



LEGAL NEWS YOU CAN USE

Community Rooted. Uncompromising Integrity. Professional Service.



Matthew Lathrop
Trial Attorney

SPECIAL EDITION

A Publication of the Law Office
of Matthew A. Lathrop

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- On the Shoulders of Giants 1
- Superstar Spotlight: Maren Collins 2
- Case Result: Trucking Company
Pays Teen Worker for Crushed
Pelvis Injury 3
- Cutting Edge Legal Services 4

HOW WE CAN HELP

At the Law Office of Matthew A. Lathrop, we don't focus on obtaining quick settlements. Instead, we concentrate on doing right by each client, even when that means taking a case all the way to trial. We bring experienced, skilled, and aggressive representation to personal injury and wrongful death claims throughout Nebraska and Iowa and are dedicated to helping you obtain justice. Learn more at www.LathropLawOmaha.com

GOOGLE REVIEWS



“I have never met a man with so much integrity. Matt Lathrop is realistic, reliable, consistent, and strategic in everything he does. When I needed someone to turn to after my accident he was there and walked me through every step of the way. He kept me informed about the process and what to expect. I would recommend him in for any matter because if he doesn't know he will work to figure it out.” (edited)

– Tammy AAsum

On the Shoulders of Giants

by Matthew Lathrop

Every successful lawyer stands on the shoulders of giants who went before. I certainly recognize that I would not be the lawyer I am today, without great people in my life, who encouraged me to “be better,” “care for others,” “love learning,” and to have faith.

The first of these was my dad.

He died when I was only 13, but he was firm in his ethic that his kids would always tell the truth, would always show respect to others, and would never settle for “good enough”. In his lifetime he volunteered to serve on a submarine in World War II. He went to school on the GI bill and graduated top of his class from Law School. He established himself as one of the best criminal defense and civil trial lawyers in the State. He became a licensed private pilot, flying both single engine planes and powerless “gliders” as well. He did all of this and was a pretty good dad, to boot.



From my dad, I took an uncompromising ethic to always do the best for my kids and my clients.

I took from him an uncompromising ethic to always do the best for my kids and my clients. Always improve myself. If I should come up short, admit it and make it right. I do not strive to be perfect, but I won't accept less than the best I can do.

My mother, too, was a great inspiration.

When my dad died, he left behind nine kids. Of those nine, still at home were three boys (including me) and my youngest sister. My mother showed incredible strength and faith after my dad passed. She was tireless in making sure we made it off to school each day with a hot breakfast, a lunch packed, and a hot dinner served at the family table every night. She got us to church every Sunday, and she made sure we received a solid education from a local Catholic high school.

We were not perfect kids. At times, I know, she would have loved the stern hand of my dad to “shape up” one or another of us. But she always showed us love, and patience, and kindness. She modeled “faith,” like no other in my life.

From her, I learned empathy, compassion, and faith in the better nature of people. She lived to be 75 years old, and for all that time, she always put the interests of her family first. She never thought twice about the cost to her. Today, I try to carry that forward.

In high school and college, I had three teachers who were very influential. They were

—continued on page 2

SUPERSTAR SPOTLIGHT



MAREN COLLINS

Senior Litigation Paralegal

Meet Maren Collins, our newest member of the LOMAL team. She arrived in May of 2020 as our Senior Litigation Paralegal. Maren has been a part of the legal community since 2005 where she has

specialized in numerous areas of law. She has been such a great addition to our team; she epitomizes our Core Values of Client's Interests First, Uncompromising Integrity and Accountability. Her attention to detail and customer care is impressive to say the least.

When Maren is not working for our clients, she spends her time with her husband, Jay and daughter, Violet and their chocolate lab, Moonshine.

In Maren's own words:

I grew up in the small town of Syracuse, Nebraska and moved to Omaha during high school. I earned my bachelor's degree in Paralegal Studies from College of Saint Mary, but I started out as an Aerospace Engineering major at Wichita State University and it is a scenic route of fate that brought me from there to here. My husband is also from a small town in Nebraska, and we found ourselves in the Ralston School District and enjoy the small-town atmosphere. I have one daughter, Violet, who turned 10 in October. She likes to be in 2-4 activities at a time, so she keeps us very busy. I like to stay active and have run in various 5k, 10k, and half-marathon races. I enjoy yoga, Pilates, and walks with my dog, Moonshine. When I get the chance to rest, I love to cross-stitch and watch romantic comedies. Each year, I look forward to going to the pumpkin patch in the fall, and to Christmas movies and music. ●



Making memories at the pumpkin patch.

—continued from page 1

On the Shoulders of Giants

passionate about their careers. Their enthusiasm and excitement for their subjects was infectious. Through their great examples, I learned that I should do what I love, and love what I do. My enthusiasm for my work does help me stay energized and excited about every day at work. But more than that, I learned that my enthusiasm affects others and I can give to the people in my office and my clients that same positive energy about what we are doing, and why.

Finally, there was Judge John T. Grant. Judge Grant was a great friend of my father. He was also a Supreme Court Justice, in Nebraska. I worked for him, in the Nebraska Supreme Court, right after I graduated from law school. Judge Grant told me once, that I should not set out in my career to “write the law, for all ages.”

“Instead,” he told me, “just take care of this case.” This was great advice. I try, every day, not to lose focus on what is most important: “This case.” ●

—continued from page 4

Cutting Edge Legal Services

law allowing notaries, who are properly trained and certified, to provide “e-notary” services, paralegal, Maren Collins immediately got her certification and we can now notarize any document, online. This is saving hours of travel time for our clients and is safer, quicker and easier for everyone involved.

My clients know, I am a big believer in the power of focus groups to help us win cases. After the lockdown, my focus groups stopped completely. I'm glad to report that the focus groups have begun again – via Zoom!

I was nervous about the quality of information from this format. I worried about what kinds of jurors I would get. They have been some of the best focus groups I've had in 10 years.

I don't think we could ever go back to the way things were, before all of this started. Frankly, that is going to be just fine with me. We are a better legal team today than we were six months ago. We are more accessible, more efficient, and provide better services. We hope you feel that way, too! ●

CASE RESULT:**Trucking Company Pays Teen Worker for Crushed Pelvis Injury**

One evening, a 19-year-old male college student was injured at his part-time job. He contacted the Law Office of Matthew A. Lathrop because he thought the workers' compensation insurer was treating him unfairly. After he came in, Matthew learned that the teenager not only had a workers' compensation claim but also a significant claim against the trucking company.

The night of the accident, the teenager went outside to help unload a semi-truck delivery. There was an awkward and narrow path for the truck to get to the loading dock. The teen was standing on the loading dock when he was hit by the truck that was going in reverse.

He was pinned between the truck's back bumper and the railing of the loading platform for several minutes. As the truck pinned him, the teen heard his bones breaking. The pain of a crushed pelvis and other injuries was overwhelming. He screamed, then a co-worker heard him and notified the trucker.

Why the Truck Company Settled

The accident happened around 9 p.m. The trucker had started his day around 6 a.m. and traveled to multiple states by the time he arrived at our client's workplace. His logs were in compliance with federal regulations, but it was a long day and he was tired.

First, Matt got to work straightening out the client's workers' compensation benefits. Quickly, his employer

stepped up to pay his medical bills.

Turning to the trucking case, Matthew hired an expert on trucking rules to determine what happened and whether the trucking company could be at fault for the teen's injuries. According to the expert, a trucker has a responsibility to know if people are around the truck before he backs into a loading dock. The only way a trucker can know if people are around is to get out of the truck and walk around it to make sure the area is clear. If anyone is in the area, it is the trucker's responsibility to tell them where to stand so that they are safe.

During his deposition, the trucker admitted that it is his job to know if people are around. He knew our client was nearby, but he did not get out and check on his specific location.

After the deposition, the trucking company agreed to settle our client's case for a confidential amount of money.

The Accident Cost Our Client a Year of His Life

At the time of the accident, our client was working part-time while going

to college as a full-time computer engineering student.

He was hospitalized for an extended amount of time after the crash. He had surgery, but he has suffered permanent nerve problems that still affect him during high impact exercise or running.

After the accident, he couldn't work, he couldn't go to school, and he couldn't live on his own. He had to move back in with his parents. He ended up graduating college a year later than he otherwise would have if not for the truck accident.

The truck accident settlement not only compensated him for his damages, but it also made him feel heard.

All Truck Accident Victims Deserve to Be Heard

If you are hurt in a Nebraska truck accident, you deserve to be heard by your attorney, the trucking company, and, if necessary, the court. Call the Law Offices of Matthew A. Lathrop today for a free, no-obligation consultation to see how we may be able to help you. ●



LAW OFFICE OF
MATTHEW A. LATHROP, PC, LLO
PERSONAL INJURY TRIAL ATTORNEY

14301 FNB Pkwy Suite 100
 Omaha, NE 68154

CONTACT US: (402) 281-9668
www.LathropLawOmaha.com

Inside This Issue...

- On the Shoulders of Giants
- *Superstar Spotlight:* Maren Collins
- *Case Result:* Trucking Company Pays Teen Worker for Crushed Pelvis Injury
- Cutting Edge Legal Services

A Personal Message From Matthew Lathrop

We are pleased to present the first issue of our newsletter. All of us at the Law Office of Matthew A. Lathrop are excited to connect with you in this new way. In this issue, you'll learn about the most important influences in my life and meet our newest team member, Maren Collins. Let us know what you think. We love to hear from you!



CUTTING EDGE LEGAL SERVICES

Before quarantine, we felt we were a "high tech office." When quarantine started, our systems were put to the test.

We were already offering to meet with clients by Zoom Videoconferencing. This was a "perk" for our clients that few needed or used. Most of our clients like the face-to-face contact with their lawyer. We do too!

Because we were already set up to provide this service, we easily transitioned to videoconferencing. Virtual meetings in our office have gone from a few a month, to more than 15 per week!

Clients have done more than just "adapt." We have found they love the ease and convenience of a virtual sit-down with any one of us in the office, when they need.

Similarly, we have easily moved to conducting depositions over Zoom. We have prepared clients for depositions by video conferencing and we have even met with experts and

prepared them for testimony or other involvement in our cases, with the easy and very reliable Zoom software.

Social distancing threatened to slow down cases, because of something as simple as providing notarized signatures on legal forms.

However, when the Nebraska Legislature passed an "E-Notary"

—continued on page 2

Our paralegal, Maren Collins is an e-notary and if clients need any documents notarized (whether it's for their case or anything else) we are happy to do that, no charge.