

State Your Case

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

Spring 2007

Petrillo & Goldberg, P.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
Just Compensation for the Unjustly Injured

FIRM ANNOUNCES NEW DIVISION

The attorneys at Petrillo and Goldberg are pleased to announce a new division of their law practice. The law staff will now represent clients in Social Security disability claims, which are given to people who are unable to work due to being severely injured.

"Adding Social Security disability claims is a natural extension of the cases already handled. We're now a full-service firm for catastrophic workers' compensation and personal injury cases," said attorney and partner Scott Schulman, who will be overseeing the new Social Security disability division.

If a client is injured in a car accident or

on the job, the firm will handle the case through all the stages – from filing the initial claims to Social Security claims.

"This new specialty will pay off big for our clients," says Scott Schulman. For example, Victor C. of South Jersey was permanently injured in a slip and fall accident and was awarded a personal injury settlement. In addition to his settlement, Victor was found to be permanently disabled and will receive Social Security disability benefits.

Founding partner Steve Petrillo said that the firm would help clients to get their checks quicker, adding "the whole process will move more quickly."

"This is an exciting new facet of our firm. We'll be better able to serve our clients," Petrillo said.

If you think you may be entitled to Social Security benefits or know someone who is eligible for them, please contact the staff at Petrillo and Goldberg at 856-486-4343.



This piece of wreckage was the car of our client, Regina Williams, who was lucky to recover from severe injuries caused by this accident. Read her story inside.

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Client receives a hefty settlement



Regina Williams receives settlement check from attorney Scott Goldberg in time for Christmas.

It was a summer night out with friends that was like any other, but in a few seconds, a car accident changed Regina Williams' life forever.

In June 2006, Regina was driving her friend home and was stopped at a traffic signal on Route 70 in Cherry Hill. Suddenly -- "Pow" she was struck by another driver's car. The driver was not drunk, but he had been drinking alcohol, reports concluded.

Regina was severely injured and hospitalized for some time. To help protect her rights, Regina hired the veteran attorneys at Petrillo and Goldberg who aggressively fought with the insurance company for a timely settlement for her case.

The case was resolved expeditiously within six months and Regina received a substantial settlement check.

"I was happy with the work they did for me," said Regina, who lives in Lindenwold, but has not returned to work. "I'm feeling better now."

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.

Believe it or not, these laws are on the books!

... In Florida, if an elephant is left tied to a parking meter, the meter must be paid just like it would for a vehicle.

... In Louisiana, biting someone with false teeth or dentures is aggravated assault, while biting someone with "natural" teeth is considered simple assault.

... In Ohio, a license is needed to keep a bear as a pet.

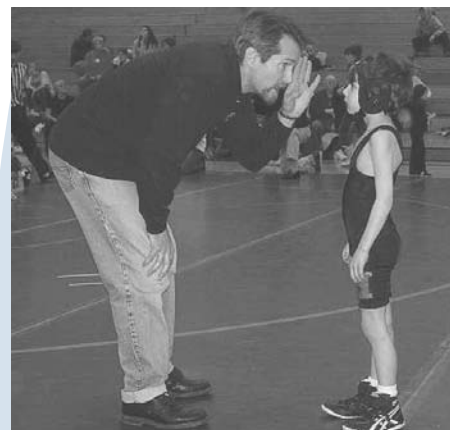
... In England, those wishing to own a television must apply for a license. Also, it is illegal to leave baggage unattended in England. Picking up abandoned baggage is an act of terrorism.

... In Alaska, it is considered an offense to push a live moose from a moving airplane.

... In New York, it is against the law for a blind person to drive a vehicle.

... In Corpus Christi, Texas, it is illegal to raise alligators in your home. Also, it is still a "hanging offense" to steal cattle.

"Wrestling is in their blood"



Petrillo and Goldberg, P.C. is happy to be a sponsor of the youth wrestling program in Haddonfield, NJ. Participating in this sport is a family tradition for senior partner, Scott Goldberg.

Scott's late father was a high school physician and the coach of a local wrestling team. Brother Stuart wrestled along with Scott at Cherry Hill East. Now Scott is helping coach the Haddonfield Youth Program where several of his sons are embarking on their own wrestling careers.

Civil litigation is an aggressive way to make a living. "This is why former athletes gravitate to trial work", Scott Goldberg said. "From early on they acquire mental toughness that is crucial for our profession".

In the above photo Scott coaches a young wrestler during a recent tournament.

Injured on the Job: What Should You Do?

The veteran attorneys at Petrillo and Goldberg are highly experienced at negotiating with insurance companies and litigating workers' compensation cases in court so your chances of obtaining every benefit to which you are entitled is maximized.

For example, even if your employer paid for your medical bills and lost wages, it doesn't mean your workers' compensation claim is completed. Many employers don't want workers to know that they have a right to file a claim for a permanent disability settlement.

Under the New Jersey Workers' Compensation Act, an injured employee in most instances cannot seek additional recovery from an employer beyond what is provided for under the workers' compensation laws. An injured employee, however, is not barred from bringing a civil action for recovery against others who may be responsible for the injury. These claims are referred to as "third party claims" and may be an important part of your case. Also, New Jersey law prohibits employers from retaliating against employees for asserting rights to compensation for work-related injuries.

You may be eligible to receive a permanent disability settlement and a consultation with an attorney from Petrillo and Goldberg can answer your many questions.

Here is a list of questions frequently asked of our attorneys.



I was injured on the job. What should I do?

When workers are hurt on the job, they sometimes don't know what benefits they are entitled to receive or the process of getting workers' compensation benefits.

In addition to notifying your employer and documenting your injury, you should have a prompt follow-up with an attorney who will fight for your rights.

According to New Jersey law, you are entitled to three benefits:

1. **Your Medical Treatment.** Once you give notice of your injury, you are eligible to receive medical treatment paid for by your employer. This treatment must be authorized by the workers' compensation carrier and you must go to the doctors it selects. Attorney involvement is critical at this point to make sure that your medical needs are served and that you are treated fairly.
2. **Your Temporary Disability Rights.** After you have begun to receive medical treatment, you may be entitled to obtain temporary disability benefits. This is in place of the income you are losing by not working during your disability period. The workers' compensation carriers often balk at paying this benefit and your lawyer may need to fight on your behalf.
3. **Your Permanent Disability Award.** After your medical treatment has been completed, your attorney can fight to obtain a monetary settlement, which is known as "partial permanent disability." The permanency award is based on a complicated calculation, which takes many factors into account. It is essential that you have a lawyer on your side to ensure you receive all of what you are entitled to get.

How long do I have to wait before I receive benefits from my employer or the insurance carrier?

Generally, you can expect to wait two weeks before receiving temporary disability benefits. If your employer or the insurance carrier unreasonably and negligently delays denial of a claim, it may be liable to you for an additional 25% of the amount due plus any reasonable legal fees incurred in relation to the delay. A delay of 30 days or more is presumed to be unreasonable.

The attorneys at Petrillo and Goldberg are highly experienced in negotiating with insurance companies and litigating workers' compensation cases in court so 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.

Petrillo & Goldberg, P.C.

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Dedicated to Protecting the Rights of the Seriously Injured

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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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