

CONCURRENT SESSION

LIENS AND SUBROGATION IN PERSONAL INJURY CASES

A Survival Guide

By: Christopher R. Nichols, Esq.
Nichols Law Firm

Christopher R. Nichols



Location: Raleigh, North Carolina

Phone: (919) 915-0212

(800) 906-5984

Email: nicholsatty@gmail.com

Areas of Practice

- 100% Personal Injury -- Plaintiff
- Motor Vehicle Accidents -- Plaintiff
- Sexual Abuse Victims
- Arbitration
- Bad Faith Insurance
- Wrongful Death

Litigation Percentage

- 100% of Practice Devoted to Litigation

Bar Admissions

- North Carolina, 1994
- U.S. District Court Western District of North Carolina, 1994

Education

- **Wake Forest University School of Law, Winston Salem, North Carolina**
 - J.D. - 1994
 - Honors: Order of the Barristers Litigation Honor Society
 - Honors: Wake Forest Moot Court Board, 1992-1994
 - Honors: Chief Justice Joseph Branch American Inn of Court
 - Honors: Student Bar Association, 1992-1994
 - Honors: Student Trial Bar Association, 1991-1994
 - Honors: Litigation Honor Society

- **Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina**
 - B.A. *cum laude* - May, 1991
 - Honors: Air Force Officers' Association Scholarship
 - Honors: Student Government Association
 - Honors: Old Gold and Black, Food Reporter
 - Honors: Student Defenders Association, Chairman
 - Major: Politics
 - Major: Sociology

Published Works

- The Fight to Get Arbitration in an Automobile Case, and What to do When You Get There (with Joe Adams), N.C. Academy of Trial Lawyers, February, 2004
- Medicare and Medicaid Reimbursement from the Plaintiff's Lawyer's Perspective, N.C. Academy of Trial Lawyers
- Common Ethical Issues in Medical Malpractice Actions (with Patrick Balestrieri), N.C. Academy of Trial Lawyers, November, 2003
- Pre-Suit Mediation: The New Law, N.C. Academy of Trial Lawyers, October, 2003
- A Humorous Look at Trial Preparation, Trial Briefs, N.C. Academy of Trial Lawyers, March, 2003
- North Carolina Personal Injury Liens Manual, Third Edition, LexisNexis, 2014
- Personal Injury Practice in North Carolina, Second Edition, LexisNexis: - See more at: <http://www.lexisnexis.com/store/catalog/booktemplate/productdetail.jsp?pageName=relatedProducts&skuId=sku3820247&catId=24&prodId=prod14880334#sthash.L0d59Qph.dpuf>, 2014

Representative Clients

- I represent people who have been injured by the negligence of individuals and corporations.

Classes/Seminars

- Faculty, Depositions: Hands-On Training, N.C. Academy of Trial Lawyers
- Pre-Suit Mediation: The New Law, N.C. Academy of Trial Lawyers, 2003
- Seminar, Chair and Speaker, Live! the Trial of a Connective Tissue Injury Case, N.C. Academy of Trial Lawyers, 2003
- Faculty Member, Civil Trial Advocacy Clinic, N.C. Academy of Trial Lawyers, 2003
- Presenter, Strategies for Arbitrating UM/UIM Cases, The Masters of Insurance Law Seminar, North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers, 2002
- Reading Their Minds: Defense Themes in Personal Injury Cases, Mountain Magic Seminar, North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers, 2002
- Presenter, Voir Dire: Pushing the Limits Within the Rules, North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers, 2002

- Presenter, Demonstrative Evidence: Exhibits on the Cheap for Smaller Cases, North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers, 2001
- The Masters of Insurance Law: ABC's and 123's, Seminar Co-Chair, North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers, 2001
- Presenter, Rule 411: Liability Insurance as Evidence at Trial, North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers, 2001
- Presenter, Medicaid, Medicare and Health Care Provider Liens: Putting Money in Your Client's Pocket and Keeping Yourself Out of Trouble, Practical Trial Skills Seminar, North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers, 2001
- Learning the Ropes-Getting the Most out of your Personal Injury Case: Winning, Collecting and Keeping Your Damages, North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers, 1999
- Learning the Ropes: Basics of Family Law, Program Chair, North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers, 1999
- Presenter, So You Want to Open a Law Firm, North Carolina Bar Association and Lawyers' Mutual Insurance Company, 1998
- Presenter, Ethics 101: The New Rules, North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers, 1998
- Learning the Ropes: The Basics of Civil Procedure, a Practical Approach, Program Chair, North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers, 1998
- Learning the Ropes: How to Try a Soft Tissue Injury Case, Program Chair, North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers, 1997
- Mediation Strategies, Wake Forest School of Law, April 22, 2015

Honors and Awards

- Mentoring Award- New Lawyers Division NC Advocates for Justice, June 1, 2014
- Ebbie Award- Citation of Excellence 2007 NC Academy of Trial Lawyers, 2007
- Education Achievement Award- NC Advocates for Justice, 2012 - 2015
- Order of Service Award- North Carolina Advocates for Justice
- Elected President of the NC Advocates for Justice, June 2015

Professional Associations and Memberships

- North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers, Member, 1993
- North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers, Board of Governors, 1999 - 2000
- North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers, Professional Negligence Section, Member, 2002 - Present
- Association of Trial Lawyers of America, Member, 1994 - Present
- South Carolina Trial Lawyers Association, Member, 1998 - Present
- Mainstay Women's Shelter, Board of Directors, 1997 - Present
- East Henderson High School Mock Trial Team, 1995 - 2000
- Henderson County Dispute Settlement Center, Board of Directors, 1995 - 1999
- Pisgah Legal Services, Volunteer Attorney, 1994 - 1995
- Salem Academy Mock Trial Team, Attorney Advisor, 1992 - 1993
- North Carolina Advocates for Justice, President, June 13, 2015 - June 13, 2016
- North Carolina Bar Association, Litigation Section Chair, June 15, 2014 - June 15, 2015

Past Employment Positions

- Nichols Law Firm, Raleigh North Carolina, Founder, Partner, 2005 - Present
- Hardison & Leone, Raleigh, North Carolina, Litigation Director, 2004 - 2005
- Kuniholm Law Firm, Raleigh, North Carolina, Litigation Attorney , 2002 - 2004
- Coburn & Saleeby, L.L.P., Spartanburg, SC, Founding Partner, Director of North Carolina Litigation, 1999 - 2002
- Henson Law Firm, P.A., Spartanburg, SC, Director of North Carolina Litigation, 1997 - 1999
- Blanchard, Cathey & Nichols, Hendersonville, North Carolina, Partner, General Trial Practice, 1995 - 1997
- James H. Toms & Associates, P.A., Hendersonville, North Carolina , Associate, General Practice, 1994 - 1995
- Graduated Wake Forest School of Law 1994

Pro Bono Activities

- Lawyer on the Line (Legal Aid volunteer), 2014 - Present
- National High Mock Trial Championship Steering Committee, 2013 - 2015
- NC Bar Association Middle School Mock Trial Coach, 2014 - 2015