

## This Holiday Season: Remembering the Victims of Hurricane Sandy

*The ferocious winds and devastating waters of Hurricane Sandy battered our communities leaving many lives ruined in its wake. And, long after the winds have subsided and the water receded, recovery continues for those hardest hit.*

*As our citizens rebuild their lives, Galfand Berger is determined to help.*

*A few years ago, our firm decided we would not send holiday cards. Instead, we resolved to designate a contribution in honor of clients, colleagues and friends. This year, as we watch the shore communities we love so dearly recover from this horrible storm, we remember the people of these shattered communities who still need our help.*

*This holiday season, and in your honor, our firm proudly donates to the American Red Cross – Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund. For more information on Hurricane Sandy relief efforts, visit <http://www.redcross.org/hurricane-sandy>.*

## Saying Goodbye...

Galfand Berger is preparing to say goodbye to a long-time partner, Marc Jacobs who will retire from regular practice at the end of this year.

Marc has been a fantastic advocate, mentor, colleague and friend. Indeed, Marc's voice in the Pennsylvania Workers' Compensation community for more than 40 years led to significant protections for workers. Marc's legacy demonstrates his unwavering advocacy



for workers' rights. A member of the Governor's Committee on Proposed Amendments for Workers' Compensation Rules and Regulations, Marc also co-authored our firm's booklet "Workers' Rights to Workers Compensation."

We wish Marc the best of luck as he begins this new chapter in his life. His friends at Galfand Berger and the legal community will miss his daily presence.

## ...and Hello

As we say goodbye to Marc Jacobs, Galfand Berger, LLP is pleased to welcome our newest attorney, Gabriela Raful, to our firm. Gabriela will work in the firm's Workers' Compensation and Personal Injury departments.

Gabriela graduated *magna cum laude* from Kutztown University with a degree in Political Sciences and Paralegal Studies. She earned her Juris Doctor from Widener University School of Law.

Born in the Dominican Republic, Gabriela is fluent in Spanish. Gabby understands the language and cultural barriers sometimes encountered by people for whom English is a second language. With Gabby's sensitivity and awareness, our clients can feel confident they are getting the legal service they need.



**Galfand Berger:**

# COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

*Galfand Berger's contribution to the Hurricane Sandy relief efforts is only one way we demonstrate our firm's commitment to community. Whether it is through our time or treasure, Galfand Berger supports organizations and efforts that embrace our firm's core values of helping those who need a voice in our community. Below are some of the organizations we have supported in 2012. Their mission statements explain the organizations' vital work. To learn more about them, we encourage you to visit their websites, too:*

■ **Legal Clinic for the Disabled (LCD):** LCD provides free high-quality legal services to low-income people with physical disabilities and to the deaf and hard of hearing. Visit their website at [www.lcdphila.org](http://www.lcdphila.org).

■ **Support Center for Child Advocates:** The Support Center for Child Advocates is the country's oldest and largest pro bono legal and social services agency for children. The Center's mission is to advocate for abused and neglected children in Philadelphia, with the goal of securing a permanent, nurturing environment for every child. Visit their website at [www.advokid.org](http://www.advokid.org).

■ **The Homeless Advocacy Project:** HAP exists to meet the legal and advocacy needs of homeless individuals and families in Philadelphia. With a legal staff of six and a corps of 300 volunteer lawyers, paralegals, and law students, HAP engages in direct outreach to homeless individuals in need of legal services. Visit their website at [www.homelessadvocacyproject.org](http://www.homelessadvocacyproject.org).

■ **Philly VIP:** VIP promotes equal justice for the poor by providing civil legal services not otherwise available, collaborating with other legal services organizations and promoting a culture of volunteerism by educating and exposing attorneys and law students to issues of poverty. [www.phillyvip.org](http://www.phillyvip.org).

■ **Kids' Chance of Pennsylvania, Inc.:** Kids' Chance provides financial support for college and vocational education – through scholarship grants – to children of Pennsylvania workers who have been killed or seriously injured in a work-related accident. Since Galfand Berger's founding of Kids' Chance, this organization has given away more than \$1,000,000 in scholarships. Visit their website at [www.kidschanceofpa.org](http://www.kidschanceofpa.org).

■ **The Martha J. Hampton Award:** This award is named after the late partner of Galfand Berger LLP who displayed an exemplary commitment to protecting the rights of injured workers. It is presented each year to the attorney or judge who best exemplifies Ms. Hampton's dedication, professionalism and good will. A donation, in the recipient's name, is made each year to Kids' Chance.

■ **Peggy Browning Fund:** Established in memory of Margaret A. Browning, a prominent labor attorney and member of the National Labor Relations Board under President Clinton, the Fund's mission is to provide law students with diverse, challenging work and educational experiences in the area of workers' rights. Such unique and positive opportunities will both increase students' understanding of workers' needs as well as promote their entry into the practice of public interest labor law. Visit their website at [www.peggybrowningfund.org](http://www.peggybrowningfund.org).

■ **The Philadelphia Area Project on Occupational Safety and Health – or PhilaPosh** – is made up of unions, health and legal professionals working together since 1975 for a safe and protected workplace as well as for the rights of injured workers. Visit their website at [www.philaposh.org](http://www.philaposh.org).

■ **The New Sanctuary Movement:** An interfaith coalition of immigrants, congregations, and individuals dedicated to taking a public stand for immigrant rights. Visit their website at [www.sanctuaryphiladelphia.org](http://www.sanctuaryphiladelphia.org).

■ **Friends of Farmworkers:** An organization that seeks to improve the living and working conditions of indigent farmworkers, mushroom workers, food processing workers, and workers from immigrant and migrant communities. Visit their website at [www.friendsfw.org](http://www.friendsfw.org).

■ **HIAS:** HIAS Pennsylvania was founded to provide services to Jewish immigrants and refugees fleeing persecution and seeking opportunity by migrating to America. Based on the Jewish value of welcoming the stranger, HIAS Pennsylvania continues to resettle, reunite and represent Jewish migrants as well as other migrants residing in Philadelphia and surrounding counties who are of limited means. The agency seeks the fair treatment and full integration into American Society of migrants from all backgrounds. Visit their website at [www.hiaspa.org](http://www.hiaspa.org).

■ **Mazzoni Center Legal Services:** Mazzoni Center provides quality comprehensive health and wellness services in an LGBT-focused environment, while preserving the dignity and improving the quality of life of the individuals they serve. Visit their website at [www.mazzonicenter.org](http://www.mazzonicenter.org).

■ **Esperanza Immigration Legal Services:** Esperanza Immigration Legal Services (EILS) was created in response to the growing number of immigrants moving to the Philadelphia area and the increasing demand in the immigrant community for information and legal assistance. EILS provides community education, advocacy, and direct legal services to immigrants and their families, so that they may participate in and benefit fully from American society. Visit their website at [www.esperanza.us](http://www.esperanza.us).


■ **Disability Right Network:** Seeks to advance, protect, and advocate for the human, civil, and legal rights of Pennsylvanians with disabilities. Visit their website at [www.drnpa.org](http://www.drnpa.org).

■ **Community Legal Services:** Helps low-income Philadelphia residents obtain equal access to justice by providing them with advice and representation in civil legal matters; advocating for their legal rights; and conducting community education about the legal issues that affect them. [www.clsphila.org](http://www.clsphila.org).

■ **Jobs with Justice:** Philadelphia Area Jobs with Justice is a coalition of labor unions and student, community, and faith groups. Together, they fight for the fair treatment of workers, organizing in local communities and workplaces. [www.phillyjwj.org](http://www.phillyjwj.org).

■ **Bread & Roses Fund:** Bread & Roses is a unique gathering of activists committed to supporting social justice by raising and distributing funds. A public foundation, Bread & Roses has distributed over \$10 million to groups working for access to health care; economic justice; a clean, safe environment; civil and human rights; peace; and other social justice issues. In addition, Bread & Roses provides services, like technical assistance and leadership development, to grantees and donors. [www.breadrosesfund.org](http://www.breadrosesfund.org).

...and the list goes on. Our staff and attorneys volunteer at homeless shelters, participate in food and clothing drives, walk, run and swim for charity and support the vital work of labor groups throughout Pennsylvania.



*With gratitude and best wishes, our Galfand Berger family extends to you and your family our warm wishes for a joyous celebration and a prosperous New Year. Happy Holidays!*

## Galfand Berger, LLP

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# Dangerous Toys of 2012

The holiday season is here and parents are in a frenzy to find that perfect toy to put a smile on their child's face. When you are shopping for children's toys, it is important to keep certain things in mind. First, it is always good practice to follow the age, weight and other safety guidelines when buying toys. In addition, be aware that some toys carry hidden risks that can potentially harm children.

## Why Some Toys Are Dangerous

Most parents know about the choking risks associated with toys that have small parts. It is important to monitor young children and follow age guidelines and recommendations on toys. Consumers should also be aware of loud toys that may be harmful to children. Noisy toys can potentially impact a child's hearing because they exceed acceptable noise standards.

Moreover, it is critical to know what type of materials the toys are made of because small children often put toys in their mouths. Phthalates is a material used to soften hard plastic and can be found in many common toys. Phthalates has been linked to diabetes and cancer. Additionally, lead can also still be found in some toys.

There are also popular toys and gadgets with small, high-powered magnets. If a child accidentally swallows a magnet it can perforate their stomach. The Consumer

*Product Safety Commission* reports that between 2009 and 2011 there were 1,700 emergency-room visits caused by magnets ingested by children ages 4 to 12 years old.

## Dangerous Toys of 2012

The Products Liability attorneys at Galfand Berger recently reviewed the 27th annual Trouble in Toyland report for 2012 published by the U.S Public Interest Research Group (PIRG). The good news: PIRG found that there are more safe toys on store shelves than they anticipated. However, they did uncover some toys that pose some serious risks of injury for children.

According to PIRG, the toys most at risk for choking and/or ingestion injuries are:

- **Just Like Home 120-piece Super Play Food sets**, \$19.99, by Toys R Us
- **Pullback dragster cars**, \$4.99, by Z Wind Ups
- **Magnetic Fishing Game**, \$1.77, by Kole Imports
- **Water Balloon Launcher**, \$21.99, by Water Sports LLC
- **Playful Xylophone**, \$29.99, by P'Kolino
- **Snake Eggs**, \$1.00, by GreenBrier International Inc.



- **Explore & Learn Helicopter**, \$15.99, by V Tech (*presents a strangulation hazard*)

Toys presenting a high risk of impact injuries include:

- **Inflatable Bongo Ball**, \$49.99, by Toys R Us
- **Spinner Shark 4-Wheel Kneeboard**, \$59.97, by FuzionNextsport
- **N-Force Vendetta Double Sword**, \$19.99, by Hasbro
- **Power Rangers Super Samurai Shogun Helmet**, \$29.99, by Bandai
- **The Avengers Gamma Green Smash Fists**, \$16.99, by Hasbro
- **Dart Zone Quick Fire 12 dart gun**, \$19.32, by Prime Time Toys Ltd. (*can cause eye injuries*)

Excessively noisy toys on the PIRG's list include:

- **Dora Tunes Guitar**, \$22.39, by Fisher Price
- **FunKeys**, \$9.99, by B. Lively

Toys with unacceptable levels of toxic materials are:

- **Dora Backpack**, price not available, by Global Design Concepts Inc. (*contains high levels of phthalates*)
- **Morphbot**, \$6.00, by GreenBrier International Inc (*has high lead levels*)

If you or a loved one has been injured as a result of a dangerous toy or another defective product, the experienced attorneys at Galfand Berger are committed to help. Call us at **1-800-222-USWA (8792)** to schedule a free and confidential consultation or by email at **mail@galfandberger.com**. ■