

Eckert & Associates, P.A.

TRANSPORTATION TIMES

Term: 2019 Second Quarter

WHO WE ARE



The law firm of Eckert & Associates, P.A. aggressively pursues and collects downtime claims for owner-operators and fleets, as well as subrogation matters for insurance companies and fleets nationwide.

Our staff includes attorneys, insurance adjusters and paralegals with extensive knowledge of insurance claims and the transportation industry.

The recovery of lost income after a traffic accident can be a complicated process. We work to make this process easier for our clients.

The staff at Eckert & Associates, P.A. strives to be legal advocates for the transportation industry and for owner operators nationwide. We work on a contingency fee basis. No upfront cost is required to begin a case through our office.

Visit DowntimeClaims.com for more information.

MID-AMERICA TRUCKING SHOW



Kelsea Eckert and her father, attorney Don Wilber, had a great time at the Mid-America Trucking Show this year. They were able to meet many current and former clients. Putting a face to the name makes our work more rewarding.

We gave away two dash cams via a random drawing. If we scanned your badge, you were entered. The winners were Brian Bonen of Michigan and Walter Cevalin of North Carolina.

If we missed you this year, be sure to stop by our booth at MATS next year. We'd love to meet you.

Join our email list to keep up with our events:
www.DowntimeClaims.com (bottom right of the page).

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Brenda Vasquez

Brenda joined the firm in the fall of 2016 as an administrative assistant. She quickly learned the ropes of a law office and became a legal assistant. A few months ago, she took over as the marketing coordinator. She loves learning new things and jumps on these challenges.

She graduated Cum Laude from the University of North Florida. She previously taught language arts and social science in middle & high schools.



Nick Fulton

Since we last featured him, Nick has been promoted. As a licensed all-lines adjuster, he now negotiates claims. He enjoys working to get the best settlement possible for our clients.

SELF-INSURED FLEETS SUBROGATION

Is your fleet considering becoming self-insured? If already self-insured, is your claims department successfully recovering from at-fault parties? Many trucking fleets become self-insured to lower insurance costs. The self-insured retention (amount of loss the company covers directly) is an important part of a fleet's risk management plan. However, not every fleet handling their own subrogation does so effectively.

Subrogation - Recovering on Claims Paid

Lost money is found in subrogation recovery. Unfortunately, many fleets overlook collecting money from the bad drivers who damaged the fleet's equipment. Sometimes pursuit gets lost in the shuffle of the claims handling process; with emphasis instead on negotiating repair costs, "covering" losses, seeking immediate medical attention, and the like.

Consider what happens after a claim has been paid. Is the claim file closed without pursuit of the at-fault driver? Are staff assigned to pursue collection? Is recovery put on the back burner because the only emphasis is on future safety and better driving habits? Safety education and training are important to maintaining low claims costs but won't always stop bad drivers from damaging your equipment. When damages do happen, claims should be pursued.

Some fleets request their insurer to handle subrogation recovery for them. If this is a consideration, determine whether the insurer has a strong incentive to recover losses. If the insurer didn't pay out on the losses, they may not have a desire to pursue the claims aggressively.

Solution: Leverage

Leverage the staff of a subrogation law firm to your fleet's benefit. By using outside assistance, it is possible to increase claims recovery without adding in-house staff. A law firm being paid on a contingency fee basis has a great incentive to recover as much as possible for the client. Law firms that know transportation and trucking further leverage a fleet's time and resources. The retention of experienced and competent counsel deters negligent third parties from escaping liability by using nuances or attempting to inaccurately utilize case law.

The law office of Eckert & Associates, P.A. focuses on truckers and fleets. We collect claims nationwide. Working on a contingency fee basis, we're motivated to recover the most money possible for our clients. Contact us today at 904-278-7688 to see how we can help your fleet's bottom line.

Written by: Kelsea Eckert, Attorney at Law

This article is presented for informational purposes only, and it is not intended to be construed or used as general legal advice. We suggest you consult an attorney directly regarding your unique situation.

UPCOMING EVENTS & KEY DATES

Office Closed

April 19, 2019 & May 27, 2019

Expedite Expo

Kelsea Eckert will be speaking on July 19, 2019, at 9 am during the Expo. Her seminar is entitled "Expedite Your Claims - Handling Accidents with the End in Mind." She hopes to see you there!