



## Seufert Law Offices, PA

*We'll Get You Through It*



## From the Captain's Log We have met the enemy and they are ours!

Commodore Oliver Perry, who uttered the above phrase as he whipped the British fleet at Lake Erie during the War of 1812, would be proud of his reincarnated namesake, the Oliver Hazard Perry. As she sailed into Gosport Harbor, Isles of Shoals, this past Memorial Day weekend the S/V Oliver Hazard Perry's 200 foot length and 13 ½ story high masts were an imposing sight. As we sat on our boat in the inner harbor grilling our lobster just purchased from the island's fishermen and sipping on cold beers (cold because the outside temperatures hovered in the 50's with 20 kts wind) we watched the Perry drop anchor in the outer harbor and ferry some of her crew into the docks. We then jumped into the dingy and drove over to get a closer look. You could see from her lines that her hull was of steel but her spars were wood, her satcom

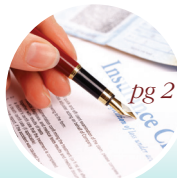
antenna hanging off her stern and slight diesel exhaust from her gensets a nod to modern technology but other than that she could have been on Lake Erie taking it to the Brits. Later, as we finished our lobsters and toasted the evening with a cocktail the Perry made its way into the docks on Star Island where she berthed for the night prior to leaving the next day for Provincetown MA then back to home port in Newport, RI. We didn't fight any Brits this weekend, but the lobsters we met "they are ours". •



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## Trying Cases

Trying a case is an art form. Just as every artist has a different way of presenting their art form, every lawyer has a different way of presenting a case in court. I happened to have the pleasure of spending a day earlier this month watching Chris try, successfully, a civil case in Hillsborough County Superior Court. It's important for attorneys to take the time to observe someone else litigate cases. It's difficult to sit back and reflect on your own cases, it's hard to be objective about anything that takes place.

One of the things that I observed during Chris' trial was that he established a rapport with the jurors. Although the jurors are only supposed to make a decision based on the evidence, they are human beings. How the jury perceives each attorney is going to have some impact on how they view any evidence those attorneys introduce. It will also impact what the jurors think of the client of each attorney.

Any discourse Chris had with opposing counsel was both civil and respectful. This kind of discourse from one attorney to another is also important to a jury. It is uncomfortable for jurors to watch attorneys treat each other disrespectfully. Such behavior can taint the jurors' view of such an attorney's case.

This doesn't mean that each attorney has to establish a rapport in the same manner with a jury, or that there aren't different ways to litigate a case and at the same time remain respectful to opposing counsel. This is where the artistry comes in. Each attorney has to be true to his or her self, or it's not going to be effective advocacy. That's one of the things that makes trying a case interesting: to watch how individual attorneys handle themselves in court. •

## Skeletons in Your Closet?

It's a scenario we see all too often:

Let's say you're involved in a wreck that wasn't your fault, suffered some pretty serious injuries, and are filing a personal injury claim to receive compensation for those injuries.

Now, let's also say that you were in an accident years ago or have some old, pre-existing injuries or conditions that you feel could hurt your claim, so you're thinking about withholding that information from your lawyer.

We've got some absolutely critical advice for you: **DON'T DO IT!**

The reason why is that you can be sure that the insurance company will be digging into your past to discover any old accidents or injuries, and trust us, their investigators will find out that information and they will use it against you to minimize or deny your claim altogether.

And it's not difficult for the insurance investigators to find that old injury, they have access to proprietary data bases that list all claims against under anybody's name and date of birth -Big Brother is watching.

The good news is that if you share that information with your lawyer right from the start, he or she can be completely prepared to deal with those kinds of issues and can build the strongest case possible for you.

Conversely, if the insurance company is the first one to find out about those old injuries and accidents and not your lawyer, your case is in big trouble.

So, do yourself a favor; if you have some so-called "skeletons in the closet," just be upfront with your lawyer and tell him or her everything that could be relevant to your case.

Give your lawyer the best chance to secure fair and full compensation for your injuries. •





# Truck Rollover Accidents



Dangerous tractor-trailer rollover accidents—which occur when a truck flips over while moving—are frighteningly common on our nation’s roadways. Because the wheels have left the ground, the vehicle is totally out of control. Other motorists on the roadway are in jeopardy, as well as objects that happen to be in the runaway truck’s path. In addition, cargo may go flying, possibly striking other vehicles or posing obstacles on the road that may prompt evasive maneuvers...and more accidents. Not to mention, hazardous/toxic payloads can trigger widespread injury and property damage miles from the original accident site, and perhaps long after the incident has occurred.

The most common causes of tractor-trailer rollover accidents include:

**Improperly loaded trailer.** If a load’s weight is not evenly distributed or properly secured, it may shift while traveling and result in a rollover.

**Speeding.** The higher the speed, the more potential for rollovers. Rounding a curve or turn too quickly, a shifting load, or hitting an object on the road is all it takes.

**Wind.** Tractor-trailers are long and broad, making them more susceptible to the effects of wind gusts. High-wind warnings should be heeded.

**Careless and reckless driving.** This includes a driver’s lack of understanding how to drive his/her rig, impatience, or driving under the influence or while sleep-deprived.

**Improper maintenance.** Underinflated tires or a damaged suspension can cause a truck to tip over on sharp curves, steep downhill grades, or uneven road surfaces.

If you have suffered injury due to the negligence of a truck driver or trucking company, contact an accident attorney to protect your rights. •

June 2017 Important Dates

**June 2**  
National  
Doughnut Day

**June 5**  
World  
Environment  
Day

**June 14**  
Flag Day

**June 18**  
Father’s Day

**June 21**  
First Day of  
Summer



## Did You Hear?

Believed to have been the last-surviving person born in the 1800s, 117-year-old Italian woman, Emma Morano, passed away in April.

Morano, whose life spanned three centuries (think about that for a moment!), credited her longevity to her diet and getting lots of sleep. Among the items she ate every day were two eggs – one raw and one cooked – as well as biscuits, milk, pasta and minced meat.

She typically went to bed before 7 p.m. and would get up before 6 a.m. •



Seufert Law Offices, PA  
Attorneys At Law



59 Central Street, Franklin, NH 03235  
(603) 934-9837

[www.seufertlaw.com](http://www.seufertlaw.com)

*Protect Your Family, Protect Your Rights*



We have met  
the enemy and  
they are ours!

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## Cathy's Corner

# Father's Day

We celebrate Father's Day this month. I was fortunate enough to have two fathers when I was growing up: my biological father and my step father. I called them both "Dad". (On the rare occasions that they were together, it could be confusing). My mother and my step father got married when I was five, so my step father was in my life from a very early age. On Father's Day I celebrated them both.

My step father didn't have to be a "dad" to me, or my brother or sister. He had five children of his own. But, he treated us no differently than he did them. (Sometimes I wished he did of course). He was a wonderful father, although he was taken too young.

I didn't appreciate until I was grown that my step father chose to become my father. I took that for granted for most of my life. Father's Day celebrates not just biological fathers. There are people every day who are taking on the role of fatherhood without any blood connection to the child. I wish I had done more to celebrate that person in my life. Happy Father's Day, Dad. •

