

STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE

NEWSLETTER



Informing The Injured One Person At A Time

A Peek Inside

Happy New Year and to everyone and I hope that you had a happy and safe holiday season!

I want to wish everyone the absolute best in the coming 2015 year and look forward to all of the exciting events that will take place this coming year. I had the opportunity to for the eighth year in a row celebrate a special event with my daughters. Each year for the last eight years I have had the opportunity to take my girls into New York City before the Christmas holiday. This event has taken upon a life of its own but for me is going to always be a forever-cherished memory. This year, we had the opportunity to mix things up a bit but still checked off the list several of our usual events which includes seeing the lit tree in Rockefeller Plaza, going and getting some fancy chocolate from the store close to the tree and having a wonderful dinner at a unique new restaurant. I always presume that my girls have as much fun as I do but for me this is a tradition which I hope endures not only with me and my daughters but me, my daughters and one day (not in the near future) my granddaughters.



We also had the opportunity to celebrate the New Year with my mom whose new adventure has taken her to South Carolina. As you may recall, we lost my aunt a few months ago to cancer and my mom picked up herself and decided to leave the cold New England weather and move to the warmer climates. She is settling in but it was certainly good to visit.

I don't know if you had the opportunity to see the picture and/or read last month's article, however, I have to be honest and say that I am still smiling and could not have been more thrilled about playing again in Madison Square Garden especially for Syracuse University. They say a picture is worth a thousand words and if you saw last month's newsletter if you couldn't tell I was having a ball. If you would like a copy of last month's newsletter please email me at sgaylord@gaylordpopp.com.

I want to again thank everyone for all of the comments that I have received regarding our newsletter and certainly can assure everyone that we are excited about the continuation of this project. I want to certainly express to everyone how much I enjoy monthly communicating with you and certainly look forward to our ongoing relationship. Again I encourage everyone to communicate with us regarding any suggestions you may have and ask that you like us on Facebook and connect with us on Twitter, LinkedIn or Google Plus. I want to wish everyone a happy New Year and hope that all of your New Year's resolutions remain steadfast throughout 2015.

If you would like to have someone else receive our newsletter please have them call 609-771-8611 or email me directly at sgaylord@gaylordpopp.com.

Sam Gaylord

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Hello! We are pleased to send you this monthly issue of *Strive For Excellence*. It is our way of saying that you are important to us and we truly value your business. Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to friends and neighbors. Enjoy!

Monthly Joke



The Tough CEO

A Fortune 500 corporation brought in a tough new CEO to shake things up. Touring the facilities on his first day, he spotted a man leaning against a wall while other employees were working hard all around him.

He marched up. "You! How much money do you make in a week?"

Confused, he said, "About \$300."

"Here." The new CEO pulled out his wallet and thrust \$1,200 in cash at the man. "Go home."

"Yes sir." He walked away.

Proud of the tough image he was creating, the CEO turned to a group of employees. "What was his job, anyway?"

They looked at each other nervously. Finally one answered: "He's the pizza delivery guy from down the street."

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

You can't wait for inspiration, you have to go after it with a club.

—Jack London

Winter Driving, Liability And Your Options

Winter driving is always difficult with accumulations of snow, ice, slush and rain. When you have an accident in the winter you may naturally want to blame the road conditions, the lack of snow removal, or even the other drivers, but being able prove these issues were the root cause of the accident is often very complicated.

The Negligence Factor

The first thing that any insurance claim is going to face in a winter driving accident is an accusation that the driver was at fault due to some type of negligence. This could include driving too quickly for the road conditions, failing to clear the snow or ice off of the vehicle and windshield, failing to have the car properly set up for winter driving or even failing to compensation for the bad weather conditions.

There is a reasonable expectation that if the weather is bad that drivers will slow down, even drivers with 4x4 vehicles or those that are fully winterized. If you are driving one of these vehicles at a higher than reasonable rate of speed, or fail to take in the slower speeds of surrounding vehicles, you may still be found negligent and have little option for claim.

Defective Roadways

In some situations the actual design of a road may make it more prone to collecting ice and snow due to poor drainage or improper maintenance by city, state or county crews. When the car accidents occur in these situations the failure of the respective authorities to keep the roads in safe, drivable conditions may be cause for a lawsuit.

CONT'D ON PG.3

Baked Beef Stew

INGREDIENTS:

2 pounds beef stew meat, cut into 1 inch cubes
1 (14.5 ounce) can diced tomatoes with juice
1 cup water
3 tablespoons instant tapioca
1 tablespoon beef bouillon granules
2 teaspoons white sugar
1 1/2 teaspoons salt
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
4 carrots, cut into 1 inch pieces
2 strips celery, cut into 3/4 inch pieces
3 potato, peeled and cubed
1 onion, roughly chopped
1 slice bread, cubed



DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Lightly grease a 9x13 inch baking dish. In a large skillet over medium heat, brown the stew meat; drain and set aside. In a mixing bowl, combine the tomatoes, water, tapioca, beef bouillon granules, sugar, salt and pepper. Stir in the beef, carrots, celery, potatoes, onion, and bread cubes. Pour into the prepared baking dish. Cover and bake for 2 hours, or until meat and vegetables are tender. *Source: www.allrecipes.com*

It's Not Too Late To Win & Give!

It's not too late. In both the November and December newsletters we included a pledge to better get to know our clients. We asked you to provide some additional information to us so that we can strengthen our connection with you and also have as many people participating in the holiday drawing. The special gifts were sent with a holiday note and our holiday winner will be announced in next month's newsletter as we want to include a picture with our winner.

If you did not already submit the information and would like a copy of the pledge please contact me at (609) 771-8611 or email me at sgaylord@gaylordpopp.com. If you still have the pledge and had not forwarded the information please do so as we would still like to be able to better connect with you!

Also...it's not too late to drop off any winter coats that are hanging around that you would like to donate. As you may recall in both the November and December newsletter Gaylord Popp is helping Jerusalem Baptist in Trenton, New Jersey. We have been working with Claris Hanson and Brian Blakely with their food and coat drive. If you have any old winter coats which you would like to donate please feel free to contact Ms. Sampson at (609) 631-0355 or (609) 222-2770 or feel free to visit them at 150 North Clinton Avenue, Trenton, New Jersey 08609 or you can drop off the clothes at Gaylord Popp. If you have any questions regarding our participation or the coat drive please contact Stan Gaylord directly at (609) 401-2779.



Testifying on Behalf of Bill S347

Recently, I had the opportunity to appear before the Senate Judiciary Committee and testify on behalf of Bill S347.

S347 is a bill regarding what is known as a modified voluntary tender offer. The New Jersey workers' compensation statute, N.J.S.A. 34:15-64, allows for an insurance company to make a payment within a specific period of time to an injured worker after they've completed medical treatment. This offer would be a cash advance against the final outcome of the case. The issue has been that when the insurance companies make these voluntary offers the petitioner's attorney is no longer entitled to a fee on any money that is provided to the injured worker in advance of settlement negotiations. The new legislation, which was being proposed, would have entitled the attorney to a fee on any money paid to the petitioner. So I had the opportunity to testify, a first for me, which was very exciting. Prior to being in front of the Judiciary Committee, I was speaking to our legislative liaison, Peter Guzzo, who indicated that there are two things that one never wants to actually know how it's made, one is sausage the other is law. Having testified I would agree with his assessment. Specifically, it appeared there was a certainty to the Vote that the bill would leave committee.

It was a thrill to be part of the process and to at least know that the bill itself got out of committee and now will be heard by the Senate and hopefully move forward to the Governor's office. There was opposition to the bill which was presented by the insurance and business industry, as the bill in their mind would cause greater attorneys' fees and less money to the injured workers. However, factually the injured worker would actually receive a greater amount of money as a result of the attorney's efforts and although there would be a fee on the money the overall dollars put into the petitioner's pocket would be greater.

I write this article in an attempt to try having injured workers at least recognize that if they are communicating with the workers compensation carriers those people do not have their interests at heart and their rights and/or benefits are not necessarily being protected despite the fact that they may think the insurance company is being helpful. Too many times, in my almost 19-year legal career, I've seen situations where an individual initially doesn't want to pursue benefits however once they are made aware of what their true benefits are they wish to pursue a claim because they're upset that nobody from the insurance company or their employer explained to them what their rights really are.

Based on the presentation made by the insurance industry, I suggest to anyone who has been injured while working to at least seek counsel from a lawyer who is certified as a workers' compensation attorney to understand what their true benefits are, and whether knowing what their true benefits are whether they would like to pursue a claim.

If you have any additional questions regarding any of this material please do not hesitate to visit our website www.gaylordpopp.com or email me directly, sgaylord@gaylordpopp.com or call our office at 609-771-8611.

Please also know that Gaylord Popp, LLC not only handles workers compensation claims but social security disability, disability pension appeals and personal injury matters including but not limited to car accidents, slip and falls, dog bites and other types negligent claims.

Winter Driving Cont'd...

However, it is still important to be able to show that the driver of the vehicle, even with a defective roadway issue, was driving at a reasonable and safe manner given the road conditions. The insurance companies will attempt to show that the driver had a degree of fault, thereby eliminating or reducing their own liability.

As these are very complicated cases, often with significant medical issues or loss of life, getting an attorney experienced in winter driving accident cases involved as early as possible in the case is essential.

THANKS TO OUR CLIENTS!

Our practice continues to grow and we recognize that our best clients come from your referrals. Referrals are welcome and we want to take a moment and THANK those who have referred new clients to US. It's the biggest compliment we can receive!

MANY THANKS TO:

**Ron McMullen
Mattie Cramer
Brian Blakely
Deb Parks**

Be sure to visit our website at
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for free offers
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Did You Know



Gaylord Popp, LLC also handles Social Security Disability, Disability pension appeals and personal injury matters like motor vehicle accidents, truck accidents, motor cycle accidents, slip and falls?



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A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER TO INFORM AND ENTERTAIN OUR CUSTOMERS

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Strange But True

Here are a couple of health tips that seem strangely unlikely and even counterproductive, yet can work wonders nonetheless. One such tip is to have a drink of coffee before you have a nap. A Japanese study found that the people who had a cup of coffee or two just before taking a nap performed better and felt more alert when they woke up again after. Taking a nap maximizes alertness by removing a molecule known as adenosine, which causes fatigue, from the brain and combined with the effect of caffeine, which blocks adenosine, results in the impact of the nap being made even stronger. Another odd tip is that you should never brush your teeth straight after eating or drinking, particularly if you have consumed acidic foods such as tomatoes, sports drinks, soda and citrus fruits. These acidic foods soften tooth enamel and the speed at which the acid affects the enamel and starts eroding the layer underneath can actually be increased by immediate brushing. It is better to wait 30 minutes to an hour before brushing your teeth after eating.

I hope you enjoyed the holiday season as much as I did! I wish everyone a Happy New Year and look forward to all that the next year will bring!

Sam Gaylord



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Samuel Gaylord specializes in the areas of Workers' Compensation, Social Security Disability and Disability Pension Appeals. Mr. Gaylord is certified by the New Jersey Supreme Court as a workers compensation law attorney and is admitted to practice in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Washington D.C and before the United States Supreme Court.

Hazel's Haven

For the last eight months I Have enjoyed producing and forwarding to you our monthly newsletter. 2015 will mark some exciting inserts and topics and I hope you keep your eye open for these exciting events. To start off, I



want to introduce to you Hazel. Hazel has been with our family for almost two years and is 85 pounds of pure slobbery love. I wanted to introduce everyone to Hazel because she is one of the family and each and every day it tends to be more and more of an adventure with Hazel. The picture here is from my brother-in-law's Christmas Tree farm which is the absolute best place for a chocolate lab. Fields and fields to run in, deer to chase, and enough water to get wet at every opportunity she has to sneak out the door. I wanted everyone to meet Hazel and will share with you throughout the year photos and moments to bring to you the same kind of smile she brings to us.