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*Five legal issues affecting our region right now—
and who's leading the charge for justice.*

By Melissa Jacobs

Building a Case

Improperly applied stucco has damaged many Main Line homes so severely that construction-defect litigation has become the lion's share of Reidenbach & Associates' practice. "Stucco itself is a porous material," says Scott Reidenbach, who is based in Wayne. "It's meant to let water come into it, then go out of it. But a lot of times, the builder will misapply the stucco. Water gets into the stucco through improper terminations around windows, doors, below the gutters, at the roof line and at the chimney. So the water can't get out."

Left unchecked, water can cause something all homeowners dread: mold. And not just in the basement or a few isolated places. This is mold gone wild, spreading throughout the house. Insurance-claim periods for construction defects typically expire before the mold manifests, and homeowner's insurance covers only the occurrences of mold, not negligent construction. Remediation bills for mold-infected homes can total \$200,000 and more. Reidenbach wants his clients' bills paid—and he's going after major builders in this region to make that happen.



Today, extramarital affairs are often proven thanks to GPS, texting and video surveillance.

Divorce 2.0

No one knows how acrimonious divorce proceedings can be better than Greg LaMonaca. Fueling much of that acrimony is technology, which he says is now the biggest weapon in divorce and family law.

Whether technology is used defensively or offensively depends on who's been doing what. Today, extramarital affairs are often proven thanks to GPS, texting and video surveillance. Proof of adultery can influence a judge's decision to award alimony—and how much of it.

Then there's Facebook.

"Social media has changed the entire game," LaMonaca says. "For every client, we do Internet searches to see if there are things on their profiles that will get them in trouble."

That trouble may even lurk on their friends' profiles.

"Something that may not have been inappropriate years ago may be seen differently in light of a divorce," says LaMonaca. "I always look at the date a client was married. Let's say it is Oct. 1, 1985.

"I say, 'Back then, did you ever think that you'd be in a divorce attorney's office?'"

Mark Much
Media,
(610) 565-9750

Michael Skinner
Skinner Law Firm, LLC
West Chester,
www.skinnerlawfirm.net,
(267) 388-3476

Eric Strand
Strand Law Office, LLC
West Chester,
www.strandlawoffices.com,
(610) 436-5615

DIVORCE


Gregory LaMonaca
Law Office of
Gregory
P. LaMonaca, P.C.
Media, (610) 892-3877,
www.lamonacalaw.com

Michael Much
Media,
(610) 565-9750

Michael Skinner
Skinner Law Firm, LLC
West Chester,
www.skinnerlawfirm.net,
(267) 388-3476

Eric Strand
Strand Law Office, LLC
West Chester,
www.strandlawoffices.com,
(610) 436-5615

Dana Breslin Pappano and Breslin
Brookhaven,
www.pappanoandbreslin.com, (610) 876-2529

Janet M. Colliton
Colliton Elder Law Associates, P.C.
West Chester,
www.collitonlaw.com,
(610) 436-6674

Guy Matthews
Eckell Sparks
Media, West Chester;
www.eckellsparks.com,
(484) 842-0363

Kristen Matthews
MacElree Harvey, Ltd.
West Chester, Kennett Square; www.macelree.com,
(610) 840-0272

John McKenna
MacElree Harvey, Ltd.
West Chester, Kennett Square; www.macelree.com,
(610) 436-0100

Joseph Monte Jr.
Eckell Sparks
Media, West Chester,
www.eckellsparks.com,
(484) 842-0363

Nancy Pine
Pine & Pine, LLP
West Chester,
www.pineandpine.net,
(610) 344-7100

Stephen Potts
Herr Potts and Potts
Wayne, www.hpplaw.net,
(610) 254-0114

Dana Breslin Pappano and Breslin
Brookhaven,
www.pappanoandbreslin.com, (610) 876-2529

Janet M. Colliton
Colliton Elder Law Associates, P.C.
West Chester,
www.collitonlaw.com,
(610) 436-6674

Guy Matthews
Eckell Sparks
Media, West Chester;
www.eckellsparks.com,
(484) 842-0363

Kristen Matthews
MacElree Harvey, Ltd.
West Chester, Kennett Square; www.macelree.com,
(610) 840-0272

John McKenna
MacElree Harvey, Ltd.
West Chester, Kennett Square; www.macelree.com,
(610) 436-0100

Joseph Monte Jr.
Eckell Sparks
Media, West Chester,
www.eckellsparks.com,
(484) 842-0363

Nancy Pine
Pine & Pine, LLP
West Chester,
www.pineandpine.net,
(610) 344-7100

Stephen Potts
Herr Potts and Potts
Wayne, www.hpplaw.net,
(610) 254-0114

Dana Breslin Pappano and Breslin
Brookhaven,
www.pappanoandbreslin.com, (610) 876-2529

Janet M. Colliton
Colliton Elder Law Associates, P.C.
West Chester,
www.collitonlaw.com,
(610) 436-6674

Guy Matthews
Eckell Sparks
Media, West Chester;
www.eckellsparks.com,
(484) 842-0363

Kristen Matthews
MacElree Harvey, Ltd.
West Chester, Kennett Square; www.macelree.com,
(610) 840-0272

John McKenna
MacElree Harvey, Ltd.
West Chester, Kennett Square; www.macelree.com,
(610) 436-0100

Joseph Monte Jr.
Eckell Sparks
Media, West Chester,
www.eckellsparks.com,
(484) 842-0363

Nancy Pine
Pine & Pine, LLP
West Chester,
www.pineandpine.net,
(610) 344-7100

Stephen Potts
Herr Potts and Potts
Wayne, www.hpplaw.net,
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www.mankogold.com,
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Garrison Environmental
Law Practice
Malvern,
www.garrisonenvironmental.com,
(484) 875-3025

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& Fox, LLP
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www.mankogold.com,
(484) 430-2310

Nicole Moshang
Manko, Gold, Katcher
& Fox, LLP
Bala Cynwyd,
www.mankogold.com,
(484) 430-2324

Brian Nagle
MacElree Harvey, Ltd.
West Chester, Kennett
Square; www.macelree.com,
(610) 436-0100

Richard Pomeroy
Garrison Environmental
Law Practice
Malvern,
www.garrisonenvironmental.com,
(484) 875-3025

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Lamb MacErlane, P.C.
West Chester, Bryn Mawr;
www.lambmcerlane.com,
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Christopher Roe
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Exton,
www.foxrothschild.com,
(610) 458-4987

Mary Ann Rossi
MacElree Harvey, Ltd.
West Chester, Kennett
Square; www.macelree.com,
(610) 436-0100

Suzanne Schiller
Manko, Gold, Katcher
& Fox, LLP
Bala Cynwyd,
www.mankogold.com,
(484) 430-2354

Jane Shields
MacElree Harvey, Ltd.
West Chester, Kennett
Square; www.macelree.com,
(610) 840-0261

Jonathan Spergel
Manko, Gold, Katcher
& Fox, LLP
Bala Cynwyd,
www.mankogold.com,
(484) 430-2309

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Gregory LaMonaca
Law Office
of Gregory P.
LaMonaca, P.C.
Media, (610) 892-3877,
www.lamonacalaw.com,

David Auerbach
Eckell Sparks
Media, West Chester;
www.eckellsparks.com,
(484) 842-0363

Rami Bishay
Cox & Bishay, LLP
West Chester,
www.coxbishay.com,
(610) 344-0300

Christopher Casserly
Law Office of Gregory
P. LaMonaca, P.C.
Media,
www.lamonacalaw.com,
(610) 892-3877

Samantha Cole
Schindler Law Group,
LLC
Kennett Square,
www.schindlerlawgroup.com,
(610) 444-6216

Walter Eells
Gawthrop Greenwood,
P.C.
West Chester,
www.gawthrop.com,
(610) 696-8225

Craig Huffman
Eckell Sparks
Media, West Chester;
www.eckellsparks.com,
(484) 842-0363

Jaime Jano
MacElree Harvey, Ltd.
West Chester, Kennett
Square; www.macelree.com,
(610) 840-0203

Donald Kohler Jr.
Kohler Law Offices,
LLC
West Chester,
www.kohlerlaw.net,
(610) 430-7500

Marta Laynas
West Chester,
www.chestercountyfamilylaw.com,
(610) 692-3460

Arnold Machles
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(610) 667-0555

Maureen Mackay
Gawthrop Greenwood,
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www.gawthrop.com,
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Lawrence Persick
Lamb MacErlane, P.C.
West Chester, Bryn Mawr;
www.lambmcerlane.com,
(610) 430-8000

Andrea Pettine
Pettine Law Offices,
LLC
West Chester,
www.pettinefamilylaw.com,
(610) 692-7090

Julie Potts
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Square; www.macelree.com,
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Jordan Reilly &
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842-0363

Priscilla Mattison
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Bala Cynwyd,
www.bernardresnick.com,
(610) 660-7774

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MacElree Harvey, Ltd.
West Chester, Kennett
Square www.macelree.com,
(610) 840-0286

LABOR



Robin Bond
Transition
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LLC,

Wayne, (610) 640-5373,
www.transitionstrategies.com

Brian Boreman
Unruh, Turner, Burke
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(610) 692-1371

Joann Drust
Schindler Law Group,
LLC
Kennett Square, www.
schindlerlawgroup.com,
(610) 444-6216

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Kennett Square,
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Robert Kelly
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Paoli,
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352-3838

Scott Klein
Buckley Brion McGuire
& Morris, LLP
West Chester,
www.buckleyllp.com,
(610) 436-4400

E. Daniel Larkin
Merion Station,
www.danlarkinlaw.com,
(610) 660-5201

Mary Metzler
Devon,
www.mtmetzler.com,
(610) 687-1787

Steve Paisner
Paisner Litvin, LLP
Bala Cynwyd,
www.paisnerlitvin.com,
(484) 436-2183

John Stanzione
Lamb MacErlane, P.C.
West Chester, Bryn Mawr;
www.lambmcerlane.com,
(610) 701-4415

William Wilson
MacElree Harvey, Ltd.
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(610) 840-0206

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Square; www.macelree.com,
(610) 840-0124

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P.C.
Bala Cynwyd,
www.lowenthalabrams.com,
(610) 667-7511

Gerald Baldino
Sacchetta & Baldino
Media,
www.sbattorney.com,
(610) 891-9212

Michael Davey
Eckell Sparks
Media, West Chester;
www.eckellsparks.com,
(484) 842-0363

William Gallagher
MacElree Harvey, Ltd.
West Chester, Kennett
Square,
www.macelree.com,
(610) 840-0200

Peter Hart
Karp & Hart
West Chester,
www.karphart.com,
(610) 430-2200

Stephen Karp
Karp & Hart
West Chester,
www.karphart.com,
(610) 430-2200

Patrick Mintzer
Buckley Brion McGuire
& Morris, LLP
West Chester,
www.buckleyllp.com,
(610) 436-4400

Thomas Sacchetta
Sacchetta & Baldino
Media,
www.sbattorney.com,
(610) 891-9212

Leonard Sloane
Eckell Sparks
Media, West Chester;
www.eckellsparks.com,
(484) 842-0363

Frank Wesner
Mutzel Wesner &
Silvestro, LLP
Media,
(610) 627-2300

PERSONAL INJURY



**Leonard
Sloane**
Eckell Sparks
Media,
West Chester;
(484) 842-0363,
www.eckellsparks.com,

Andrew D'Amico
Media,
(610) 565-6700

Michael Davey
Eckell Sparks
Media, West Chester;
www.eckellsparks.com,
(484) 842-0363

Stephen Devine
Schuster Law
Media,
www.schusterlaw.com,
(610) 892-9200

Andrew Eckert Buckley
Brion, McGuire &
Morris, LLP
West Chester,
www.buckleyllp.com,
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