

Bankruptcy, Social Media, & Public Benefits:

HOW THEY AFFECT YOUR CASE

While these three subjects, which are important to only a limited number of clients, this information may be crucial to their case. For more information about any of these issues, please give us a call at 816-531-6006.

- 1 Bankruptcy.** In these economic times, bankruptcy filings are rising. Please tell your attorney if you are considering filing for bankruptcy. **Bankruptcy may cause you to lose all rights to the settlement money from your personal injury claim.** If you let us know about your plans, we can often work with the bankruptcy attorney and plan out the timing of the filing and the exemptions that are claimed in the paperwork so that you can keep the money from your vehicle accident claim.
- 2 Be cautious with your social networking on the computer, including Facebook, Twitter, Myspace, and YouTube.** Many of us have at least one such account, and the insurance companies know it. More and more, we are seeing insurance companies trolling through our clients' web pages and postings, looking for damaging material. Do not post any comments, photographs, or videos which the insurance company can misconstrue against you. **Post nothing that you do not want a judge or jury to see.**
- 3 Public benefits.** Government benefits based on need may be affected by receiving a personal injury settlement. If you, **or any member of your household**, is receiving benefits, please let us know. With advance planning, we can usually minimize the effect of settlement on government benefits.