



# SAUNDERS and SCHMIELER

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Greetings!

**Stay informed:** This monthly newsletter was created with our clients in mind. Keep up to date on current legal news and access updates straight from the firm every month. Visit our website for further information and sign up for a consultation today.

### Cases to Note



#### Judge: Stop Wearing Pajamas to Court

Male Supreme Court litigators are required to wear a coat and a tie when they attend oral arguments. Female lawyers must be dressed in comparable attire. The high court's online visitor's guide suggests a "suit, dress, or dress slacks with matching jacket." Hats and furs aren't permitted regardless of gender. Magisterial District Judge Craig Long of Columbia County, Pa., isn't so strict. A sign he posted outside his courtroom asks

visitors who appear before him to follow a simple dress code: No pajamas.

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#### New Maryland Appellate Decision is a Cautionary Tale to Property Insurers and their Attorneys

Maryland's Court of Special Appeals issued an opinion in *Cumberland Insurance Group v. Delmarva Power*, \_\_\_ Md. App. \_\_\_, No. 72, Sept. Term 2015 (February 1, 2016), which should serve as a cautionary tale to property insurers in Maryland and their attorneys. The opinion affirms a trial court's entry of summary judgment in the defendants favor, because the insurer caused key evidence to be destroyed, or, at least substantially facilitated its destruction.

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Texting and driving - House panel backs expanding

## ban on texting while driving

A legislative panel on Monday approved a bill to expand Virginia's law against texting while driving to include other distracting activities, such as reading social media postings. Subcommittee No. 1 of the House Transportation Committee voted 6-1 in favor of House Bill 461, which would make it illegal for a driver to "manually select multiple icons or enter multiple letters" on a cellphone or other handheld personal communication device.

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## Firm Updates

Saunders & Schmieler has decades of experience representing insurance companies and their insureds.

Jeffrey R. Schmieler, Managing Partner, has been engaged as coverage counsel in many coverage cases litigated in Maryland, West Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Florida, Pennsylvania and other jurisdictions and has provided coverage analysis and opinions involving a significant number of domestic and international insurance policies.



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As always, we truly appreciate your business. We hope that this update has been informative and would appreciate any feedback you might have.

Sincerely,

Melissa McDermott  
Saunders & Schmieler Law Offices

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