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A Personal Injury Law Firm

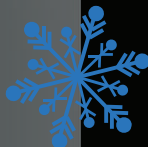
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Workplace injuries – you may have options beyond workers' comp



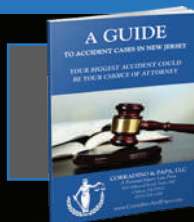
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trouble ON THE HIGH SEAS

Cruise vacations are popular. Great weather, a bevy of activities and entertainment, an expansive menu of food and drink, and onshore excursions in exotic locales are appealing to many vacationers. However, negligence and personal injury risk are heightened as well.



Cruise passengers falling overboard, fires, electrical outages, and rough seas garner the headlines. However, most occurrences of personal injury fly under the radar. Poorly designed stairways, faulty handrails, insufficient lighting, lack of security or supervision, serving alcohol to already-inebriated guests, and slip-and-fall incidents, among many other possibilities, can lead to serious injuries.

The risk of cruise ship injury is elevated, since the industry is largely unregulated. They have adopted their own "Passenger Bill of Rights," which doesn't hold much water; it's mainly for marketing purposes. Lack of regulation is how cruise lines keep their prices down. Their real money is made through alcohol sales, gambling, and onshore excursions.

Personal injury cases involving cruise ships can be complex. Liability might be limited by the terms and conditions listed on the cruise ticket. The amount of time a person has to file a claim or lawsuit is restricted, and there may be waivers associated with certain cruise ship activities.

A "forum selection clause" on a passenger ticket may dictate where you can file a lawsuit in the United States. You may be limited to a major port city, such as Miami, Seattle, or Los Angeles, which can create a hardship if you live elsewhere. In some circumstances, you may need to seek legal remedy in a foreign jurisdiction.

If you suffer injury due to cruise-related negligence, contact **Corradino & Papa, LLC** to discuss your options. ■



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workplace injuries



YOU MAY HAVE OPTIONS BEYOND WORKERS' COMP

Someone injured on the job may be under the impression that workers' comp is their only avenue for compensation. In general, this is true, but there are a number of exceptions.

For example, if you were injured by a defective product, a products liability lawsuit against the manufacturer may be a possibility.

If a toxic substance caused you harm, the manufacturer might be subject to a toxic tort lawsuit. There are generally two kinds of toxic injuries – acute, which are apparent immediately; and latent, which may take years to appear. A worker may be able to file suit against the manufacturer of the toxic substance and/or any manufacturers of safety equipment that proved to be ineffective.

You might be able to bring a personal injury lawsuit against your employer if you were injured due to their intentional or egregious conduct. If your employer doesn't carry workers' comp insurance, you may be able to file a civil court action against them or collect money from a state fund.

If a third party is responsible for causing your injuries, filing a personal injury lawsuit against them is an option.

If an injury is disabling and prevents you from working, you may also be eligible for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI and SSI).

Workers' compensation in the form of temporary disability or permanent disability payments is usually quite low and doesn't provide anything for pain and suffering. There are no punitive damages to punish the employer for dangerous conditions or poor safety measures.

If you are injured on the job, consult with an experienced attorney to safeguard your rights. ■



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potholes on the road TO DRIVERLESS CARS

Tesla's "Autopilot" system is an optional driver-assistance feature which employs sensors that provide a 360-degree view around the car, extending up to roughly 750 feet. It processes visual, sonar, and radar information to make rapid adjustments as necessary.

Autopilot can provide lane assistance, regulate speed, automatically change lanes, detect objects, apply the brakes, and self-park. But an attentive driver is still required behind the wheel to respond when prompted.

Many automotive experts believe a weak spot in the Autopilot system is that Tesla does not incorporate high-detail mapping, unlike most companies invested in driver-assistance features. Two fatal Tesla crashes in Florida—one in 2016, another in spring 2019—shared eerily similar circumstances. Both cars were autopiloted directly into the side and underneath turning tractor-trailers, with no reduction of speed prior to the crashes. Cross-referencing high-detail mapping can enhance a driver-assistance system's ability to distinguish obstacles that need to be avoided and reduce the chances of being "fooled."

Other industry experts believe Tesla's marketing sends mixed messages (the name "Autopilot" itself is misleading). Drivers should keep their hands on the wheel while using Autopilot, but when Tesla demonstrates and speaks of their product, it has sometimes been presented as if it were a driverless ("autonomous") car, lulling some drivers into a false sense of security.

Drivers who activate Autopilot or similar systems, manufacturers of these systems, and possibly government agencies charged with oversight may share liability for harm caused by crashes.

Technology can be exciting and ultimately beneficial, but it's not hazard-free. If you become the victim of a negligent driver—or flawed technology—contact [Corradino & Papa, LLC](#) to protect your rights. ■

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DOGS NEED SPECIAL winter care



Even with fur, dogs are not immune to cold, wintry weather and potential hypothermia and frostbite. First off, some coats are thicker than others. In addition, fur protection doesn't extend to paws, ears, or the tail. Bellies are more vulnerable, too—in particular, short-legged dogs whose undersides are in closer proximity to snow-covered ground.

To combat the cold, take your dog for shorter walks ... during daylight hours, if possible. A dog sweater or coat adds warmth—they're not just for cute Facebook posts—especially for short-haired varieties. Watch for cracked paw pads. If your pet has furry feet, trim the fur between their toes to minimize ice buildup. Wipe your dog's paws once back inside the house to clear off road/sidewalk salt and deicers that aren't pet-friendly. Dog boots, though silly-looking, can be invaluable.

If you have a fenced-in yard, don't pile snow next to the fence. Dogs are curious, may climb onto the pile, and hop over the fence. If your dog then takes a jaunt, snow cover can conceal scents that normally lead them back home.

Inside the house, be mindful of space heaters, wood stoves, and fireplaces. An unwary pet can get burned or knock something over that sparks a fire.

Consider giving your dog fewer baths over the winter. Dry winter air can cause dry, flaky, sensitive skin, and baths don't help. Too much scratching can lead to more serious skin issues. Ask your vet for a shampoo recommendation; a humidifier may benefit canines and humans.

And don't overfeed your furry friend over the winter. Focus on a diet that will ensure a healthy coat, not an extra layer of fat. ■

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January 2020 – Mark Your Calendars

January 2 – National Buffet Day January 5 – National Bird Day

January 8 – National Winter Skin Relief Day January 13 – National Sticker Day

January 21 – Squirrel Appreciation Day January 24 – National Compliment Day

January 28 – National Kazoo Day January 29 – National Puzzle Day

winter walking CAN BE TRICKY



Falls are one of the leading causes of unintentional injury in the United States. Unsurprisingly, winter snow and ice ramp up the numbers.

Typically, property owners (home and business) have a duty to maintain safe premises for those who use their sidewalks, walkways, and parking lots. In the winter, that generally includes snow/ice removal and salting *within a reasonable amount of time*, which is often spelled out by local ordinances. Property owners who fail to comply could be held liable for injuries.

A few states, however, abide by a “natural accumulation” rule, which exempts property owners from liability for fall injuries resulting from natural snow and ice accumulation—as long as the owner didn't interfere with or alter the natural accumulation in some way, and no abnormal danger existed. Property owners could be held liable for “unnatural accumulations,” such as a leaky downspout that contributes to icy walkways.

The general public is also responsible for exercising reasonable care. For example, paying attention or taking an available, safer-looking route is a good start. Injured pedestrians or visitors who failed to exercise reasonable care could see potential compensation reduced or eliminated entirely.

Cases involving injuries from falls on government property are more complex. Like other property owners, the government (local, state, and federal) has a duty to maintain safe premises for guests and pedestrians. However, there are stricter procedures for filing a claim and a narrower window of time to kick off the process.

Some snow- and ice-related falls are merely embarrassing; others cause debilitating injuries. If you are injured due to property owner negligence, contact [Corradino & Papa, llc](#) to recover rightful compensation. ■



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FREE BOOK

Get Jack Corradino and Robert Papa's *New Ultimate Guide to Accident Cases in NJ*, written by Jack and RC. It will explain "Why your biggest accident could be your choice of attorney", and what to do in the event you are injured.

Personal Injury
Car Accident
Truck Accidents
Auto Accident
Slip and Falls
Dog Bite
Premises Liability
Work Accidents
Workers' Compensation
Medical Malpractice
Construction Accidents
Motor Vehicle Accidents
Product Liability
Wrongful Death
PIP Arbitration

Quote of the Month: "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." —Mark Twain

This publication is intended to educate the general public about personal injury, medical malpractice, and other issues. It is for information purposes only and is not intended to be legal advice. Prior to acting on any information contained here, you should seek and retain competent counsel. The information in this newsletter may be freely copied and distributed as long as the newsletter is copied in its entirety.

sweet potato risotto

If you're looking for something robust but with a hint of sweetness, this recipe is worth trying!

Ingredients

- 1 sweet potato, peeled and cut into ¼-inch dice
- 1/3 c. chopped shallots
- 3 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil, divided
- 2 Tbsp. melted butter, divided
- 1 Tbsp. minced garlic
- ½ tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. black pepper, ground
- 1 c. Arborio rice
- ½ c. white wine
- 3 c. vegetable stock
- ½ c. grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 Tbsp. fresh parsley, chopped

Directions

- Preheat oven to 425 degrees.
- Place diced potato, shallots, garlic, salt, pepper, and **2 Tbsp. of the oil** and **1 Tbsp. of the butter** into a small baking pan. Mix and bake for 10 minutes before flipping the mixture and baking for another 10 minutes.
- Meanwhile, in a medium pot, add the remaining oil and butter. Heat over medium-high. Add rice and cook for about 2-3 minutes, keeping the rice moving. Do not brown the rice. Add wine and stir, then reduce heat to medium-low. When the wine has evaporated, begin adding stock a quarter-cup at a time, waiting until it evaporates before adding more. The rice should never completely dry out.
- Add the sweet potato mixture to the rice once it has completed cooking (you can do this at any point) and continue cooking the rice until the stock has evaporated and rice is cooked (but not mushy). Remove heat and stir in Parmesan and parsley. Cover and let sit for 3-5 minutes until the texture is creamy. Season as desired. ■

