

—In the News—

People

Carlton R. Marcyan, a partner in the matrimonial law firm of Schiller, DuCanto and Fleck, is scheduled to speak Saturday to the Mediation Council of Illinois. His topic is, "Using Financial Planning Techniques in Mediation."

The presentation will be part of the group's fall conference in Lake Forest.

G. Grant Dixon III of Dixon Law Office LLC in LaGrange has been selected to be director of the Rotary Club of Western Springs.

In the law firms

Attorneys Timothy J. Bechen, Robert Bodine and Loren H. McRoss have joined the intellectual property practice at Vedder, Price, Kaufman & Kammholz as associates.

Bechen joins the firm from the Oklahoma City office of Crowe & Dunlevy. Bodine had been a computer consultant in both the public and private sectors, and McRoss came from the Palo Alto office of Oppenheimer, Wolff & Donnelly.

Michelle A. Sledge has joined Ronaldson and Kuchler as an associate focusing on the trial of employment-related matters as well as women's and minority issues. She had been an in-house attorney with Scribcor Inc.

In federal court

Chief Bankruptcy Judge Susan Pierson Sonderby will present the annual State of the Court address at 12:15 p.m. on Tuesday at the Chicago Bar Association headquarters, 321 S. Plymouth Court. The event is sponsored jointly by the CBA Bankruptcy and Reorganization Committee and the Bankruptcy Division of the Young Lawyers Section.

U.S. District Judge Joan H. Lefkow on Thursday approved a \$2 million settlement in the case of a man who died after his car struck a dislodged truck load on I-55.

Stephan Gleason, 51, was driving northbound on I 55 approaching the State Route 59 overpass when the 20-ton steel shed being hauled on the truck in front of him came dislodged and landed in the traffic lanes. Gleason tried to avoid it, but his Geo Tracker struck the shed and rolled several times. He died as a result of his injuries.

Plaintiff's attorney, Francis Patrick Murphy, a partner in Corboy & Demetrio, claimed that the special permit the trucking company, Beckstrom Enterprises Inc., obtained from the Illinois Department of Transportation required that an escort vehicle equipped with a 15-foot pole precede the tractor-trailer. There was no such escort vehicle.

The Route 59 overpass has a clearance of 13 feet, 11 inches, and the driver, Patrick McMorrow, had been told to exit there. The driver, according to Murphy, told police he'd been looking for U.S. 59, not Illinois Route 59.

Charles E. Blackman Jr. of Querrey & Harrow Ltd. represented the defendants. The case is *Nathaniel Gleason, Administrator of the Estate of Stephan Gleason, deceased v. Beckstrom Enterprise Inc., et al.*, No. 00 C 8207.

On the air

The guest on this Sunday's segment of the "Uncommon Law" radio program will be private detective Mike Anthony, who will discuss investigation of complex factual issues in

AFL-CIO opposes Scalia Labor Dept.'s top att

By LEIGH STROPE
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Organized labor is urging the Senate to defeat the nomination of Eugene Scalia as the Labor Department's top lawyer, contending that his views are extreme and hostile to workers.

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney, in a letter to senators released Thursday, said Scalia is "simply the wrong person for the job." A confirmation hearing is set for Sept. 20.

The labor federation has debated for months whether to fight the nomination of Scalia, a Washington labor lawyer who is the son of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. Sweeney's letter is the first move in labor's decision to oppose the nomination.

"The president has nominated an individual whose extreme views on key worker protections place him outside the mainstream and make him unsuited to hold this important position," Sweeney said.

The AFL-CIO's chief objection is Scalia's criticism of Clinton-era ergonomics regulations that Congress killed in the spring. In 1999, he wrote in the *Wall Street Journal* that the then-proposed rule "relics on doubtful evidence that repeatedly has flunked the courts'

'junk science' test.

Labor Department Hensley said the was "disappointing

Scalia "is highly ed by a broad spect community," she s CIO's opposition ce on Scalia's position rule that a bipartite gress rejected as e

Scalia as labor s advice and guidance policy, legislative, enforcement initiative, areas such as safe mum wages and p position is regarded Secretary Elaine s

"The AFL-CIO decision to oppose, ination lightly," s recognize that th authority to nomi reflect his policy dent Bush's polic tially from ours."

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Injured trucker awarded \$3

By ADAM W. LASKER
Law Bulletin staff writer

A Cook County jury has awarded more than \$3.2 million to a Lombard truck driver who as the result of his injuries might never again be able to drive a commercial truck.

The \$4 million verdict, which was filed Wednesday by Cook County Circuit Judge Allen A. Freeman in the Law Division, was reduced 20 percent — to just over \$3.2 million — because of the plaintiff's contributory negligence. Pietras' wife, Shirley, also received an award of \$320,000 for loss of consortium.

The trucker, Henry Pietras, leased a semi-tractor cab from the defendant, Biddle Co. Inc., because his regular truck was being repaired. Pietras fell from the rented truck on Dec. 27, 1995, and suffered closed-head injuries that resulted in an epileptic seizure disorder and spinal injuries, including a herniated disk and nerve root compression.

Plaintiff attorney Stephan D. Blandin, a name partner of Romanucci & Blandin,

At the time worked for a truck Co., which leased a company called B

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