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O'Connor Law Staff Attends AFL-CIO Conference

In March 2022, the O'Connor Law staff and attorneys attended a conference hosted by the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO). The Pennsylvania AFL-CIO is committed to enabling working people to build better lives and futures for families. The AFL-CIO represents over 900,000 working men and women from fifty-one international unions and more than 1,000 Locals in all of Pennsylvania's sixty-seven counties. O'Connor Law sponsored the Community Services event. Attorneys, Michael J. O'Connor, Gerald Mullery, James O'Connor, and Steven Yurkonis, and staff members, Ellen Guers and Kathy Wagner, attended the event. As shown in the photo above, Attorney Mullery presented Joe Padavan of The Greater Wilkes-Barre



Labor Council and Jean Martin of the Lancaster Central Labor Council with House Citations recognizing their devotion to the labor movement and congratulating them on receiving this year's Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Boyer-Uehlein-George Community Services Awards. O'Connor Law also offered a free iPad for attendees to enter to win at the conference. As shown in the picture to the left, Ellen Guers and Kathy Wagner presented the iPad to the winner, Jamar Johnson, the President of AFSCME Local 1224.



The Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters Cocktail Reception

On May 16, 2022, Attorneys William Kovalcik and David Miller attended a cocktail reception hosted by the Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters. The event took place at The Hotel Hershey in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Founded in 1984, the Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters is composed of 95,000 members. The Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters is also connected with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, which represents 1.4 million teamsters. The Attorneys were able to meet and spend time with established Teamsters members. They were also able to connect with other stakeholders in the workers' compensation community. In the future, they look forward to building upon our engagement and relationships with Teamsters members.

Recipe Corner

Patti's Recipe for Fluffy Strawberry Fruit Dip



Ingredients:

- 1 carton (8 ounces) spreadable strawberry cream cheese
- 2 tablespoons strawberry preserves
- 1 carton (8 ounces) frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 jar (7 ounces) marshmallow crème
- Assorted fresh fruit

Directions:

In a bowl, beat cream cheese and preserves until blended. Fold in whipped topping and marshmallow crème. Cover and refrigerate until serving. Serve with fresh fruit (or crackers).

You can try other combinations like blueberry cream cheese and grape jelly, plain cream cheese with orange marmalade, or pineapple cream cheese with pineapple jelly topped with coconut. Instead of fruit I have used vanilla wafers but grahams cracker, plain bagels (chips), or toast will work. Be creative.

Pile-Up Accident on Interstate 81

On March 28, 2022, a terrible and dangerous accident occurred on Interstate 81, 8 miles from our principal office, during a snow squall and whiteout conditions. According to WNEP, a local news station, about 80 vehicles were involved in a pile-up on Interstate-81 near the Minersville exit and included an immense fire that burned for a day. Numerous deaths were reported as a result of the accident. The Interstate re-opened after nearly two days of closure with assistance from traffic control and emergency services. The accident was broadcasted and shown on news channels around the country. When large-scale accidents occur, such as the one that occurred on Interstate-81, it is especially important to drive with caution and know how to react.

Whiteout conditions and snow squalls were two dangerous factors that impacted the pile-up accident. Whiteout conditions define snowy weather that makes it difficult to see and drive. Combined with high winds and rapidly drifting snow, it can become a detrimental factor when driving. If possible, it is safer for vehicles to remain off the road until conditions become lighter or the snow stops. Snow squalls are instant and sudden amounts of heavy snow that accumulates very quickly. Snow squalls are very similar to a whiteout; however, snow squalls typically occur in one centralized location. These weather conditions mixed with heavy traffic can lead to very dangerous driving conditions.

During bad weather conditions, it is important to drive at lower speeds and maintain a safe distance between other vehicles. Maintaining a space of multiple cars between your vehicle and others will allow for faster reaction times and to brake if needed. When visibility is very low, such as during heavy snow, all vehicles should follow safety protocols. It is also recommended to turn on hazard lights. This will encourage other vehicles to follow in order to remain on the road and keep a safe distance.

If a large-scale accident occurs, be prepared to remain in traffic for a prolonged period of time and to respond to traffic changes. Traffic workers may need to redirect traffic, close lanes, or re-route traffic to another area. Following safety protocols will help traffic stay away from the accident area and move to a safer area. Serious, and sometimes deadly, auto accidents can occur unexpectedly and without warning. It is important to know what to do and how to react in these circumstances.

Recall on Exactech Hips and Knees Implants

Exactech issued a huge recall on thousands of hip and knee implants. Exactech is a very popular company that creates implants and technologies used during surgical practices. In 2021, the company recalled thousands of implant replacements because of defective parts that were determined to cause injuries. For decades, surgeons have used Exactech implants during joint replacement surgeries. In fact, Exactech researched that tens of thousands of recalled hips and knee parts were implanted since they were created. Therefore, many people may be impacted by this major recall. If you or someone you know has an Exactech implant, please call our office to speak with one of our attorneys. It is also recommended to contact a medical professional as soon as possible. Since the products have been deemed unsafe, it is important to make a medical appointment. Our office is available to call at any time at 800-518-4LAW(529).

Summer Auto Accidents

In the summer, many vehicles will be on the roads for long travels. During the summer season, auto accidents and injuries can become prevalent. In addition to accidents, drivers and passengers can also experience health issues. Before driving during in the summer, it is important to be aware of the potential dangers that can occur.

With many cars, tractor-trailers, motorcycles, and public transportation systems traveling, there is an increased chance of any auto accident occurring, including rear-end collisions. Since many people go on vacations during the summer, there are also drivers who have been on the road for a long period of time. Accidents are more likely to occur when there are many vehicles driving on congested roads. Statistically, there are also more inexperienced drivers on the road during this time, and they do not have years of experience with heavy traffic and auto accidents. As a result, they can have the potential of being involved in an accident if they are not aware of their surroundings.

Tire accidents are common to occur in summer. In fact, the summer season is sometimes referred to as “tire blowout season”. When temperatures are high, roads can become extremely hot. It is not unusual in the summer for tractor-trailers and other vehicles to have tire blowouts, which occur as a result of low tire pressure. Tire tread separation can also cause tire blowouts. In addition to tire blowouts, temperatures can also affect the performances of vehicles. In most cases, it can cause vehicles to use more fuel to operate. To support your car’s engine during the summer months, it is recommended to stay updated on oil changes and other safety precautions. If these factors are not maintained, vehicles can experience internal damages.

Vehicles are not the only factor that can be affected by the summer weather. Drivers and passengers can also receive negative side effects from hot temperatures. For example, divers can report feeling dehydrated or fatigued from the incredibly hot temperatures. This can be potentially dangerous for drivers because they may become inattentive to the road. Inattentiveness can cause slow reaction times and accidents if drivers are not careful. Heat strokes are also possible to occur. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, heat strokes occur when the body is unable to react and maintain normal body temperatures.

Firm Accolades

O’Connor Law has been honored to receive multiple accolades. Two attorneys, Attorney Michael J. O’Connor and Attorney Gerald J. Mullery, have been recognized as Best Lawyers by US News & World Report. The attorneys also received this award in 2021. O’Connor Law has been named as Best Law Firm for Workers’ Compensation since 2016 and Best Law Firm for Personal Injury since 2020.

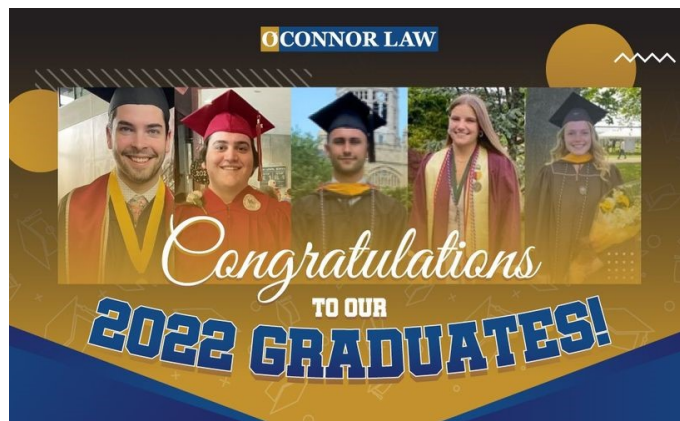
O’Connor Law earned a place on the 2022 Best Law Firm list by US News & World Report. In order to become eligible for this award, a law firm must have at least one attorney that has been honored in the current edition of Best Lawyers for their practice or metro area. Once an application is received, the law firm and their attorneys are then ranked into tiers and categories that comply with their experience, knowledge, and practice areas.

The Best Lawyers title is a prestigious honor that is awarded to attorneys who are selected through conducting peer-reviewed surveys that are taken by lawyers. The nominees must also maintain the votes that they receive by several polls.

Attorney O’Connor, the founder of O’Connor Law, has been named Best Lawyer since 2015, member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum, member of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association, and a Pennsylvania Super Lawyer since 2001. Attorney Mullery is a member of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers and a State Representative in Pennsylvania’s General Assembly who represents citizens in the 119th Legislative District, which is located in Luzerne County. Attorney Mullery has been a trial lawyer for over 23 years fighting for the rights of the injured.



Class of 2022 Graduates



Congratulations to all 2022 graduates! At O'Connor Law, our staff takes great pride in their children and the accomplishments that they make. We are extremely grateful to have their parents work at our law firm. These young men and women have a bright future ahead of them. We wish them nothing but the best of luck!

From left to right in the graphic: Riley Guers, son of Ellen Guers, graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania; Kaden Hesse, son of Vicki Hesse, graduated from Pottsville Area High School; Scotty Grigas, son of Kim Grigas, graduated from Muhlenberg College; Aubrey Miller, daughter of Attorney David Miller, graduated from Governor Mifflin High School; Leah Mullery, daughter of Attorney Jerry Mullery, graduated from Leigh University.

Sponsor for the Frackville Area Fireworks

O'Connor Law donated to the Frackville Area Fireworks Committee for their annual fireworks display. O'Connor Law has been one of the sponsors for the Frackville Fireworks for the past few years. The Frackville Area Fireworks Committee plans and organizes an annual fireworks display to the local community in Frackville. This year, the display occurred on July 3 in observance of Independence Day. With the help of donations and local and community sponsors, the Frackville Area Fireworks Committee is able to provide an amazing fireworks display and plans to continue the tradition for many years to come.



Attorney Mary Kathleen O'Connor presenting a check to Zachary Chernenwski, a member of the Frackville Area Fireworks Committee.

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| Allentown 1275 Glenlivet Dr #100 Allentown, PA 18106 | Frackville* 608 W Oak St Frackville, PA 17931 | Lock Haven 333 N Vesper St Lock Haven, PA 17745 | Scranton 116 N Washington Ave Scranton, PA 18503 | Wilkes-Barre/Kingston 26 Pierce St Kingston, PA 18704 |
| Bala Cynwyd 2 Bala Plaza #300 Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004 | Harrisburg 330 E Park Dr Harrisburg, PA 17111 | Marlton, NJ 10000 Lincoln Dr E #201 Marlton, NJ 08053 | State College 119 S Burrowes St State College, PA 16801 | Williamsport 460 Market St #205 Williamsport, PA 17701 |
| Bloomsburg 24 W Main St Bloomsburg, PA 17815 | Hazleton 1201 N Church St #220 Hazleton, PA 18202 | Pittsburgh 301 Grant St #4300 Pittsburgh, PA 15219 | Stroudsburg 731 Sarah St Stroudsburg, PA 18360 | <i>Our Office Locations</i> *Our principal office. |
| Chambersburg 550 Cleveland Ave Chambersburg, PA 17201 | Lancaster 1853 William Penn Way Lancaster, PA 17601 | Reading 606 N 5th St #4 Reading, PA 19601 | Sunbury 106 Market St Sunbury, PA 17801 | |



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