

INBRIEF

LAW NEWS YOU CAN USE TM

Spring/Summer 2015

Multi-Million Dollar Recoveries for our Clients this Summer

Galfand Berger attorneys continue to achieve significant results for our clients. We hire the experts, get the records, fully investigate the case, and stand nose-to-nose against teams of lawyers who represent corporations and insurance companies. We are the voice for our clients in the civil justice system: workers, consumers, and motorists who all too often are the victims of another party's negligence.

Many of our clients suffer devastating, and sometimes fatal, injuries. Sadly, these tragic injuries or deaths could have been prevented had the responsible parties taken appropriate precautions. This summer alone, we have achieved significant recoveries for injured workers and motorists. Of course, these recoveries will never fully make our clients whole. However, these hardfought victories will help ease the medical, emotional and economic injustices suffered by our clients and their families. Below are just a few examples of cases our firm resolved this summer:

- Rick Jurewicz obtained a \$5 million recovery for the family of a man fatally injured when an 1800 pound paper roll crushed him. The paper roll had been improperly loaded and secured. Simple precautions could have prevented this senseless death. The responsible parties failed to properly block and secure the bulk cargo they shipped by railcar. They likewise failed to provide proper training and instruction in railcar safety. As a result, our client died leaving behind his wife and an extended, loving family. Rick's hard work resulted in financial security for our client;
- Debra Jensen secured a nearly \$2 million dollar settlement for our client who suffered devasting leg injuries after being run over by construction equipment. The driver and owner of the equipment failed to utilize common sense industry standards in the operation of the equipment and failed to take precautionary measures on surrounding roadways. Debra's work eases our client's

worries about his future:

- Peter Patton and Debra Jensen partnered in an industrial products case in which a machine malfunctioned, pinning our client against a wall. After suffocating for nearly two minutes, our client died. Pete and Deb recovered \$1.6 million for our client's family;
- Mike Malvey successfully negotiated a \$900,000 settlement for our client, a passenger in a rental car, who was badly hurt in a guardrail accident. Even though the insurance company orginally offered only \$15,000 to settle the claim, Mike persevered until he reached the best outcome for our client.

Galfand Berger attorneys have represented catastrophically injured clients and their families for over 65 years. Our firm has a long history of raising the bar for obtaining verdicts and settlements in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. If you or someone you know has been injured, please call Galfand Berger toll free at **1-800-222-8792.**

New Reading Office

On August 20, Galfand Berger moved to a new office in the City of Reading! We moved from our Washington Street address to a larger, modern and more accessible space at **29 North Sixth Street, Reading PA 19601**. Our new office is located on the ground floor of the Service Access Management (SAM) building directly across from the Courthouse.

With this move, Galfand Berger will have two convenient Reading offices to serve our clients.

Besides our new office, Galfand Berger also has an office inside the USW Local 6996 Union Hall (1251 North Front Street, Reading, PA 19601). You can reach us at either office by calling 1-800-222-8792 (USWA).



Marc Jacobs Honored

As many of our clients know, Marc Jacobs retired from practice in 2012. He left an indelible mark at our firm, touching many lives. So often, our clients and colleagues ask, "How is Marc?"

In retirement, Marc continues to be active, volunteering as an assistant teacher for the EANA Friends of Education at Cole Manor Elementary School. This year, he received the 2015 EANA Friends of Education Award after nomination by teachers and parents of students in his kindergarten classes. The award describes a man we all know and love.



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GALFAND BERGER, LLP



Galfand Berger Lawyers Selected to the 2015 *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers* and *Rising Stars* Awards

Year after year, Galfand Berger attorneys demonstrate their commitment to our clients and our community with success in and out of the courtroom. This year, we are proud to announce that four of our attorneys—Arthur Bugay, Rick Jurewicz, Peter Patton and Norman Weinstein—have been named to the *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers* list. Selection to the *Super Lawyers* list is reserved for only the top 5% of more than 34,000 attorneys practicing in Pennsylvania.

Galfand Berger attorney **Michael Malvey** was named to 2015 *Pennsylvania Rising Stars* list, a unique award for attorneys under the age of 40. This honor is only given to $2\frac{1}{2}$ percent of Pennsylvania lawyers.

Both the *Super Lawyers* and *Rising Stars* selection uses a process of nomination and voting by peers to single out attorneys with noteworthy achievements in their area of practice. After you read their biographies, you will learn why our attorneys received these top honors:



Arthur Bugay's practice areas include Products' Liability,
Construction Accident litigation,
Personal Injury litigation, Negligent
Security, and Employment law.
Arthur is a regular presenter at
Continuing Legal Education
seminars and has taught at Temple
University and Moravian College.
Arthur is an "AV" rated attorney by
Martindale-Hubbell and a member
of the Multi-Million Dollar

Advocates' Forum. In addition to his work in the firm's Personal Injury Department, Arthur is an advocate for disabled and injured children and for the elderly, which is evident through the volunteer legal services he provides for the Legal Clinic for the Disabled. In 2009, Arthur was Pennsylvania's regional top fundraiser for the American Diabetes Association, and has participated in a series of Iron-Man competitions to fundraise for both the ADA and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Association. This is Arthur's sixth consecutive year to be selected to the *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers* list.



Rick Jurewicz represents people injured by unsafe products and defective tools, equipment, and machinery. As a trial attorney, he is Board Certified as a Civil Trial Advocate by the National Board of Trial Advocacy. Rick holds memberships in the Million Dollar Advocates Forum, Outstanding Lawyers of America, American Association for Justice, Pennsylvania Association for Justice, the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association, and the

American Academy of Trial Counsel. With more than \$160 million in verdicts and settlements for his clients, Rick is responsible for some of the largest recoveries in Galfand Berger's history. This is the twelfth consecutive year that Rick has been selected to the *Super Lawyer* list!

2015 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Awards



Michael Malvey handles a wide variety of cases within the personal injury department, including automobile accidents, premises liability, construction site accidents, products liability, and medical malpractice. Michael has been a member of the team of Galfand Berger lawyers who have obtained over \$75 million dollars in settlements and judgments and attained some of the largest, multi-million dollar client

recoveries in Pennsylvania. Michael's proficiency in Spanish has been a great asset in representing members of the Hispanic and Latino communities. He currently works with the Board of Directors at Esperanza Immigration Legal Services to provide low-cost legal services to immigrants and their families in the Philadelphia area. This is Michael's ninth year to be selected to the list of *Pennsylvania Rising Stars*.



Peter Patton concentrates in the fields of products liability, construction and vehicular accidents. He was awarded the American Jurisprudence Award for Professional Responsibility from the University of California, Berkeley. Peter holds membership in the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum, Brain Injury Association, System Safety Society, Pennsylvania and Philadelphia Bar Associations, the American Association for Justice, the

Pennsylvania Association for Justice, the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association, and the National Lawyers Guild. Peter has received an "AV" rating from Martindale-Hubbell, the highest rating an attorney can achieve. Peter is also listed in the Bar Register of Pre-eminent lawyers and has been included in The National Trial Lawyers Top 100 Trial Lawyers in Pennsylvania. This is Peter's fourth year to be named to the list of *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers*.



Norman Weinstein is Of Counsel at Galfand Berger and chairs the firm's Community Outreach and Social Action program. He has practiced in workers' compensation and personal injury law for over 30 years. A Trustee of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation, Norman is also past President of the Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program (VIP), past Co-Chair of the Workers' Compensation Section of the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers

Association and the Workers' Compensation Committee of the Philadelphia Bar Association. He is past President of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) and Council and Trustee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia as well as Chairman of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia Young Leadership Council. Norman has performed pro bono work for the Support Center for Child Advocates, Legal Clinic for the Disabled and Philadelphia Volunteers of the Indigent Program (VIP). Norman is a recipient of the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association Community Service Award and has been recognized for his pro bono services by the Pennsylvania Bar Association. He is a recipient of the Philadelphia Bar Association Young Leadership Award and the Jewish Federation Myer Feinstein Young Leadership Award. Norman has been selected to the *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers* list every year since 2005.

... other 2015 Honors

Besides our firm *Super Lawyer* and *Rising Star* selections, 2015 has seen Galfand Berger attorneys obtain other peer-recognized honors. Galfand Berger attorneys are included in organizations and associations like the:

- Million Dollar and Multi Million Dollar Advocates Forum
- The National Trial Lawyers Top 100 Lawyers
- Rue Ratings Best Attorneys of America
- National Association of Distinguished Counsel
- Lead Counsel Rating
- Best Lawyers of America; and
- Top Ranked Law Firms

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Mr. Jacobs is a true gift to our classrooms at Cole Manor Elementary School. He has become part of several classroom families. He knows the students very well. He makes them feel excited about reading and learning new things. He has been instrumental in helping our students meet their goals. He is always willing to assist the students, and teachers, in every way possible. Flexibility and understanding is noted, with his ability to move between enrichment activities, re-teaching projects, and whole group work. He monitors students' progress and checks for understanding. He is also willing to take the lead to expand an activity. A true effort to reach all students is evident!

Mr. Jacobs is friendly and approachable for both students and teachers. He gives an incredible amount of specific feedback about the students that he has worked with, which helps teachers with instruction. He is reliable and punctual; our students can count on seeing him every week. Thank you, Mr. Jacobs, for being a brilliant assistant!

At Galfand Berger, we have a long history of participation and support in the communities around us. Through community activities, food drives, fundraisers for charitable organizations, and volunteering legal services, Galfand Berger and its attorneys work to build long-lasting alliances with community leaders and form strong relationships with the community itself.

Marc Jacobs helped lay that foundation, one he continues to build upon even in retirement!



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Safety Tips for Summer Barbecuing

With summer grilling in full swing, remember to keep safety in mind. 8,800 grill or barbecue related fires occur every year, according to the National Fire Protection Association. In fact, 1 out of every 6 residential fires involve grills. Taking adequate safety precautions can help prevent these fires.

The following safety tips can help reduce the risk of fires.

- Only use a grill outdoors. Grills are not designed for indoor use.
 Indoor use could lead to carbon monoxide poisoning from the fumes
- Avoid placing your grill near buildings, trees, or other flammable objects, particularly overhead ones
- Avoid letting children or pets near the grill
- To prevent grease fires, clean out grease and fat buildup from the grill and any trays below the grill
- Don't leave the grill unattended while lit
- Make sure to set up the grill in a place where it is stable and won't tip over

- Do not move a grill that is still hot
- Look at the owner's manual

There are additional precautions for each type of grill. With a charcoal grill you should avoid disposing of coals until they have cooled completely and only dispose of them in suitable metal containers. Likewise, avoid putting electric starters or lighters near flammable objects. Keep starter fluids and coals away from heat sources when storing or using them. Never apply starter fluid to an already lit fire.

Propane grills need to be checked for leaks. A way to check for leaks is to cover the hose connecting the propane tank to the grill in soapy water and turn the gas on. Bubbles will form from escaping propane if there is a leak. If the leak stops when you turn off the

gas, call a professional to service the grill before using it again. If it doesn't, call the fire department. If you smell gas while cooking, turn the grill off, move away from the grill and, if the leak continues, call the fire department.

Following proper safety precautions can help keep your summer fun from ending in tragedy. Grill accidents are common, but you can reduce the risk by following the above safety tips.