The Townsley Law Firm

September Newsletter



Staff Member of the Month

Karla Mack is a paralegal for the Townsley Law Firm. For 15 years, she has worked with her TLF team to seek justice for clients. At TLF, Mack likes to challenge herself and is eager to solve problems she may come across. The camaraderie she has with her team pushes and motivates her every day.

Mack grew up in Sulphur, Louisiana. She attended McNeese State University, where she got two degrees in office administration and word processing. Later, she would attend McNeese again to acquire a degree in paralegal work.

In her spare time, Mack loves to spend time outside tending to her flower beds. Mack and her husband share nine kids, who she loves to spend time with during family get-togethers at their house.

At the end of 2026, after 30 years of working as a paralegal, Mack is retiring. She is excited to embark on new journeys in retirement, including publishing two children's books she has written.

Townsley Tips...

The Dangers of Overloaded Tow Trailers

Trucks towing trailers can create serious hazards when they exceed safe weight limits.

Overloaded trailers cause accidents that lead to devastating injuries for innocent drivers sharing the road. Knowing how to spot an overloaded trailer might save your life on the highway or provide crucial evidence if you suffer injuries in a towing-related crash.

Putting too much weight on a trailer changes how the vehicles navigate the road. Overloaded trailers need much longer distances to stop safely, sometimes twice as far as normal. Drivers of overloaded tow vehicles also typically find it harder to steer.

Extra weight puts too much pressure on the wheels and the braking system. This weight can cause tire blowouts and can cause the braking system to fail completely. A few red flags people can look for on the road to spot an overloaded tow trailer are:

- Sagging rear suspension
- Bulging tires
- Lots of exhaust smoke
- Trailer sits nose-up or nose-down
- Swaying trailer
- Vehicle bottoms out
- Light front wheels

If drivers notice signs of an overloaded trailer on the road, it is important to create distance between the vehicles. Change lanes if possible and never tailgate a vehicle showing signs of towing instability.

In case you suffer injuries from a car accident involving an overloaded trailer, document everything about the scene. These details help establish negligence in a potential injury claim.

Results

$9,500 - Settlement
MED MAL - (Lake Charles, 2025)

$15,000 - Settlement
MED MAL - (Sulphur, 2025)

$45,000 - Settlement
MED MAL (Lake Charles, 2025)

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

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

Jargon Junction

Learning the Language of the Law

Illicit: **il · lic · it**

unlawful or not permitted or forbidden by law in a specific jurisdiction.

Source: Legal Information Institute - Cornell Law School

FIRM FUN



High-school football began in September. Staff members gathered for a picture to support their alma maters and their local student-athletes. Two Lake Charles schools are ranked in the top 50 teams in the state. No. 17 Barbe and No. 29 Lake Charles College Prep are both undefeated with a 4-0 record so far according to the MaxPreps website.





On September 30, The Townsley Law Firm held their very first TLF Run Club meeting. At 6:15 p.m. on Wednesday, staff members met at Millenium Park in Lake Charles, with the option of running a 1-mile, 2-mile, or 3-mile route down the lake front. Runners met at Laguna's Mexican Grill and Cantina for post-run snacks and refreshments.

The club was started by attorneys David Hanchey and Hannah Watkins to get people active. It is a great way to build community and comradarie within the firm. Family and friends were also invited to attend.

Moving forward, the club will meet on the first and third Wednesdays of every month at 6:15 p.m.

In the COMMUNITY

TLF Internships

One of TLF's own, Zyria Holland, shared about her experience interning with the firm in an article published by McNeese State University, where she attends.

Holland is a senior at McNeese, pursuing a humanities major and pre-law minor.

She said that the internship at TLF gave her first-hand observation of what attorneys and paralegals really do, which ultimately will translate into her transition into law school next year.

According to the McNeese article, Holland said, "the most important thing I learned during this internship was patience. The tasks I was given were time-consuming, but they reinforced a valuable lesson of appreciating the journey of life."

This is exactly the type of experience The Townsley Law Firm hopes to provide for students who are looking to pursue a career in the law. The firm takes pride in offering internship and clerking opportunities to continue educating students outside of the classroom with real-life experience.



Townsley Talks

Fighting for Justice



In September, Todd Townsley, co-founder of The Townsley Law Firm, was honored by the Louisiana Association for Justice with the President's Award for "outstanding and highly dedicated service to the legal profession and the association."

This award is given out yearly to lawyers who strive to keep bad legislation from passing that hurts the rights of injured people and affects their ability to recover from their injury.

"It's all your peers and colleagues who you work with to try to make Louisiana better, and those people recognizing your contribution is rewarding," Townsley said. "It makes you feel like you've done something important to improve the quality of life of people in the state."

Townsley has been a part of the organization for 35 years. The Louisiana Association of Justice is an organization that understands and advocates for and against legislation that could impact the lives of constituents in Louisiana.

"It's the only real group that can help fight all the moneyed interests that represent big business, industry, insurance carries, banking, and healthcare," Townsley explained. "They all have deep pockets to try to influence legislation and create laws that benefit them, and ordinary working people don't have a group like that."

An example of one piece of legislation that Townsley personally fought against involved the trucking industry. Townsley said that the legislation being pushed stated that people who were injured by a commercial vehicle could only sue the driver and not the company that employed the driver.

Townsley said this legislation was particularly dangerous because the purpose was to hide the bad conduct of the companies.

"A lot of times, when there's a commercial vehicle accident, the driver is someone who really shouldn't have been driving," he added. "When that happens, the company that hired them is actually who's more at fault, and they need to be held accountable."

He also included that when a company is being sued, attorneys are entitled to the company's hiring process, personnel file, and maintenance records to ensure that the company is prioritizing safety.

"If you take away the right to sue the company, you also take away the right to discover the mistakes they made, which we thought would make our roads a lot more unsafe," Townsley said.

Cases like this are the reason why Townsley and many others do this work. The LAJ monitors legislation closely, uniting lawyers from across the country to help make sure bad laws don't pass.

Along with being honored with an award, Townsley was also asked to be the next president of the organization. It's a three year commitment in which he will continue to be a spokesperson for Louisiana law as well as travel to increase membership in the organization.

"I think they asked me because they knew I would be a real fighter to try and prevent more bad legislation from being passed," Townsley said. At this stage in my career, I've built a lot of relationships with people and earned their respect, so I felt like I could do the job well for the organization."

Townsley is proud to be a member of the LAJ and is honored to be able to stand up for people who can't stand up for themselves. He and his staff at The Townsley Law Firm all strive to right wrongs and seek justice for injured people.

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

September Events

Women's Volleyball

- **Sept. 17** - 6:00 p.m. vs. Grambling ..... W
- **Sept. 19** - 1:00 p.m. vs. Oral Roberts ..... W
- **Sept. 23** - 6:00 p.m. vs. UTRGV L

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

For full game and event schedules, visit mcneese.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





Last year, Tayler Gray was hired as the head coach for the McNeese women's volleyball team. Previously, Gray coached at Sam Houston and UT-Arlington as an assistant.

At Sam Houston, Gray spent 16 years as a student-athlete, assistant coach, as well as an adjunct professor in the Health and Kinesiology department.

From 2014-2020, at Sam Houston, her team had 87 SLC wins. In 2019, the team advanced to the second round of the NIVC and in 2020 advanced to the WAC Championship.

On Sept. 11, Gray earned her first career win as a head coach. The Cowgirls defeated Grambling State University 3-0 on the road. Following that win, the team overcame Louisiana Tech 3-0 on Sept. 12.

On Sept. 17, the Cowgirls have their first at-home matchup in the Townsley Law Arena versus Grambling. This tournament is deemed the "Cowgirl Classic." In last year's tournament, the Cowgirls went 1-2.

RIDE FOR THE BRAND
McNeese Athletics