

AKRON COMMUNITY BLOG

Lawsuit claims KNR firm defrauded clients, took kickbacks

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KNR lawsuit

A class-action lawsuit recently filed in Summit County Common Pleas Court accuses personal-injury law firm Kisling, Nestico and Redick (KNR) of defrauding clients injured in car accidents by receiving kickbacks from chiropractors. (*Summit County Court of Common Pleas*)

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By **Jennifer Conn, Akron reporter, cleveland.com**, jconn@cleveland.com

AKRON, Ohio - A lawsuit seeking class-action status in Summit County accuses personal-injury law firm Kisling Nestico and Redick (KNR) of defrauding clients injured in car accidents by receiving kickbacks from chiropractors.

The suit is filed on behalf of former KNR clients Member Williams, Naomi Wright and Matthew Johnson, the complaint in the Summit County Court of Common Pleas. It accuses the law firm -- known for its "Hurt in a car Call KNR!" ads -- and owners, Alberto Nestico and Robert Redick, of working with chiropractors who cold-called people "in the wake of painful car accidents when the clients are at their most vulnerable," offering free transportation to a chiropractic clinic.

Once at the clinic, the lawsuit says injured patients were coerced into unwanted healthcare, referred to Kisling Nestico and Redick and asked to sign fee agreements on the spot. The lawsuit also claims that KNR introduced clients to now-defunct Liberty Capital Funding, where clients received loans with interest rates of 49 percent or higher, plus fees, as advances on the pending lawsuits.

Ohio law prohibits attorneys from working with chiropractors for patient referrals and from compensating chiropractors for referral.

"KNR denies the allegations in the complaint," said Jim Popson, of Sutter O'Connell Attorneys in Cleveland.

According to the complaints, KNR rewarded high-referring chiropractors by taking them on vacation to Cancun, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic.

According to emails quoted in the complaint, Nestico ordered KNR attorneys to direct all KNR clients to take out the high-interest loans with Liberty Capital, which was recently formed and was run out of the home of the company's CEO, who had most recently worked as an insurance broker.

In addition, the suit argues KNR charged clients "investigation fees" for investigations that were never performed. In emails, the KNR employees referred to the fees as "sign up fees," according to the lawsuit.

Emails in the lawsuit say 10 KNR clients were charged for investigations performed by the same investigator on the same day all over Ohio, including in Cleveland and Dayton, approximately 200 miles apart.

"KNR pressures its clients into unwanted healthcare to serve the interests of the providers with whom it maintains quid pro quo relationships," the lawsuit says.

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