



A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Spring 2015

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Serious Lawyers for Serious Injuries

StolzenbergCortelli, LLP Celebrates One Year Anniversary

As the spring thaw slowly (very slowly) approaches, so does the one year anniversary of StolzenbergCortelli LLP. As we look back at the events of the past year, we are reminded of our firm's mission – to provide excellent legal representation to those injured and their families. In pursuing that mission, we have found ourselves on local television newscasts demanding that New York City take responsibility for the drunken actions of its workers and we have been on the front page of the New York bar journal demanding that the Courts continue to hold contractors responsible for unsafe work sites. We have been before the Appellate Courts and we have been before the Taxi and Limousine Commission. We have been in Supreme Court and we have been in Small Claims Court. We have argued motions, worked on appeals and tried cases. We negotiated property damage cases worth hundreds of dollars and we have settled multimillion dollar cases. In all, we have advocated for our clients – the injured and their families. We take our clients' cases personally and we take our mission seriously. Although we do not know what is in store for us in our second year, we do know that we will face any and all challenges head on and with perseverance our clients have come to expect from us.



StolzenbergCortelli, LLP celebrates one year anniversary at the Red Hat restaurant in Irvington, New York

StolzenbergCortelli, LLP A Source For All Your Legal Needs

We have the know-how, experience and resources to represent anyone who suffers a serious injury in an accident. However, we also have close connections with attorneys in other legal fields that can help with any legal issues you may have. If you have any legal issues, please call us and we would be happy to refer you to an attorney near you that can assist you competently and expeditiously. Some of the most common cases include:

Criminal Matters	Divorces/Child Support	Commercial Transactions
Workers Compensation	Wills and Estate Planning	Land Use, Planning and Zoning
Immigration	Employment law	
Real Estate		

A REFERRAL FROM YOU IS OUR HIGHEST COMPLIMENT

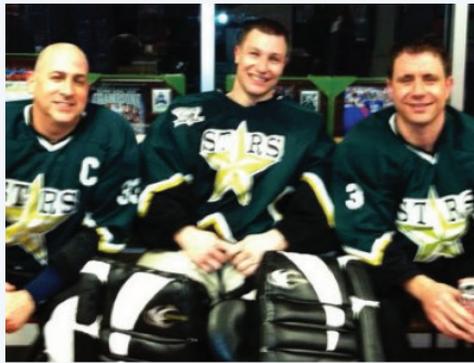
A referral from our valued clients, friends, family and fellow attorneys is the highest compliment we can receive. If you know of someone who can benefit from our services at StolzenbergCortelli, LLP, please let us know. Call Us Today.

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Howard Stolzenberg (Left), Justin Robertson (center) and Terrence Cortelli (right) of Hockey North America's NY Stars.



Justin Robertson at his graduation from Master at Arms school

A Hero in Our Midst

We offer special congratulations to Justin Robertson. Howie's nephew, and more importantly, our teammate and goalie, recently graduated from basic training in Great Lakes, Illinois and from Master at Arms school at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas with the United States Navy. He is now a Master at Arms/Seaman and is currently stationed in Sicily, Italy. All of us at StolzenbergCortelli LLP could not be more proud of him for his personal accomplishment and for his service to our great country.

Recent Settlements

Car Accident Victim With Pre-Existing Neck Injury Settles for \$457,500

We recently settled a client's case for \$457,500. The client suffered a significant cervical spine injury requiring a fusion surgery. He was t-boned by a car exiting Purdy's Farmer and the Fish in Somers, New York. We were able to convince the insurance carrier that our client's pre-existing neck injury (he actually had had a prior cervical fusion surgery) had nothing to do with his current complaints. We also were able to distinguish his subsequent, multiple car accidents. We located additional insurance sources (the client had a supplemental underinsurance policy) that contributed to the settlement. In total, we were able to achieve this settlement in less than eight months from when we were retained.

\$300,000 for Worker Who Fell From Rolling Scaffold

Last month, we settled an injured worker's case for \$300,000. The worker was injured at a New York City school. He was helping renovate a library. As he climbed a scaffold, the locks on one of the scaffold's wheel gave out, causing the scaffold to shift, and the worker lost his balance and fell. As he fell, he reached for an exposed metal stud and suffered a serious laceration of his hand. In defense of the action, defendants raised such ridiculous arguments as that the worker, because he purportedly never signed in at the front desk, was trespassing and therefore not entitled to a recovery. Defendants also attempted to blame the worker for the lock's failure. In any event, we pressed our argument that worker safety is absolute and that a broken lock rests on the shoulders of the contractors, not the worker. The defendants agreed to settle prior to trial.

Worker Who Falls From Rooftop at Suburban Single Family Home Settles for \$300,000

While renovating a home in Westchester County, a worker fell almost 20 feet from a wooden plank near the roof to the concrete floor below, suffering serious fractures of his hip and wrist. We sued the homeowner, contending that the owner failed to provide the worker with any fall protection safety equipment. Indeed, the worker was using a six inch wide plank as scaffolding when he fell. The owner claimed he did not want to spend the extra money to erect scaffolding. Although in New York property owners are immune from such lawsuits where, as here, the accident occurred at a single family residence, we were able to overcome that argument by pointing out that the single family residence exception does not apply in this case where the owner is actually not living at the property but instead was using the property as an investment. Based upon our investigation, the owner actually "flipped" properties for a living and he had hoped to flip this property as well. As such, we were able to prove that the single family dwelling does not apply. As such, without the exception, the defendant was supposed to – but never did – provide the worker with fall protection safety equipment. The defendants ultimately agreed with our position, acknowledged that their client was legally responsible for the accident, and offered \$300,000 to settle the case. 

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Ladder Safety

Falls from ladders are one of the leading causes of occupational fatalities and injuries. According to Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), here is a list of some safety pointers that can help avoid a fall:

- Read and follow all labels/markings on the ladder
- Always inspect the ladder prior to using it. If the ladder is damaged, it must be removed from service and tagged until repaired or discarded
- Always maintain 3-points (two hands and a foot, or two feet and a hand) on a ladder when climbing. Keep your body near the middle of the ladder while climbing
- Ladders must be free of any slippery material on the rungs, steps or feet
- Do not use a self-supporting ladder (e.g., step ladder) as a single ladder or in a partially closed position
- Do not use the top step/rung of a ladder as a step/rung unless it was designated for that purpose
- Use a ladder only on a stable and level surface, unless it has been secured (top or bottom) to prevent displacement
- An extension or straight ladder used to access an elevated surface must extend at least 3 feet above the point of support. Do not stand on the three top rungs of an A-frame, straight or extension ladder
- The proper angle for setting up a ladder is to place its base a quarter of the working length of the ladder from the wall or other vertical surface
- A ladder placed in any location where it can be displaced by other work activities must be secured to prevent displacement or a barricade must be erected to keep traffic away from the ladder
- Be sure that all locks on the ladders are properly engaged 



Upcoming Important Dates

April 1 –
April Fool's Day

April 2 –
Holy Thursday

April 3 –
Good Friday

April 4 –
Passover begins

April 5 –
Easter

April 15 –
Tax Day

April 22 –
Administrative
Professionals' Day
and Earth Day

April 24 –
Arbor Day

Carmen's World Famous Flan

INGREDIENTS

- 1 can evaporated milk (12 oz.)
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk (14 oz.)
- 6 eggs (room temperature)
- 1 tablespoon of pure vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups of sugar (for caramel)



DIRECTIONS

- Pre heat oven to 350 degrees.
- In a medium saucepan over medium low heat, stir sugar and 2 tbs of water until melted and golden.
- Pour on a baking dish and spread evenly.
- Blend milk, eggs and vanilla until smooth.
- Pour egg mixture into baking dish over caramelized sugar.
- Place in water bath and bake for an hour or until center is just set (mixture will jiggle).
- Let it cool completely (or refrigerate overnight).
- Buen provecho! 

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StolzenbergCortelli LLP paralegals
Isabel DeAngelo (left) and
Carmen Contreras (right).

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.

Children and Motor Vehicle Accidents



According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nearly 150 children between ages 0 and 19 are treated **every hour** in emergency departments for injuries sustained in motor vehicle crashes and **more children ages 5 to 19 die from crash-related injuries than from any other type of injury.**

One of the best ways to help keep your children safe in vehicles is to know and understand the appropriate age, height and weight limits for car seats, booster seats and seat belt use:

Birth up to Age 2 – For the best possible protection, infants and children should be buckled in a rear-facing car seat, in the back seat, until age 2 or when they reach the upper weight or height limit of their seat.

Age 2 up to at least Age 5 – When children outgrow their rear-facing seat they should be buckled in a forward-facing car seat, in the back seat, until at least age 5 or when they reach the upper weight or height limit of their seat.

Age 5 up until seat belts fit properly – Once children outgrow their forward-facing seat they should be buckled in a belt positioning booster seats until seat belts fit properly. Seat belts fit properly when the lap belt lays across the upper thighs (not the stomach) and the shoulder belt lays across the chest (not the neck).

Back Seat is Safest. All children aged 12 and under should be properly buckled in the back seat. Airbags can kill young children riding in the front seat. Never place a rear-facing car seat in front of an air bag. Buckle children in the middle of the back seat when possible, because it is the safest spot in the vehicle. 

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