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Michigan Supreme Court Allows Internet Broadcast of Oral Argument in Important *Woodman* Appeal

On October 29, 2009, the Michigan Supreme Court heard oral argument in *Woodman v. Kera*, an important case in which the Court was faced with the issue of whether parents in Michigan can enter into enforceable pre-injury waiver of liability agreements on behalf of their children. Given the high level of public interest in the case, the Court permitted the live audiovisual broadcast of the oral argument, something it has rarely done previously.

On June 18, 2010, the Court issued its decision in that appeal, holding that such parental waiver agreements are unenforceable (for details regarding the Court's decision, see our separate article relating to that decision on this site). While the Court has issued its decision, the recorded oral argument before the justices may still be of interest to lawyers and others who follow developments and debates in this area of the law.

As of the date this article was posted, the State Bar of Michigan has a webcast of the oral argument posted on its site (www.michbar.org). Viewing the argument online offers the non-lawyer a rare opportunity to watch judges wrestle with the many challenging public policy considerations relating to waiver-of-liability agreements, and what courts' role should be in regulating such agreements.

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At Kohner, Mann & Kailas, S.C., we continue to believe the right to the "Pursuit of Happiness" is a right worth preserving. Our S/F/R Team, guides and fights for businesses and organizations that provide recreational opportunities and products, so that our clients are not overwhelmed by liability that might otherwise threaten their continued success (or even existence). Preserving the right is often not an easy or simple task, but we know this mission is an important one to our clients, and to the future of a free society. If you would like to explore whether we can help your organization achieve its mission, contact us. Founded in 1937, KMKSC is a business and commercial law firm providing legal expertise across the numerous areas of law encountered by businesses in the normal course of their day-to-day operations and growth. In addition to our S/F/R activity our services range from high-profile appellate representation and international business issues to ensuring that critical everyday needs, such as debt recovery, are fulfilled efficiently and effectively.

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