

State Your Case

A Personal Injury Law Update Provided by the Law Offices of Petrillo & Goldberg, P.C.

Winter 2006

Petrillo & Goldberg, P.C. ATTORNEYS AT LAW *Just Compensation for the Unjustly Injured*

SOBERING FACTS ABOUT DRINKING AND DRIVING!

It's a sad and sometimes tragic Holiday tradition -- Americans imbibe too much alcohol and get behind the wheel. The results can be deadly.

Although stories about wasted drivers getting home safely are like fish tales, more often than not, the police are vigilant and successful in catching drunk drivers.

Unfortunately, on the days around the celebratory holidays - especially New Year's Eve and Fourth of July - alcohol-related automobile accidents increase.

The attorneys at the law firm of Petrillo and Goldberg remind you to be responsible during the Holiday season. If you are involved in an automobile accident with an impaired driver, contact the attorneys at Petrillo and Goldberg right away. The veteran staff will work diligently to pursue what you deserve.

The statistics are alarming. According to the National Highway Transportation Safety Association, in 2005, 16,885 people were killed in alcohol-related traffic accidents -- totaling 39 percent of all traffic fatalities for the year. The 16,885 deaths represent an average of one alcohol-related fatality every 31 minutes.

In New Jersey in 2005, drunk drivers killed 222 people, a number which totals about 30 percent of all traffic fatalities.

In American, about 254,000 people are injured each year due to impaired drivers, which averages one person injured every 2 minutes. According to the FBI's statistics, more than 1.4 million drivers were arrested for driving under the influence.

In 2001, 2,053 people were killed in alcohol-related crashes between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day; 127 were killed during the Independence Day weekend and 284 were killed during the Memorial Day weekend.

The penalties for drunk or impaired driving are severe in New Jersey. A first offense can result in stiff fines, license suspense or imprisonment. For many years now, the state of New Jersey has participated in "You Drink. You Drive. You Lose." The national campaign's goal is to deter impaired driving.

It doesn't take many drinks to become impaired. The blood-alcohol concentration of 0.08 percent or greater can find a person guilty of drunk driving.
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Consuming even small amounts of alcohol dulls the senses, decreases reaction time and hampers judgment, vision and alertness.

Any alcoholic drink can impair a driver. For example, a 12-ounce beer has .54 ounces of alcohol; a 5-ounce glass of wine has .55 ounces of alcohol; and one cocktail has .53 ounces of alcohol.

People who are hosting Holiday parties can be held responsible for their drunken guests who are involved in car accidents. Make sure you monitor friends and family and don't let them drive home impaired.

How to Spot a Drunk Driver,

Excerpts from Mothers Against Drunk Driving's Web site

If you spot any of the following signs while on the road, jot down the license plate number and car's description, and call the police. Do not stop the vehicle – leave that to the authorities.

- Weaving or zigzagging across the road.
- Straddling lanes or driving on the center line.
- Drifting over the lanes.
- Driving without headlights at night.
- Erratic braking or stopping.
- Ignoring traffic signal.
- Nearly striking parked cars, signs, etc.
- Tailgating.
- Driving on the wrong side of the road.
- Driver chugging a beer while behind the wheel.



Seasons Greetings!

The staff at Petrillo and Goldberg wishes our clients and their families a joyous Holiday and prosperous new year.

Remember, if you suddenly find yourself in need of our services during the Holidays, our staff is on-call around-the-clock every day of the week.

Happy Holidays!



The attorneys and staff at Petrillo and Goldberg are happy to announce their educational sponsorship for a bright fifth-grade student from Pennsauken named Kyle Kirk.

Kyle participated in the National Young Scholars Program in Washington, D.C., early this year, an expensive trip for Petrillo and Goldberg's sponsorship gift helped to offset the cost.

Kyle has been part of the gifted program in Pennsauken since the first grade and this elite educational experience will give him a jumpstart for his future. The National Young Scholars Program is designed and created specifically for the nation's most highly acclaimed third, fourth and fifth-grade students, each of whom has been personally selected for nomination by his or her teacher.

Steve Petrillo, Scott Goldberg and their colleagues encourage and support students in their educational pursuits and wish Kyle the best in his future endeavors.

Dumb Laws, both here and abroad...

Maybe these laws are outdated, but they are still on the books...

- Albania has the lowest alcohol density percentage for drunk driving - 0.01 percent. In the United States, the percentage is 0.08.
- In Zimbabwe, citizens may not make offensive gestures at a passing state motorcade.
- In South Africa, the law requires a license to purchase a television set.
- In Indiana, it is illegal for a liquor store to sell cold soft drinks.
- In Ohio, it is illegal to get a fish drunk.
- In Texas, it is illegal to take more than three sips of beer at a time while standing.
- In Nebraska, it is illegal for bar owners to sell beer unless they are simultaneously simmering a kettle of soup.
- In North Dakota, beer and pretzels can't be served at the same time in any bar or restaurant.
- In Utah, the law states: "Intoxicated persons are prohibited from operating a vehicle on any public highway or street, except for a wheelbarrow."

Editor's Note:

Welcome to Petrillo and Goldberg's newsletter, *State Your Case*. Periodically you can read about our work in the field of personal injury and workers compensation law. For those who are internet-savvy, be sure to check out our redesigned Web site - www.petrilloandgoldberg.com and sign up for the firm's e-newsletter. See you in the paper! Cheryl Squadrito.

Myths and Facts about... Drinking and Driving

MYTH: Coffee can sober up someone who has drank too much.

FACT: Only time or sleep will work. It takes about one hour to oxidize each drink.




MYTH: Hard liquor is more intoxicating than beer or wine.

FACT: A 12-ounce glass of beer or wine cooler and a five-ounce glass of wine contain the same amount of alcohol and the same intoxication potential as 1 1/2 ounces of liquor.

MYTH: Someone who has had too much to drink will look intoxicated.

FACT: A person's physical appearance can be misleading. One drink can impair someone's ability to drive. Judgment is the first thing affected when someone has been drinking.

A Drink is a Drink is a Drink

	Beer	Wine	Alcohol
			
Volume	12oz.	5oz.	1 1/3
Percent Alcohol	4.5%	119%	40%
Amount Alcohol	.54 oz	.55 oz	.53 oz



Valuable Web sites:

- www.madd.org - Mothers Against Drunk Driving's national site.
- www.sadd.org - Students Against Destructive Decisions' national site was founded as Students Against Drunk Driving.
- www.state.nj.us/lps/hts/alcohol.html - The State of New Jersey's Division of Highway Traffic Safety's alcohol division.
- www.nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/pdf/nrd-30/NCSA/TSF2005/AlcoholTSF05.pdf - The NHTSA Web site on Traffic Safety Facts.
- www.state.nj.us/victims - The state's site for the Victims of Crime Compensation Board.



Petrillo & Goldberg's lawyers are highly experienced in negotiating with insurance companies and litigating workers' compensation cases in court so that your chances of obtaining every benefit to which you are entitled is maximized.

We fight hard for you to obtain all of your benefits for partial permanent disability, including your money.

Please feel free to contact us should you or someone you know sustain an injury while working.

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The lawyers at Petrillo and Goldberg want you to call us if you're ever injured in an accident or at work. We want to be your law firm. If you have a legal matter that needs attention, please contact us. If we cannot handle your case, we will refer you to a competent firm that can. Please feel free to refer us to your family, friends and neighbors for their personal injury or workers' compensation legal needs. We welcome the opportunity to help you.

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