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Disability News

Your One Stop For Injury and Disability News
(and some fun stuff, too!)

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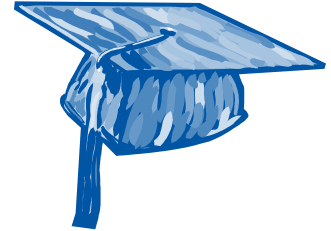
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Graduation Time!

June time is Graduation time! As a father of four, I am looking forward to many, many rounds of pomp and circumstance! However, I don't yet even have a child at the typical age (high school graduation) but I do have two graduations/moving up ceremonies coming up at the end of the month – one Fifth Grader moving up to middle school and one middle schooler moving up to the High School! No caps, no gowns (and thankfully, they should be reserved for the traditional graduations) but definitely acknowledgements of academic achievements, name recognition, certificates and celebrations. Wow, what a wonderful thing to do, acknowledge a life moment. Some critics say we over do it (like a trophy for every sport – which I agree is overdone) but these moving up ceremonies have a

lot to find favor with and not just a reason to have a nice family lunch.

These are truly great moments for positive reinforcement about working hard, setting goals, achieving goals and moving forward in life. You could certainly make a mistake and have your child feel as though these are just entitlements, but guess what - they are not. The move from 5th grade to middle school is a true life moment. No longer an elementary schooler, but soon to take on more independence (and having two in middle school already they definitely take on more independence –whoa!). As to my eighth grader, he will be in high school next year and we have already begun discussing goals (not just grades) of where he may want to go, will that include academics and sports and other activities but



most importantly setting goals and starting to work towards those goals.

If I can teach my children how to look ahead and then begin to make a plan to achieve those goals, that is a true life lesson and a skill that will help them no matter where they journey too. And yes, these moving up ceremonies are a step and an important one in that direction. While I cannot quote it directly, I believe there is a Chinese proverb that goes something like this "every thousand mile journey starts with one step" – let the Graduations begin, because they are first steps towards the future!



Warm Wishes for a Wonderful Summer!

Please remember to protect yourself from the sun. Wear sunscreen!

You asked for information— we got it!

Check out the disability specialists at

www.markhofflaw.com

When The Dog Bites....

As summer approaches and we're spending more and more time outdoors in parks and recreation areas, we receive an increased number of calls asking about what to do (*from a legal, not medical perspective!*) if you've been bit by a dog or if you're dog has done the biting. Do you know what you'd do if you found yourself in this situation? Would you believe that over 4.7 million people are bit by dogs each year? While most of the victims are children, adults get bit too!

There are a few things you can do to avoid being bitten. These include:

- Be cautious around strange dogs
- Never turn your back to a dog and run away (the dog might think you are playing and chase and try to catch you),
- Do not disturb a dog if its sleeping
- Do not pull anything out of a dogs mouth.

Do you own a dog? There are a few things you can do to prevent your dog

from biting.

- Train your dog, best to start when your dog is a puppy
- Socialize your dog; make your dog comfortable with people and in crowds if you'll be taking him/her out often
- Spay or neuter your dog. This will prevent your dog from roaming and "fighting" with other dogs
- Teach your dog appropriate behavior. Don't allow your dog to chew or bite your hands. At the first sign of your dog acting "aggressive" seek help from your vet or consider a dog trainer.

Now, the question we're asked as attorneys. You've been bitten –or– your dog has bitten someone. What do you do?

If you are bitten, and the skin has been broken, seek medical attention immediately. Dog bites can cause serious injury, infection, and even death if the dog was diseased. Once you have been



medically evaluated, you should consider consulting a lawyer with experience in animal bite cases. An attorney will be able to tell you whether you have a legal claim, and what damages you may be able to recover.

If your dog did the biting, start by offering to cover any medical expenses incurred. That might be enough. If the person goes ahead with a lawsuit, you can be liable. In New York, you would be required to pay all medical bills (strict liability) but you are not necessarily responsible beyond that — lost income, pain and suffering and property damage. The case might be taken to court where it would be tried by a jury.

Did You Know?

June is National Safety

Month. This year's theme is "Safety: Where We Live, Work and Play." Here's what three individuals are doing to help prevent injury and save lives. What can you do ?

- "I asked my son to stop texting while driving." - Jim
- "I wore safety glasses while working on my overhead garage door operator." - Rick
- I provided flu prevention handouts and hand washing posters to the maintenance workers of my plant." - Sean

Frequently Asked Questions....

Dog or Animal Bites



Q: Do I have a claim if I went to a house to perform work, and was bitten by the property-owner's dog?

A: In most cases, if you are asked into a house to perform work for someone, the homeowner has a legal responsibility to take reasonable efforts to protect you from injury. If the person has a pet, the person might be responsible for keeping the pet away from you, or at least warning you of the presence of the animal. You may also have a workers' compensation claim against your employer. Because every situation is different, you should consult an attorney to go over your specific situation.

Q: If I get bit by a dog while I am working, can I file for workers' compensation?

A: If the injury occurred during the course of your normal work duties, you will most likely be able to file a claim for workers' compensation with your employer. In addition to your workers' compensation claim, if the owner of the dog is not your employer, you may be able to bring a legal claim against that person as well. Again, consult an attorney who will guide you on your particular case.

Congratulations to Michael Devch of Downtown Integrated Medical Services



Michael Devch

Our dear friend Michael Devch has been named this years recipient of the Community Award presented by UJA-Federation of New York's Russian Division. Michael is founder of Downtown Integrated Medical Services, a multi-specialty medical center that understands the needs and concerns of disabled and injured individuals whether from accidents, work injuries, sports injuries or chronic

medical issues.

This Community Award is especially fitting for Michael, an individual who has committed so much to his neighbors, friends and strangers whether personally or through his business. Way to go Michael! For more information about Michael and Downtown Integrated Medical Services check out www.mydowntownmd.com or call (718)522-3399.

Meet the Team.....Sharon Baez-Carrasco

My name is Sharon Baez-Carrasco. I am currently a legal assistant for the Social Security Dept. I am happily married to my high school sweetheart, Albert. We have 3 beautiful children—Aaron, 10 years old; Jordan, 4 years old and Angel-Sade, 9 months old.

Although I have only been part of the Markhoff & Mittman firm for less than two years, my experience here has been a journey of both personal and career

growth. Upon my arrival, I was received with open arms and felt like part of the M&M family immediately. During my short time here I have experienced great joys and personal loss. My M&M family was there to support me. I'm glad to say that I work with a great group of people that I can call friends.

Our firm is a representative of today's modern family where mothers work 9-5 and then go home to tend

to their families. It is a firm of multi-taskers who bring that skill and dedication to their workplace everyday. As we understand the struggles of working people. I am proud to be part of the M&M family.



"I am proud to be part of the M&M family."

- Sharon

Sharon and her beautiful family

Special Days in June.....

- Donut Day.....June 1
- Egg Day.....June 3
- Cheese Day.....June 4
- D-Day.....June 6
- Yo-Yo Day.....June 6
- Ball Point Pen Day.....June 10
- Iced Tea Day.....June 10
- Magic Day.....June 12
- Race Unity Day.....June 13
- Flag Day.....June 14
- World Juggling Day.....June 14
- Power of a Smile Day.....June 15
- National Fudge Day.....June 16
- International Picnic Day.....June 18
- Father's Day.....June 20
- Ice Cream Soda Day.....June 20
- 1st Day of Summer.....June 21
- National Pink Day.....June 23
- Soap Opera Day.....June 23
- Natn'l Chocolate Pudding Day.....June 26
- Camera Day.....June 29
- Meteor Day.....June 30

And, June is.....

- National Safety Month
- Dairy Month
- Great Outdoors Month
- National Adopt-A-Cat Month
- National Drive Safe Month
- National Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Month
- National Iced Tea Month
- National Rose Month
- National Tennis Month

Markhoff & Mittman in the Community

We had lots of fun and were so happy to see many of you a few weeks ago at the annual Port Chester Fest. Congratulations to Enrique Beltran of Port Chester, our IPOD winner!

entertained the crowd with wonderful Landino Music. When not practicing law, Dan sings and plays the clarinet with the Elias Landino Ensemble.



Managing Partner, Brian Mittman, with his mom who joined us at the event



The Elias Landino Ensemble Partner, Daniel Elias, on the left

Stay Tuned.....

Blog Talk Radio Series

Join us for our 2 part series on back injuries and how a chiropractor can treat these injuries. Special guest and licensed chiropractor, Dr. David Kreshover of Uptown Chiropractic, will join Brian Mittman and Scott Daniels.

June 1st.....6:00—6:30 pm

Part 1: What is Chiropractic Therapy and How Can it Help My Disability Case?

June 8th.....6:00—6:30 pm

Part 2: A Diagnosis of Radiculopathy—How a Chiropractor Can Help

And, on June 23rd tune in to learn about the difference between social security disability and workers' comp.

To listen in or if you miss the show , visit our web site at www.markhofflaw.com and click on the BlogTalkRadio box on our home page.

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Ask the Attorney

Question: What types of disabilities can qualify me for social security disability?

Answer: Almost anything severe enough to keep you out of work. Some of the most common include:



**Brian M. Mittman,
Attorney at Law**

- Spinal disorders, including herniated cervical or lumbar discs, spinal stenosis, arthritis, osteoporosis, compression fractures
- Rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue syndrome, HIV, AIDS
- Amputations, multiple fractures requiring surgery, reflex sympathetic dystrophy, chronic regional pain disorder
- Cancer
- Decreased vision or hearing, vertigo, tinnitus, stuttering
- Asthma, emphysema, asbestosis, sleep apnea, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Heart attacks, angina, bypass surgery, congestive heart failure, enlarged heart, aneurysm, valve disease, heart transplant
- Chronic liver disease, cirrhosis, hepatitis, ascites, colitis, Crohn's disease, diverticulosis, pancreatitis
- Kidney disease, anemia, leukemia, polycythemia, lymphoma, myeloma, sickle cell anemia
- Sklerodema, burns, psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, melanoma, hydradenitis, skin cancer
- Diabetes, obesity, neuropathy, retinopathy, thyroid diseases, peripheral vascular disease, high blood pressure
- Seizure disorder (epilepsy), multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, myasthenia gravis, brain tumor, ALS, alzheimers
- Depression, anxiety, bi-polar disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), ADHD, ADD, schizophrenia
- Substance abuse, alcoholism, prescription pain addiction, personality disorders, mood disorders

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