

Chicago Daily Law Bulletin®

Volume 156, No. 163

Friday, August 20, 2010

Not one, but two surprises on the family front

By John Flynn Rooney
Law Bulletin staff writer

When Chicago lawyer Stacey Feeley Cavanagh saw three black circles on an ultrasound image more than four years ago, she and her husband, Timothy J. Cavanagh, were thrilled.

The couple had encountered difficulty getting pregnant and went through in vitro fertilization.

"We had no idea it was going to be triplets," she said. "When we saw the circles, it took our breath away."

During Stacey's 36th week of pregnancy, sons Ryan, Jack and Charlie were born on Dec. 24, 2006.

The couple's sons were among 6,118 triplets born in the United States during 2006, according to an article on the website About.com. The rate of triplets was 143.4 per 100,000 births in 2006, a chart accompanying the article showed.

While statistics show that one set of triplets is unusual, the Cavanagh couple would have another surprise.

In late 2007, Stacey visited the doctor and learned she was pregnant again, but without the aid of fertility drugs.

"I was hoping for a girl," Stacey said.

An ultrasound image, however, showed the couple was expecting another set of triplets.

"I was in shock," Stacey said.

Tim, owner of the Cavanagh Law Group in Chicago, however, provided a calmer response, she said.

"Stace, we just won the lottery," Tim said.

The couples' second set of triplets, a son, Timothy J. Jr., known as T.J., along with two daughters, Kiley and Katherine, were born on July 22, 2008.

When the second set of triplets was born, the couple's six children were all under the age of 19 months.

While the Cavanaghs are both busy practicing law with Tim's firm, their family life can be equally demanding.

"We are managed chaos at our house," Stacey said.

She stressed that the couple has hired help. Two women have assisted with caring



Marina Makropoulos

Chicago lawyers Timothy J. Cavanagh and Stacey Feeley Cavanagh had their first set of triplets in 2006, and their second set of triplets in 2008. When the second set of triplets was born, the couple's six children were all under the age of 19 months.

for the children since they were born.

"We're very fortunate to have two incredible women help us come through this journey," Stacey said.

Stacey works two to three days a week as a partner with her husband's five-lawyer plaintiff's personal injury law firm.

Tim, 48, said of balancing a busy practice and family life, "They both require a tremendous amount of time and commitment."

The couple averages about six to six and a half hours' sleep a night, Tim said.

"As busy as we are with work, we are definitely hands-on with the kids," said Stacey, 40.

She said she sometimes feels spread thin.

"When they're all in a 'Mommy' phase, it's hard, so I need to make sure I'm fulfilling all of their needs" Stacey said.

But the six children do sleep through the night regularly, she said.

"You're really excited to see them when they wake up in the morning," Stacey said. "You're kind of excited to put them to bed at night too."

Tim can be seen running through the Lincoln Park neighborhood pushing a triple stroller carrying one set of triplets.

Stacey maintains an even temperament, said Tanya B. Park, who worked with Stacey at Ungaretti & Harris LLP.

"They both maintain a sense of humor and appreciate what they've been given," said Park, now a partner with Cassidy, Schade LLP.

The couple met in 1993 while both worked at Corboy & Demetrio P.C. in Chicago. Tim was an associate with the firm and Stacey worked there as a law clerk.

continued...

They have been married for 10 years.

Stacey later practiced at Williams, Montgomery & John Ltd. She then joined Ungaretti & Harris for 10 years, including as a partner for six years.

While at Ungaretti & Harris, she defended corporations against product liability cases and in mass tort cases. She also handled commercial litigation.

Since late 2009, Stacey has represented plaintiffs in medical malpractice, products liability and wrongful death cases.

She called the move to the plaintiff side

an easy transition.

“A lot of the law is the same,” Stacey said. “You’re on a different side.”

Having an established practice has allowed Tim more flexibility than he had a decade ago, he said.

“We’re able to control my time to an extent, unless I’m on trial,” Tim said.

Sometimes Stacey brings the children to the firm’s downtown office for a visit with Tim and staff members.

Tim has represented clients injured in train accidents and he keeps train models

in the office.

“We pull those out and (the six children) go crazy playing with the trains,” said Danielle E. Quivey, the Cavanagh Law Group’s office manager. “It’s fun to have the excitement of not just one child in the office, but six.”

Tim and Stacey both were raised in the Chicago area. Both sets of grandparents and other family members regularly see the six children.

“They get a lot of love and attention from everybody,” Stacey said.