



A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

February 2018

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Recent Verdicts and Settlements
- 2 Pre-existing Injuries and Auto Accident Cases
- 2 February 2018 Important Dates
- 3 Eric's Crab Stuffed Lobster Tail for Two
- 3 Giving Some Love to Saint Valentine
- 4 Determining the Value of a Personal Injury Case

**Serious Lawyers
for Serious
Injuries**


As we welcome 2018, StolzenbergCortelli LLP will continue its practice of being serious attorneys for seriously injured people. We continue to hear about reckless car drivers, dangerous construction sites and dangerous premises, we are determined to help those in need by bringing them competent and aggressive legal representation. For instance, last year, we were incremental in achieving a multimillion dollar settlement in a case where a drunk New York City police officer shot two citizens. We resolved a number of construction accident cases, for a total amount of millions of dollars. In those cases, we continued to see a troubling trend of contractors putting the worker's safety behind the contractor's interest in making a buck. As well as resolving a number of automobile accident lawsuits stemming from speeders, drunk drivers and distracted drivers. While we have been overwhelmingly successful in helping our clients this year, we continue to hold true to our promise of being available to our clients 24/7, helping them with all the problems while they deal with being the victims of truly unfortunate circumstances.

To further promote our promise of being serious lawyers for seriously injured, we recently acquired over a middle-sized personal injury firm in Spring Valley, New York, further expanding our presence in the lower New York State region. We still have our offices in Brooklyn and our main office in White Plains that service NYC and the surrounding counties. Along this line, we also hired several new paralegals, including Eric and Alex who have been helping injured clients



Eric Santiago (Paralegal), Howard B. Stolzenberg (Partner), Terrence J. Cortelli (Partner), & Alex Santiago (Paralegal)

since the early 2000's. We also hired a marketing director Tania – who will be specializing in ensuring that our clients get the best representation possible.

With that said, we want to take this opportunity to thank all of our clients both past and present for putting your trust in us and allowing us to handle your case. As always, please feel free to call. Should you hear of somebody in an accident, please tell them to call us for help – we are serious lawyers for the seriously injured. 



Isabel DeAngelo (Senior Litigation Paralegal), Tania Gallego (Marketing Director), & Carmen Contreras (Business Manager)

A REFERRAL FROM YOU IS OUR HIGHEST COMPLIMENT

A referral from our valued clients, friends, family and fellow attorneys is the highest compliment we can receive. If you know of someone who can benefit from our services at StolzenbergCortelli, LLP, please let us know. Call Us Today.


305 Old Tarrytown Road
White Plains, New York 10603
mailing address

99 Main Street
Nyack, New York 10960
by appointment only

26 Court Street
Brooklyn, New York 11242
by appointment only

T (914) 361-4888 (main)
F (914) 361-4478
T (845) 795-3636 (Rockland office)
W www.stolzlaw.com

Recent Verdicts and Settlements

- \$8,175,000 – to 2 innocent citizens shot at by a NYPD Police Officer
- \$1,200,000 – Fall off Ladder while removing lead paint from staircase; Back surgeries; Shoulder Surgery
- \$385,000 – Fall off Ladder; facial fracture, wrist fractures with surgery
- \$300,000 – Slip & Fall on ice in parking lot of residential premises; fractured elbow with surgery
- \$284,784 – Slip & Fall on black ice due to defective roof condition; fractured hip
- \$275,000 – Construction Accident; dangerous table saw; laceration to thumb with surgery
- \$200,000 – rear-ended, neck surgery.
- \$195,000 – passenger, broken ankle, injured shoulder, six-week hospital stay;
- \$180,000 – Fall off ladder; wrist fracture with surgery
- \$177,500 – rear-ended, multiple wrist surgery;
- \$130,000 – rear-ended, shoulder surgery;
- \$100,000 – pedestrian knockdown, broken leg (Full policy);
- \$75,000 – Child falls at playground; fractured wrist
- \$45,000 – rear-end accident on George Washington Bridge; Low back pain; settled within a year of accident 

Pre-existing Injuries and Auto Accident Cases

Some people are under the mistaken notion that pre-existing injuries might preclude them from recovering damages in an auto accident claim against a negligent driver. Truth is, a pre-existing injury often has no impact on a claim and may even lead to higher compensation, since the accident may result in more severe consequences than it otherwise would have due to the pre-existing condition (something known as the “eggshell plaintiff” rule).




Insurance companies should not have to pay for injuries that already existed prior to an accident. What's fair is fair. However, many insurance adjusters will frequently argue that all pre-existing injuries or conditions were unaffected by an accident. In many cases, that's patently untrue.

Some insurance adjusters will employ the strategy of trying to settle a case quickly, without the involvement of an attorney. Yes, your claim can be settled in short order, but it will be a lopsided outcome in favor of the insurance company.

The key to solving this conundrum is to determine what injuries were caused by the accident; what pre-existing conditions were made worse by the accident; and what pre-existing injuries were unaffected by the accident. The best way to do this is to hire an experienced auto accident attorney.

An auto accident attorney will gather your medical information; explain why a pre-existing condition should have no impact on the calculation of damages; or demonstrate how the accident led to greater harm due to the pre-existing condition.

Hiring an auto accident attorney can alleviate the stress of legal/insurance matters and allow you to focus on what's most important: healing. 

February 2018 Important Dates

February 2	Groundhog Day
February 4	Super Bowl 52
February 13	Mardi Gras
February 14	Ash Wednesday
February 14	Valentine's Day
February 16	Chinese New Year's
February 19	Presidents' Day
February 20	National Love Your Pet Day


This month only has 28 days, our next Leap Year is in 2020!

Eric's Crab Stuffed Lobster Tail for Two

Ingredients:

- 2 Lobster tails, split along the center top
- 2 Teaspoons of butter, Melted
- 15 Buttery round crackers, crushed
- ¼ Cup of Clarified butter
- 1 Tablespoon of chopped fresh parsley leaves
- 1 Teaspoon of seafood seasoning (Such as Old Bay®)
- 1 Clove garlic, minced
- 1 Teaspoon lemon zest
- ¼ Teaspoon of salt, or to taste
- ¼ Teaspoon of freshly ground white pepper, or to taste

Directions:

- Preheat oven to 425 degrees F (220 degrees C).
- Pull the edges of the split lobster shells apart and gently lift the tail meat to rest above the shells. Place the prepared lobster tails on a baking sheet.
- Brush each portion of tail meat with 1 teaspoon melted butter.
- Lightly mix the crushed crackers, crabmeat, 1/4 cup of clarified butter, parsley, seafood seasoning, garlic, lemon zest, lemon juice, salt, and white pepper in a bowl until thoroughly combined.
- Spoon half the stuffing onto each lobster tail; press lightly to slightly shape the stuffing so it doesn't fall off.
- Bake the lobster tails in the preheated oven until the meat is opaque and the stuffing is golden brown on top, 10 to 12 minutes. An instant-read thermometer inserted into the thickest part of the lobster tail should read 145 degrees F (65 degrees C). 



Giving Some Love to Saint Valentine



By Jacopo Bassano (Jacopo da Ponte)
Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

Valentine's Day is the second-largest card-sending holiday of the year, with an estimated 1 billion tokens of affection being sent annually (Christmas rules the roost at approximately 2.6 billion). It's a holiday of stress, guilt, romantic pitfalls...oh, and love of course. But who was Saint Valentine, and how was he an inspiration for love and romance?

There's no shortage of Valentines in Catholic Church history. Three different saints were named Valentine, all of whom were martyred. The earliest account of Valentine, and the one who inspired today's holiday, occurred in third-century Rome. The emperor at that time, Claudius II, never saw a war he didn't like but found that married men were not as effective in battle as single men due to concerns about family back home. He proceeded to outlaw marriage and engagements for young men. Valentine, a priest, saw the injustice, defied the emperor by continuing to perform marriages secretly, was found out, thrown in jail, and sentenced to die.

Legend has it that while Valentine was in prison, he met the blind daughter of Asterius, one of his soon-to-be judges. Valentine allegedly prayed with and healed the woman, which led to Asterius becoming a Christian. Valentine fell in love with Asterius's daughter, who became a regular visitor at the jail. Before Valentine was killed for his transgressions, he wrote her a letter, which was

signed "from your Valentine," a phrase that has carried on to this day.

Today, Valentine's Day is a celebration of love, but generally without the entanglements of persecution and martyrdom thrown in.



305 Old Tarrytown Road
White Plains, New York 10603
mailing address

99 Main Street
Nyack, New York 10960
by appointment only

26 Court Street
Brooklyn, New York 11242
by appointment only

T (914) 361-4888 (main)
F (914) 361-4478
T (845) 795-3636 (Rockland office)
W www.stolzcortlaw.com



STOLZENBERGCORTELLI LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

305 Old Tarrytown Road
White Plains, New York 10603
www.stolzcortlaw.com



The StolzenbergCortelli LLP Family

Disclaimer: StolzenbergCortelli LLP represents plaintiffs in all types of personal injury claims in New York. We are serious lawyers for serious cases. Attorney advertising. Prior results do not guarantee future performance.

Determining the Value of a Personal Injury Case


There is no magic formula for determining the overall worth of a personal injury case. Some aspects are subjective, each person's circumstances are unique, and the final determination may be in the hands of a jury or judge. However, a ballpark figure can often be arrived at after a person's medical condition has stabilized.

Economic damages are a bit easier to get a handle on since they have a direct cost associated with them. Economic damages include medical expenses (past and future), lost income (past and future), and reimbursement for property damage.

Noneconomic damages are trickier because they are subjective and have no direct cost tied to them. Pain and suffering, lost quality of life, emotional distress, and loss of consortium (which is the effect the accident had on the plaintiff's relationship with their spouse) are included among noneconomic damages. Past precedent involving cases with similar injuries may be relied upon in some circumstances.

The plaintiff's role in the accident might influence the value of their personal injury case. Many states including New York follow a "comparative negligence" standard. For example, if the plaintiff is deemed 10 percent at fault for an accident, then their compensation will be reduced by 10 percent. Some states only permit a lawsuit to be filed when the plaintiff is less than 50 percent at fault.

A few states follow a "contributory negligence" standard. If the plaintiff is even 1 percent at fault for an accident, they may be barred from receiving any compensation for their injuries.

If you have been injured by the negligence of another, contact a personal injury attorney to protect your rights. 



305 Old Tarrytown Road
White Plains, New York 10603
mailing address

99 Main Street
Nyack, New York 10960
by appointment only

26 Court Street
Brooklyn, New York 11242
by appointment only

T (914) 361-4888 (main)
F (914) 361-4478
T (845) 795-3636 (Rockland office)
W www.stolzcortlaw.com