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COOPER HURLEY
INJURY LAWYERS

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Bill, John and Jim



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Norfolk's Academy of Music Pulls the Strings in Helping the Disadvantaged

John Dixon's first love was for music. He started playing the piano when he was six-years-old and learned to play the pipe organ when he was a student at South-end-on-Sea in England.

But rather than studying music he went into business. He studied at Harvard Business School, married an American and went into the gaming and later the peanut distribution business.

He never lost his love of music and started playing the organ at Providence Presbyterian Church in Kempsville, Virginia Beach in 1998. In 2003, he became the Executive Director of The Academy of Music, a non-profit located in Ghent in Norfolk, that gives music tuition to kids, targeting those from low income families.

"Since our founding in 1991, we have given in excess of 100,000 hours of one-on-one music instruction. That to me is a very powerful number," said Dixon. "That is really something for a small organization."

About one in three students at the academy receive scholarship help. Dixon said some of the best local musicians teach at the academy.

Dixon said the academy faced a debt problem when he took over. He was able to return it to financial stability. In 2010, it received a [Batten Challenge Grant](#) which has allowed it to build an endowment. Dixon says the academy reaches about 1,000 students and year. Nearly 400 students receive violin lessons at Parkview Elementary School in Portsmouth and more than 200 students receive one-on-one lessons every year. The academy also holds summer camps.continued on page 2



[Click here to play the video](#)



....continued from page 1 **Norfolk's Academy of Music Pulls....**

The academy uses the Suzuki method of instruction in violin, viola and the cello, for students aged four and up. It held a graduation recital on Jan. 15 at Ghent United Methodist Church.

Dixon says running a small non-profit is more rewarding than working for a major international organization. "I'm so happy with this crazy composite life because I feel I am making a difference," he said.

Cooper Hurley Injury Lawyers recently supported the Academy of Music by sponsoring a \$750 raffle prize. Contact the Academy of Music at 757-627-0967.

John Cooper and Bill O'Mara Write Premises Liability Book

John Cooper of Cooper Hurley Injury Lawyers has considerable experience in fighting for the rights of clients who have been hurt in stores, restaurants or other businesses. Now he has co-authored a book on the topic with his colleague Bill O'Mara. *Top Ten Tips If You Are Injured At a Store, Hotel or Restaurant in Virginia* is a pocket guide intended to help provide information for shoppers, diners or other visitors about their rights if they are injured on someone else's property.

The book describes the law of premises liability and the common issues that come up in cases where someone has been hurt at a business. Virginia law requires landowners and businesses to maintain their physical locations in a reasonably safe condition, and to protect people from known hazards or hazards that the business should have discovered.



If a business fails to take ordinary measures to keep you safe, then it could end up being financially responsible for your injuries. Here are five instances in which a business may be liable:

- 1 – Falls at restaurants, caused by spilled liquids, grease or foodstuff;
- 2 – Merchandise falling from store shelves onto customers, causing injuries;
- 3 – Injuries suffered in common areas of apartment complexes or office buildings like malfunctioning elevators;

....continued on page 3

....continued from page 2 **John Cooper and Bill O'Mara....**

4 – Failure of a business to clear snow and ice after a storm and;

5 – Trip and falls on sidewalks or in parking lots caused by unsafe walking areas with tripping hazards.

Premises liability cases are less likely to settle just by making an insurance claim than an auto accident case and often require filing suit and litigation. Although all cases are different and unique and we cannot guarantee the same result in your case, we have achieved a number of significant results for clients in recent years including a [\\$400,000 settlement for a woman who was injured by a falling window treatment at a hotel in Virginia Beach](#).

John Cooper also secured a \$225,000 settlement in 2013 for a woman who suffered neck, shoulder and hip injuries at an office building in which a janitor had left the floor wet. In 2014, we helped a senior citizen obtain a \$125,000 recovery when he tripped on a buried hose after an employee of a Chesapeake fast food restaurant directed him over a landscaped area, breaking a hip and a finger.

The attorneys at Cooper Hurley are also the authors of *The Best Guide to Virginia Car Accidents and Injuries*, *Your Rights When You Are Injured on the Railroad* and *The Best Book About Virginia Trucking Accidents*. See the book page of our website to order a copy of *Top Ten Tips If You Are Injured At a Store, Hotel or Restaurant in Virginia*.

John and Jim Pit Big Dogs Against Small Ones



John Cooper with "Chico" (left) and "Menina" (right)

and Jim has been the owner of Irish – a yellow Labrador for nine years.

Here they make their case for Big Dogs versus Small Dogs

JIM

Burglars like small dogs but do not like big dogs.

....continued on page 4

If you are a dog lover you are likely to fall into one of two categories – a big dog person or a small dog person.

Cooper Hurley partners John Cooper and Jim Hurley have their feet planted in different camps on the great four legged question.

John's family has two small Shih Tzus – Menina and Chico



Jim Hurley with "Irish"

....continued from page 3 **John and Jim Pit Big Dogs....**

Big dogs bark like a dog and little dogs yelp like a whiner.

Cats beat up little dogs but run from big dogs.

Little dogs think they own their owners but big dogs know who the boss is in the house.

JOHN

Small dogs do smaller poops.

Little dogs are cuter in pajamas.

Small dogs look like puppies forever.

Small dogs have a dog personality in a fun cat-sized pet

Attorneys like to talk but you don't need to let them have the last word on the matter. You can vote here in the great Big Dog v. Small Dog debate by emailing marketing@cooper-hurley.com and we'll update you of the result in our next newsletter.

Five Winners Receive \$100 Gift Cards in Cooper Hurley Raffle

At Cooper Hurley Injury Lawyers we like to reward our loyal friends, clients and former clients by giving them the opportunity to enter raffles.

In previous years we have raffled flat-screen TVs, iPads, and entertainment systems. In the fall we raffled gift cards for Thanksgiving turkeys. In the latest competition, more than 100 people entered our Big January raffle for five gift cards worth \$100.



Cooper Hurley's Big Winter Gift Card Raffle

[Click here to play the video](#)

In this video, Cooper Hurley staff pulled out the names of the lucky five winners who were able to choose the grocery store of their choice to spend their gift card at.

The lucky winners were Simone Walls, Tom Brodowski, India Wilson, Brittany Wilson and Beth Miller.

Thank you to everyone who entered and if you were not a winner, better luck next time. All of the details of our raffles can be found on [Cooper Hurley's Facebook page](#), which we encourage you to like.

Trivia



The word February is thought to have derived from the name 'Februa' which was taken from the Roman 'Festival of Purification'. The root "februo" means "purify by sacrifice". February is the time of the 'Ice Moon' according to Pagan beliefs, and the period described as the 'Moon of the Dark Red Calf' by Black Elk. February has also been described as 'Sprout-kale' by the Anglo-Saxons as the time of the year when the kale and cabbage was edible. The day of romance which is now called Valentine's Day, is named for a Christian martyr and dates back to the 5th century, but has origins in the Roman holiday Lupercalia.

Joke



Q: What vegetable was forbidden on the ships of Arctic explorers?

A: Leeks!

Happy Birthday

Happy birthday if you were born in February. At Cooper Hurley we like to celebrate the birthdays of all of our clients, former clients and friends. Email us your birthday to marketing@cooperhurley.com and we'll send you a card in the mail.



Thank You for Your Referrals

At Cooper Hurley we rely on our friends and former clients to send us new referrals. Many of you refer us new business and we are always grateful.

Unlike some of the big factory law firms, we value those people who we have had the honor of representing, even years after their case is over. We also value all of our friends and business associates in Virginia and further afield.



By receiving our newsletter, you will have the chance to take part in raffles. Last year we raffled three flat screen TVs to lucky winners. You can also receive free copies of publications such as [The Best Book About Virginia Car Accidents and Injuries](#) and the [Top Twenty Tips for Car, Truck or Motorcycle Accidents](#). Contact marketing@cooperhurley.com.



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