

2007 **40**
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40 Illinois Attorneys Under Forty to Watch

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Peter D. Hoste



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Age: 34

Specialty: Personal Injury, Medical Malpractice

Law School: Loyola University Chicago School of Law

Leahy & Hoste

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Although Peter Hoste is only 34, he already boasts a string of achievements that any veteran attorney would covet.

Just four years after graduating from law school, Hoste not only earned partner status at his law firm, he showed enough talent to convince his partner, former Illinois State Bar Association President Tom Leahy to change the firm name. Hoste now practices at Chicago's Leahy & Hoste, where he has crafted a reputation as one of the top personal-injury and medical-malpractice specialists in the city.

Hoste's achievements are all the more impressive because of the field in which he's gained them. Medical malpractice predominantly favors defendants. This hasn't stopped Hoste from obtaining several seven- and eight-figure verdicts for his clients.

Such successes have gained the attention of Hoste's peers.

"I daresay that if all plaintiffs' attorneys had Pete's winning combination of intelligence, integrity and charm, there would be very little for the general public to complain about when it comes to the legal profession," said Bradley Nahrstadt, with Chicago's Williams Montgomery & John, Ltd.

Hoste's legal victories are many. In one case, he obtained a \$5 million settlement on behalf of a 50-year-old electrician who died of a heart attack following elective shoulder surgery. He earned a \$9 million verdict on behalf of a single mother who died of a pulmonary embolism that a doctor misdiagnosed as sepsis. In another case recently affirmed by the Illinois Appellate Court, Hoste and his partner represented the family of a man who was killed by a truck driver who was impaired by cocaine and marijuana; the jury awarded \$19.2 million.

In what is perhaps his most impressive

victory, Hoste and his partner Tom Leahy earned a verdict of more than \$22 million on behalf of a client who developed compartment syndrome after undergoing heart bypass surgery and ultimately had to have both of his legs amputated above the knees.

Hoste has achieved these results thanks, of course, to his legal skill and knowledge. But his fellow attorneys say Hoste has another quality that has played a role in his thriving career: He truly cares about his clients.

"I personally have observed Pete interacting with his clients. His compassion and his ability to communicate complicated situations are unique qualities that put Pete in a category of his own," said Peter Flowers, with the Geneva-based firm of Foote, Meyers, Mielke & Flowers, LLC. "No doubt, these qualities also make him quite successful in front of juries."

Even more impressive than his string of courtroom successes, his peers say, is Hoste's commitment to his industry. For the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association alone, Hoste has been appointed to the Board of Managers and has served on the Medical Negligence Committee, Young Lawyers Committee and Membership Committee. He is also a frequent lecturer. In the last several years, Hoste has given presentations to the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, Chicago Bar Association and Federal Trial Bar Training Course on the use of medical records at trial, discovery preparation from the plaintiff's perspective and opening statements.

"Peter is a hard-working and talented trial lawyer," said Andrew Kopon Jr., with the Chicago firm of Cremer, Kopon, Shaughnessy & Spina LLC. "His demeanor is consistently professional. He is a pleasure to work with in an adversarial setting. He is ethical, and represents his clients in an exemplary fashion without sacrificing professional civility toward opposing counsel."