 2020, Kerssen got so sick that she didn't know if she would make it. She usually got sick during every round, but something felt different this time. She remembered saying her goodbyes to family and friends and getting a priest to come bless her. A few days later, however, the doctors told Kerssen she was cancer free.

In a state of shock, Kerssen thanked God for helping her push through. She said she prayed every day and got close to God, which changed everything for her. She then called her mom, who stayed through it all, and cried with her knowing that she had won the battle.

After being deemed cancer free, Kerssen was able to put her life back together. She went back to work at The Townsley Law Firm in January 2021, where she was welcomed back with open and excited arms.

Kerssen began working for the firm in 2013, and when she received her diagnosis, Kerssen remembers the amazing support she received from the staff. They made sure she had everything she needed and constantly checked in to make sure she was okay.

During her treatment, Kerssen said they even allowed her to keep working remotely while in Houston. She said this took her mind off being sick and kept her busy. Even when she was too sick, the firm made sure she never missed a paycheck. She is thankful every day that The Townsley Law Firm family stood beside her in her time of need.

Today, Kerssen still lives with the side effects of chemo, and she admits that sometimes she gets scared that the cancer will return. She gets regular checkups and has started getting yearly bloodwork done for her kids, to ensure that they are healthy.

Kerssen wanted to see her kids grow up and wanted the opportunity to meet her grandkids, and because she fought hard, she has been able to do those things. In the five years since she was diagnosed, Kerssen has become an advocate for people with leukemia and a model for people who need the extra push to fight.

"Keep going," Kerssen said. "Things can get better."

According to the American Cancer Society website, leukemias are classified as blood cancers, and there are several types. They are distinguished by how fast or slow the cells are growing and what type of cell it starts in. Acute myeloid leukemia starts in the bone marrow, where new blood cells are made. AML typically develops in early forms of myeloid cells that would normally turn into white blood cells. This type of leukemia is one of the most common in adults and tends to progress quickly, needing immediate treatment.

For more information on acute myeloid leukemia (AML) visit www.cancer.org.



Jargon Junction

Learning the Language of the Law

Abate: a · bate
to eliminate or to nullify.

Source: Legal Information Institute - Cornell Law School



The Townsley Law Firm wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving! We are so thankful for our wonderful staff and clients.

In the COMMUNITYGOLD GAME.....



On Nov. 14, the Townsley Law Firm was the proud sponsor of the McNeese men's basketball game versus UL-Lafayette. TLF provided the arena with gold t-shirts with the "Battle of I-10" logo on the front, which were draped over every single seat.

The game was sold-out, with record breaking attendance of 4,324 fans packing the stands. The Townsley Law Arena erupted in a sea of gold, cheering on the Cowboys, who defeated the Ragin Cajuns 88-62.

During a special on-court recognition, TLF was honored with a custom "Townsley" McNeese basketball jersey. Co-founder Rex Townsley, along with his wife and other staff members accepted the jersey on behalf of the firm.

TLF has been a long-standing supporter of McNeese, and the firm is excited to continue this partnership.

Earlier this year, the firm entered into a 15-year, \$4.5 million naming rights agreement for what is now known as the Townsley Law Arena. TLF continues to invest in McNeese because they believe in the university, its student-athletes and the Southwest Louisiana community.

Moving forward, the firm urges fans to attend games to support McNeese and its student-athletes.





Townsley Talks

The Art of Psychodrama



Psychodrama is defined as an experiential, group-based therapy where individuals act out scenes from their lives to work through emotions and gain insight. This type of exercise is especially helpful when learning about a client in the world of law.

By using spontaneous role-playing methods and dramatic enactments of certain scenarios, the client is able to unlock and explore internal conflicts and emotions, which in turn helps their attorney piece together a narrative for the case.

Every case involves a story, and psychodrama helps participants to take a deeper dive into that story to clarify for an attorney the root of the story and the personality and background of a client.

At The Townsley Law Firm, Louise Lipman, a trial consultant and licensed psychotherapist, is invited to perform psychodramas with the attorneys and clients at the firm. She comes twice a year to work with the firm to hopefully gather insight and information into each of the cases.

Nov. 17 through Nov. 21, Lipman worked with any attorney and client who wanted to participate to reenact from memory of what went on in their case. Other staff members were invited to sit in and participate in the all-day sessions, where each person was able to embody a character in the client's story.

Psychodrama is an emotion evoking experience, where clients are able to share all aspects of their lives. It provides a safe space for clients to be vulnerable, which is an essential part of a truly immersed experience.

Lipman brought clients through three phases of the session. First, the group started off with a warm-up, consisting of introductory exercises that creates an environment of trust. Then, the group moved on to the "action" phase, where members volunteered to act out a specific character in a scene from the client's life.

The "action" phase involves a few techniques like role reversal, where a volunteer acted out another person's role; doubling, where unspoken thoughts or feelings were expressed; and mirroring, where the client was asked to observe themselves through another person's portrayal.

Finally, the group was asked to share and discuss any thoughts and feelings that were had during the action phase. All of these phases open up new avenues of thought and emotions that all can potentially tie into the narrative an attorney will have to express to a jury or judge.

At the end of the day, it is an attorney's job to convey a story on behalf of a client to a judge or jury, and the psychodrama method helps the attorney paint a better picture of who and what is involved in a particular case.

For more information about
Louise Lipman visit:
trialguides.com

For more information about
Psychodrama visit:
michiganpsychodramacenter.com

Visit Our Website:
townsleylawfirm.com
Check out our Social Media:
@townsleylaw  
McNeese Sports:
townsleylawarena.com



November Events

Women's Volleyball

- **Nov. 5** - 6:30 p.m. **W**
vs. Nicholls
- **Nov. 11** - 6:30 p.m. **W**
vs. New Orleans
- **Nov. 13** - 6:30 p.m. **L**
vs. Southeastern

Men's Basketball

- **Nov. 3** - 6:30 p.m. **W**
vs. Champion Christian College
- **Nov. 10** - 6:30 p.m. **W**
vs. College of Biblical Studies
- **Nov. 14** - 6:00 p.m. **W**
vs. UL-Lafayette

Women's Basketball

- **Nov. 3** - 11:00 a.m. **W**
vs. Pensacola Christian College
- **Nov. 22** - 1:00 p.m. **W**
vs. LSUA

Only events in The Townsley Law Arena included – this is NOT a full game or event schedule

For full game and event schedules, visit mneese.edu.

Visit Our Website:

townsleylawfirm.com

Check out our Social Media:

@townsleylaw  

McNeese Sports:

townsleylawarena.com

The Townsley Law Arena

Home of McNeese State University Cowboys and Cowgirls



On Nov. 21, the Cowboys travelled to the Cayman Islands to compete in the Cayman Islands Classic Championship Tournament. Beginning on Sunday, Nov. 23, the Cowboys played in three games against George Washington, Murray State and Middle Tennessee. In a physical three-day competition, McNeese fought hard for their first ever in-season tournament title. The team brought a trophy back to Lake Charles to commemorate their success.

The Cowgirls also went tropical for their tournament in the Bahamas. On Nov. 24, the team played their first game versus West Virginia in the Baha Mar Pink Flamingo Tournament. Even though that game resulted in a loss, the Cowgirls were able to bounce back on Wednesday for a win over Belmont. The Cowgirls left the Bahamas 1-1, with a big win under their belt to prepare them for their next competition.

Overall, these were successful tournament appearances for both McNeese teams. Their next games are both away starting Dec. 1 for the Cowboys in Texas and Dec. 2 for the Cowgirls in Utah.

RIDE FOR THE BRAND
McNeese Athletics

