



Cushing Law Offices

Personal Injury Lawyers

February 2017
Volume 1,



Welcome to our Newsletter!

The team at Cushing Law prides itself on serving our clients with warmth, kindness, and we want to keep in touch. As a part of reaching out, we will be publishing a quarterly (sometimes more often) newsletter! Please look for it in your mailbox. We promise to do three things in every letter: make you laugh, give you some useful information, and let you know what we're up to!

We are also working to update all of the different ways you can follow us and keep in touch. Coming in February check out our new website at www.cushinglaw.net.

You can also follow us: Twitter at @cushinglaw

Facebook: "like" us at www.facebook.com/cushinglaw

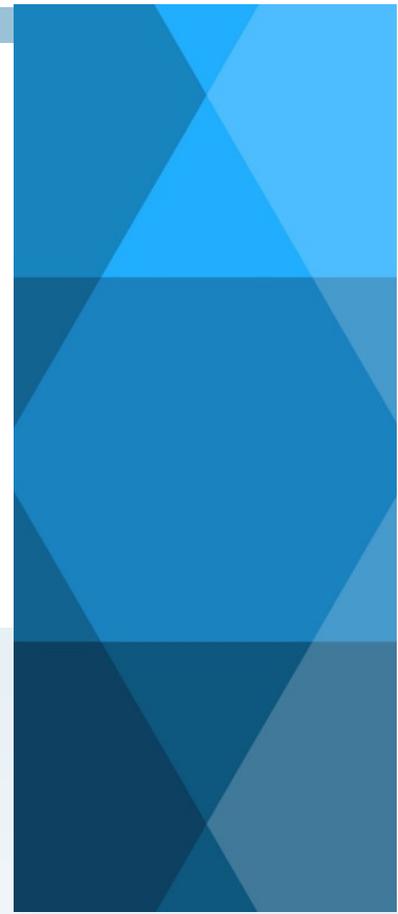
Yo Amo Mi Abogado! Kocham Mojego Adwokata!

What do these phrases mean?

They mean "I love my lawyer!" Just in time for Valentine's Day, you can now say I love my lawyer!" in three languages! As Cushing, we serve many communities, from suburban families to city professionals. Two communities we work with frequently are the Latino and Polish communities in the greater Chicago area. You'll see us around these communities giving back, sponsoring teams and local charities, and working to improve the lives of clients we dearly care about.

We are proudest when one of our clients says "Yo Amo Mi Abogado" or "Kocham Mojego Adwokata!" because it means we've made them feel heard, we've connected to them, and, most often, we've **won** for them. We see clients injured at work, in car accidents, by products not working correctly, and in many other situations. Each case is unique and we fight for each client as if they were family. One thing they all have in common is that they have been injured and need help.

The greatest compliment our friends, family, or past clients can give us is saying "I love my lawyer" and making referrals so we can help their friends and family. If someone you know needs help, please share our information and have them give us a call—we do free consultations and are here to help! (312) 726-2323 Mowimy Po Polsku/Hablamos Espanol/We're pretty good at English too!



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Special points of interest

- Learn why trusting your 4x4 may not be the best choice for safe driving in winter
- Help us solve the riddle of the swerving driver
- Learn about how you can hear Aneta and John on the radio
- Learn about when to call an ambulance when you've been in an accident



Employee Classification Act—Did you know?

Illinois recognizes the long standing systematic attempts of employers in the construction industry to intentionally miscategorize the employment status of their employees in order to avoid their legitimate legal obligation to pay taxes and provide Workers Compensation insurance as required by law (820 ILCS 305/4). A seldom used law (820 ILCS 185/1 et seq. commonly referred to as THE EMPLOYEE CLASSIFICATION ACT) was enacted specifically to assist the Hispanic and Polish laborers and tradesmen/women working in the construction industry in order to protect these workers (the least empowered people working in this industry which includes any type of construction, be it new-rehab-demolition etc.,) and provides a liberal set of criteria which are used to determine if a person who is injured while at work in this field, was in fact the employee of someone/company and not an "Independent Contractor" as so frequently miscategorized by the actual employer.

Because these injury cases often involve employers who have employees form their own corporations and pay (often small amounts) in cash without taking out withholding taxes etc.,

and further that these unscrupulous employers often have few obvious assets from which a judgment can be collected, lawyers traditionally turn down these cases rather than take the chance and incur the additional expenses involved in filing a law suit in the Circuit Court, which will certainly take many court appearances and dozens of hours of work with only the slimmest chances of recovering money for the injured worker.

Cushing Law Offices has made a commitment to assist every injured worker obtain justice and in so doing, we have several such cases currently being prosecuted in the Circuit Court of Cook County. Just this last year we successfully obtained a substantial award for a worker who was injured at work, but whose employer had not purchased Workers Compensation insurance, and who paid cash to a corporation this injured victim was required to form at the direction of the actual employer. Lots of hard work, time and expense with an employer who could easily have declared bankruptcy or move out of state as was threatened. Give us a call if we can help!

“ Even though a 4 wheel drive vehicle starts faster, it may not be able to stop faster...”

Lawyers are funny!

We aren't all business at Cushing!
We love to laugh. Here's some jokes that kept us chuckling this winter:

Q: What's the difference between a good lawyer and a great lawyer?

A: A good lawyer knows the law. A GREAT lawyer knows the law AND the judge.

[A lawyer riddle:](#)

Q: A man was driving his truck down a deserted road. His lights were not on. The moon was not out. Far up ahead, he saw a woman and swerved to avoid hitting her. How did he see her?

A: It was a bright and sunny day!

Stay Safe on the Road this Winter!

We see a lot of accident cases in our practice. Here's some tips for staying safe in the winter and snow that we found helpful from the highway safety commission:

- ✦ Use brakes carefully. Brake early. Brake correctly. It takes more time and distance to stop in adverse conditions.
- ✦ Bridge decks freeze first. Due to the difference in the exposure to air, the surface condition can be worse on a bridge than on the approach road.
- ✦ Exit ramps are an even greater challenge during the winter since they may have received less anti-icing material than the main line. Be aware of this when exiting the highway.
- ✦ Don't use the "cruise control" option driving in wintry conditions. Even roads that appear clear can have sudden slippery spots and the slightest touch of your brakes to deactivate the cruise control can cause you to lose control of your vehicle.
- ✦ Don't get overconfident in your 4x4 vehicle. Remember that, if you are driving a four-wheel drive vehicle, the vehicle may help you get going quicker but it won't help you stop any quicker. Many 4x4 vehicles are heavier than passenger vehicles and actually may take longer to stop. Don't get overconfident in your 4x4 vehicle's traction.
- ✦ Look further ahead in traffic than you normally do. Actions by cars and trucks will alert you quicker to problems and give you a split-second extra time to react safely.
- ✦ Remember that trucks are heavier than cars. Trucks take longer to safely respond and come to a complete stop, so avoid cutting quickly in front of them. Leave room for maintenance vehicles and plows - stay back at least 200 feet and don't pass on the right.

Most importantly please remember to SLOW DOWN! Also, seat belts should be worn at all times - it's the law.

Stay safe and warm this winter!



What a year 2016 was!

This was a year of growth and taking Cushing Law Offices to a new level! We have full time Spanish and Polish speaking team members, have expanded the ways you can communicate with us, and we are working to connect and support our clients in new and exciting ways.

We've had some great and interesting things happening at Cushing Law. Some highlights:

- We won hundreds of cases, but one that was particularly rewarding for us was a case for a young man injured while working for a painting company in Deerfield. The homeowner was not liable and his employer did not have comp insurance. Most attorneys would've turned the young man away, but we did not. We were able to secure a large settlement for him that helped bridge the gap while he recovered. Without our help, he would've gotten nothing.
- We were invited to present a case in front of over 100 faculty and students at a local university— our case was chosen based on the interest in the argument, which was whether evidence of pain medications can be admitted as evidence to trial to show negligence by our client, without expert testimony saying that the drug impacted the client's ability to use ordinary care. The students were enthralled and we had so much fun!
- Finally, we've been learning how to do social media and have been enjoying ourselves in the process. Make sure you follow us on Twitter and Facebook— we'll be sharing some great facts and tips, but also some funny behind the scenes and #fridayfun things.

As we embark on 2017, we are excited to have new ways to keep in touch, we look forward to helping many more people, and we are grateful to all of our clients, friends, and family for their support.

Warmly, Mike and John Cushing

Team Profile: Meet Aneta!

Aneta Laci is the smiling face most folks see when they first walk into our offic-



es. Aneta has been with the Cushing team for over 10 years! Aneta serves as our team's paralegal and assists the team as we fight to win for our clients. Originally from Jaslo, Poland, Aneta loves working with the many different people she meets here at Cushing Law. Aneta loves that our team laughs and enjoys working together, that we care deeply about our clients, and we are a professional yet friendly workplace that treat each other and our clients like family. Aneta says "I help clients with whatever I can. Billing, understanding their case, all sorts of things. Because making our clients happy is what it's all about!"

In her personal time, Aneta loves giving back by using her excellent baking skills to bake for charities in the Polish community. Her favorite and most requested pastry is something she calls a polish "cannoli" - a cream filled pastry called Rurki z Kremem in Polish. Sometimes we are lucky enough that she brings some in for us to share. They are delicious! Aneta loves watching Chicago Fire, Chicago PD, and any action and suspense programs and spending time with her family.

You can catch Aneta and John on their radio show every Tuesday at 5:30 pm on Radio Polonii 2000/AM 1080. It's an interactive and fun radio show where John and Aneta answer phone in questions from listeners. A fun thing to listen to!

Cushing Law Offices

The **Chicago Personal Injury Lawyers** at Cushing Law Offices are dedicated to representing personal injury victims in catastrophic injury and wrongful death claims. Our lawyers have over a half-century of experience representing clients in the most complex and serious injury cases. We work with our clients and their families to ensure that they receive the full and fair compensation they deserve.

Our lawyers pride themselves on being true "Trial Lawyers" who are willing to take on the most difficult and demanding cases and see them through to trial. Our attorneys have been recognized by Illinois Super Lawyers as being among the top **2.5% of attorneys in Illinois** in the area of Personal Injury Litigation.

Ask Your PI Attorney!



Dear Mike,

I've been in an accident. I think I feel okay to get myself to the hospital to get checked out but not sure. Should I use an ambulance? Drive myself? Call Uber?

Thanks, *Not Sure What to Do!*

Dear Not Sure What to Do,

I'm so sorry you've been in an accident! Often, right when an accident happens, we get stressed and make quick decisions that aren't optimal. It's been said that a doctor who treats him/herself is said to have a "fool" for a patient. The same rule applies here! Police and paramedics have professional medical training and can assess your need to be taken to the hospital far better than you. If the paramedics are on the scene and the police or paramedics suggest you go to the hospital, TAKE THE AMBULANCE!!! Additionally, taking the ambulance documents the date, time and circumstances of your injury. This documentation is invaluable, if you wait a day or more before seeing a doctor you can expect the insurance company to argue you are faking. So protect yourself and your case by taking the ambulance. Hope you are okay! Please give us a call anytime with questions. **Here to help, Mike**

Have a question for one of our attorneys? Give us a call at (312) 726-2323 or email us at mcushing@cushinglaw.com. We're here to help!

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