

## T. Fritz Levenhagen

T. Fritz Levenhagen concentrates his practice exclusively in the areas of workers' compensation and personal injury litigation. He has successfully litigated cases in both Illinois and Missouri. He has obtained verdicts for his clients in both State and Federal Courts in Missouri and Illinois. He received his bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and his law degree from St. Louis University School of Law. With over fifteen years of trial experience, he has become a leading trial lawyer throughout Southern Illinois and Eastern Missouri.

You can feel confident that his firm will be aggressive and successful with your case as the law allows. He receives his cases primarily through the referral of other clients. Most lawyers who advertise as personal injury lawyers are less experienced and have not achieved the same results. Taking care of the injured client is his most important goal.

### *AREAS OF PRACTICE*

- ◆ Accidents and Tort Cases
- ◆ Automobile Accident
- ◆ Aviation Accidents
- ◆ Construction Accidents
- ◆ Farm & Machinery Accidents
- ◆ Medical Negligence
- ◆ Personal Injury
- ◆ Premises Liability
- ◆ Products Liability
- ◆ Professional Malpractice
- ◆ Railroad Accidents – F.E.L.A.
- ◆ River Accidents – Jones Act
- ◆ Social Security Disability
- ◆ Workers' Compensation
- ◆ Wrongful Death Law
- ◆ All other types of Injury Death Cases



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**Concentrating in  
Workers' Compensation,  
Personal Injury, and  
Social Security Cases**

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## Workers' Compensation

It is critical to learn immediately what your rights are and to make sure that your treatment process is being properly pursued. Because I concentrate my practice in the fields of workers' compensation and personal injury, I know all current changes in the law. I am also familiar with the sometimes unique circumstances that affect injured workers throughout Southern Illinois.

When discussing the condition with your doctor, you should describe your complaints, limitations, treatments and symptoms. You should describe all complaints in detail so that the doctor understands the nature and extent of your injuries. The doctor must understand the nature of an employee's



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work. Sometimes a physician will want to return you to "light duty" and they should understand that is sometimes not practical. You should be

prepared to explain to the

doctor how your activities around the home have helped you recognize your restrictions. With those restrictions he will know that you are unable to perform your activities at work. The doctor should sign an off duty slip on his own stationary.

You should complete a written list of your limitations and restrictions when your condition becomes permanent. The

list should be reviewed with the doctor so that he can understand your disabilities and limitations. Please give the doctor examples of your restrictions. If you have trouble standing long periods of time, then you should be prepared to tell him how long is too long; if you have trouble lifting heavy weights, then you should be prepared to tell him how much is too much, etc.

Frequently the employer and employee have major differences over what particular percent of disability should apply to an arm, leg, back or other injury. The percent of disability determines the number of weeks that are paid. Sometimes the employee overlooks an issue just as important; it is critical to determine whether or not the employer is paying the right amount for each of the weeks. Wage records for the year before the date of injury should be obtained and reviewed regarding an employee's average weekly wage.

In conclusion, it is critical to make certain that the injured worker receives the maximum compensation for the work-related injuries. The above information is provided as guidelines. I realize the hazards that employees face each day. Hopefully, these guidelines will help explain some of your rights.

For your convenience, my office is located just 2 miles south of Interstate 64 on Rt. 159 in the Holland Construction Building

### *Frequently Asked Questions*

- Q. If my employer wants to take a tape-recorded statement from me, do I have to give them one?
- A. You are not required by the Illinois Workers' Compensation Act to give a tape-recorded statement to your employer, nor are you required to sign any statements.
- Q. How long do I have to file my claim with the Illinois Industrial Commission?
- A. A claim must be filed within three years of the date of injury or two years from the date of last payment of weekly workers' compensation benefits, whichever is greater.
- Q. Can I choose my own physician?
- A. You are entitled to select two physicians unless you obtain a referral from one doctor to another.
- Q. Am I entitled to mileage for seeking care and treatment from my physicians?
- A. Your employer is required to pay for reasonable and necessary travel expenses incurred for seeking medical care and treatment for work-related injuries.



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