

Our Holiday Gift List

Each year, rather than sending holiday cards, Galfand Berger makes charitable contributions in honor of our clients, colleagues and friends. Our firm shares these contributions with many organizations that have a lasting impact on our community and on the people we are honored to represent. We encourage you to visit the websites of these amazing organizations and learn about their good work!

American Cancer Society
Berks Community Health Center
Centro Hispano
Community Legal Services
Esperanza Immigration Legal Services
Friends of Farmworkers
HIAS Pennsylvania
Jobs with Justice
Kids' Chance of Pennsylvania, Inc.
Legal Clinic for the Disabled
Mazzoni Center Legal Services

**"We rise by
lifting others."
-Robert Ingersoll**

Mexican Cultural Center
Peggy Browning Fund
Pennsylvania Immigration & Citizenship Coalition
PA AFL-CIO
Public Interest Law Center
PHILAPOSH
Philadelphia VIP

RIZE - Youth Arts Organization
SEAMACC
The Martha J. Hampton Award
The New Sanctuary Movement
United Community Services
United Labor Council of Reading and Berks County
United Steelworkers
Victim/Witness Services of South Philadelphia, Inc.
Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians





Now What Happens?

By Debra A. Jensen, Managing Partner, Galfand Berger, LLP

Like he did every morning, Tom got ready for work. He had breakfast with the kids before sending them off to the bus stop. Tom's wife kissed him goodbye, and they both headed off to their jobs.

Tom worked on a factory production line. He arrived on time, said hello to his buddies and his union shop steward, punched the clock and headed to the line. His day started like any other. Then, "it" happened. Even to this day, years later, Tom can't talk about the accident. The machine jammed and Tom was told to clear it. As he reached in to clear the jam, the machine unexpectedly restarted. Tom's hand and arm were crushed. Minutes seemed like hours as Tom's co-workers scrambled to help. They weren't trained for a situation like this. The employer never even considered it.

We are proud of the work our firm champions on behalf of injured workers, consumers and individuals.

An ambulance arrived and Tom was rushed to the hospital. After that, he only remembers the pain. When he awoke from surgery, his wife and parents were by his side. The look on their faces said it all. Tom's wife spoke. She told Tom that the doctors tried their best to save his hand but they couldn't. He didn't hear the rest. But he soon learned that his injured arm would need multiple surgeries and skin grafts. He would have to learn to use a prosthetic hand. He would need months of physical therapy.

Tom thought, "Now what happens?"

The injury impacted Tom in ways he never would have imagined. Months of painful recovery resulted in lost wages, lost benefits and lost opportunity. Tom could never return to work the line. His employer began to lose patience.

Tom couldn't keep up with his bills. His family's security was at risk. Then there were the day-to-day realities of his injury. He couldn't play with his kids like he used to. He couldn't fish or hunt or walk his dog. Bathing, getting dressed or doing chores were nearly impossible. He couldn't even drive. His relationship with his wife suffered. Tom felt like he was letting his family down. It weighed heavily on him.

That's when Tom's union suggested he call our firm. At first Tom hesitated. He wasn't a "lawsuit" kind of guy. But when he looked at his family around the dinner table, he knew he had to do something. So, he called us. One of our lawyers went to Tom's home. After the very first visit, Tom knew he was in good hands. He liked that we've been representing injured workers, consumers, and individuals since 1947. And, he liked knowing a team of attorneys and exceptional staff would be working on his case.

Then, we got to work!

We called Tom's union to make sure Tom was getting all the benefits he was entitled to under the collective bargaining agreement. Fortunately, for Tom, his Union had his back. They promised to help us any way they could. That's just what unions do for their brothers and sisters! And that's why our firm has been on the side of labor for nearly 70 years.

Soon after, we filed a claim to increase Tom's Workers' Compensation benefits. We had carefully evaluated Tom's benefits and recognized his compensation checks were too low. We also made sure all of Tom's medical bills were getting paid so his credit rating wasn't affected because of his work injury. Tom soon learned the Workers' Compensation system can be tricky. But he was secure knowing that our firm literally helped write the book on Workers' Compensation in Pennsylvania. He gave copies of our book "Workers' Rights to Workers' Compensation" to his buddies. And, his union kept it in their office. (We're happy to send you a free copy, just give our office a call!)

Tom's Workers' Compensation benefits increased and his credit remained solid. At the same time, our attorneys investigated Tom's other legal rights. Our attorneys quickly recognized Tom might have a claim against the company that built the machine on which he was hurt. Our products liability lawyers got involved. Sure enough, the machine lacked common sense safety features that would have prevented Tom's injuries. The company that made the machine tried to blame Tom for the accident but their user manual, missing

guards, and non-existent emergency shut-off told a different story. The machine was defective and should never have been sold.

We proved our case by working hard. We hired experts. Interviewed witnesses. Inspected the machine. Investigated the manufacturer. We learned this wasn't the first time an accident like this happened on their equipment. This time, we weren't going to let them get away with it. We prepared our case for trial. If we didn't get a verdict for Tom, he wouldn't get the recovery he deserved. And, that's another thing Tom liked about us. He knew we were willing to put our money on the line for his case. If we didn't win, Tom wouldn't owe us a dime. But that wasn't an issue. We did our homework and the jury agreed with us. They awarded Tom enough money to help Tom and his family live the reality of his new life.

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Tom still has nightmares about the accident. He wishes it never happened. He is still healing. And, so is his family. At least now, they won't lose their home, the calls from bill collectors have stopped and Tom will get the training he needs to return to a different job.

Accidents like Tom's happen in the workplace more often than you can imagine. But what happens when your injury is not just in the workplace? What happens when you are in your car and another driver, texting on

their cell phone, blows through a stop sign and hits you? Or what happens when you go to the doctor for a routine procedure that results in a medical mishap? Or you're in a grocery store and a wet floor from a leaking refrigerator causes you to fall? Injuries from these accidents have life-altering consequences too. Your job, your family, your home and your security are all at risk.

We are proud of the work our firm champions on behalf of injured workers, consumers and individuals. For years, your rights have been under attack by big business and insurance companies. They have used slick campaigns in an effort to convince the public that people like Tom and his family don't deserve justice.

Well, we know they do and it is our privilege to help restore dignity and security to them. We've been helping people since 1947 and we won't stop. Our firm will continue to be your voice. If you are injured, and have questions, call us for a free consultation. Tom is glad he did. ■



GB Welcome Aboard!

Galfand Berger is pleased to welcome our newest Associate Attorney, Farhan Ali, to the firm.

Farhan joined Galfand Berger last year as a law clerk and became an associate with our firm after graduating from the Temple University James E. Beasley School of Law.

At Temple, Farhan was awarded the Lena L. Hale Award for his outstanding

extracurricular contributions. He was Secretary of the Student Bar Association and President of the South Asian Law Student Association. One of Farhan's most rewarding activities was taking part in the Wills for Heroes Program, which creates legal documents for first responders so that their families are protected in the event of a tragedy.

A couple of facts about Farhan. He is a die-hard Raven's fan (*in Eagle's country*). We hired him anyway. And, he is a master level Jenga player!

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Holiday Recipe

Addie's Brisket

Ingredients:

- One 4-5 lb. brisket
- Salt/pepper
- One can or bottle of beer
- One bottle Heinz Chili Sauce
- One cup of water
- Three stalks of celery
- One large onion, roughly chopped

Preparation / Directions:

1. Pre-heat oven to 375 degrees
2. Liberally salt and pepper both sides of brisket
3. Place brisket in dutch oven or heavy baking pan, fat side up
4. Cover with celery and onion
5. Pour bottle of Chili Sauce over brisket
6. Add one cup water
7. Bake for one hour uncovered
8. After one hour, remove from oven and add beer
9. Tightly cover with foil or dutch oven lid
10. Cook for an additional 2 ½ to 3 hours, until fork tender
11. Separate brisket and veggies from gravy
12. Refrigerate overnight. When ready to serve, remove fat from brisket and gravy. Slice brisket with the grain and warm in gravy.