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## Linden Hall Seminar

Recently, three of O'Connor Law's attorneys, Michael J. O'Connor, William Kovalcik and Steven Yurkonis were invited to attend a meeting by the United Steel Workers, District 10, which encompasses all of Pennsylvania. The presentation was held at Linden Hall in Dawson, Pennsylvania. Meeting participants included members of local unions and United Steel Workers Officials from across the state. Attorneys O'Connor, Kovalcik and Yurkonis gave updated information regarding workers' compensation and related legal topics during the presentation. Topics included Pennsylvania workers' compensation as well as factual scenarios based upon case studies, the law on third-party cases and FMLA (Family and Medical Leave Act). The presentation was recorded and a full video is available to all unions that wish to view it or distribute it to their members. Please contact our firm for a copy of the video.

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Attorney Michael J. O'Connor



Attorneys William Kovalcik and Steven Yurkonis

## Practice Areas

- Auto Accidents
- Motorcycle Accidents
- Personal Injury
- Product Liability
- Slip & Fall Accidents
- Social Security Disability
- Traffic Violations
- Wills, Estates, & Elder Laws
- Workers' Compensation

## Workers' Compensation and Unions

Depending on the job, union members are exposed to working with dangerous equipment and working in dangerous environments. For example, construction employees are experienced workers that are exposed to dangerous working conditions, such as maintaining large equipment. When an accident occurs at work, it is important for workers to receive their compensation benefits. Workers' compensation supports individuals who have been injured at work by supplying payments, such as for medical expenses and loss of wages. Having a workers' compensation attorney at O'Connor Law will allow our clients to receive legal expertise and all the benefits that they are eligible to receive.

When union workers have been involved in a work accident and are injured, workers should complete multiple steps. Once the accident occurs, the employee should report it immediately and seek medical attention. When filing for workers' compensation benefits, a medical evaluation will be needed. Individuals should then document the accident and injuries. This information will be extremely important when filing a claim or providing evidence. The next step is to tell their employer of the accident. A delay in informing an employer may cause workers to become ineligible to receive workers' compensation benefits. Since the filing process for claims can be very extensive and specific, it is recommended to hire a workers' compensation attorney.

## Recipe Corner

### ***Patti's Recipe for Nut Cups***



#### Ingredients:

- 1 cup of butter, softened
- 1 8oz package of cream cheese
- ½ cup white (powder) sugar
- 2 cups of flour
- 1 ½ cups brown sugar
- 2 teaspoon butter, melted
- 2 eggs
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups of chopped walnuts (or pecans)
- 1 ½ cups brown sugar

#### Directions:

In a medium bowl, mix together the butter, cream cheese, and sugar until smooth. Stir in the flour and mix thoroughly. The dough should be relatively firm. Roll into 36 small balls, place them on a plate, and refrigerate for one hour.

Make the filling in a medium bowl. Mix the eggs, melted butter, vanilla, and brown sugar until smooth and blended. Stir in the nuts. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Press the chilled dough balls into the bottom and up the sides of tart pans or mini muffin cups. Fill each shell with filling almost to the top.

Bake for 15 to 20 minutes in the preheated oven, until crust is lightly browned. Allow to cool in the tins completely before removing.

## Frequently Asked Questions

What should I do if I was injured on the job?

It is strongly encouraged that you immediately report your work injury to your superior or an agent of the employer. A delay in providing notice of an injury can result in a denial of the claim. Notice must be provided by the injured worker to the employer within 120 days of the injury, or no compensation will be allowed under the Pennsylvania Workers' Compensation Act. It is imperative to give notice of every work injury, no matter how minor. The notice should be detailed and include a description of the work injury along with the time, place and how the injury occurred.

Should I call my doctor if I have been in a automobile accident?

Yes. It is recommended that you immediately call your doctor or seek medical attention if you have been in an auto accident. A medical examination and testing may discover injuries you were unaware of or that were not immediately apparent to you.

What injuries are covered under workers' compensation?

Employees are entitled to receive benefits if they suffer an injury that arises out of and in the course and scope of their employment with the employer. The injury must occur while the employee is carrying out or performing their normal, assigned work related duties for the benefit of the employer.

What is a defective product?

A defective product is one that causes damage or injury to a consumer due to a defect in its design, manufacturing or marketing. A design defect results in a product being unreasonably dangerous due to a faulty design. A manufacturing defect occurs during the production of a product, i.e. the individual item was not properly made, even though the product as a whole is not faulty. Finally, a marketing defect results from improper instructions and/or failures to warn of latent dangers.

What are my options if my Social Security Disability claim is denied?

If your initial social security disability claim is denied and you consider your claim to be legitimate, you should appeal the decision and request a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge. If you are considering appealing the decision and have not already secured legal representation, it would be advisable to hire an experienced social security lawyer to assist you with your appeal.

Why do tractor-trailer accidents occur?

Tractor-trailer accidents happen due to a variety of reasons. A few examples of negligence that cause tractor-trailer accidents include speeding and ignoring posted traffic signs, driver fatigue, driving too fast for weather conditions, improper maintenance, driving over a significant number of hours, not being able to see properly at night, aggressive drivers, tailgating, and driving in the wrong lane.

What is product liability based on?

A successful products liability case is based on a manufacturing defect, a design defect or insufficient warning of danger known to the manufacturer or seller.

## Project Cheer

Project Cheer is a local project that aims to bring cheer, happiness, and assistance to families during the holiday season. Created in 2018, the project has expanded from originally helping one family to multiple families. Businesses or groups in the community can also support a family and donate items, such as gifts or holiday meals. Project Cheer accepts donations for a variety of items, including children's toys, canned food, and monetary donations. Companies, businesses, families, and members of the community are welcome to donate to Project Cheer.

Attorneys Mary Kathleen O'Connor, James O'Connor, and Steven Yurkonis attended the event on behalf of O'Connor Law. The photo on the right was taken at this year's holiday party. For three consecutive years, O'Connor Law has been honored to participate in donating to Project Cheer. Last year, Project Cheer was able to help 6 local families, including 13 children. The families were invited to a holiday celebration, including the chance to meet with Santa and Mrs. Claus.



## Indoor and Outdoor Games for the Winter

With bad weather approaching, people will start to look towards activities that are safe and fun. During the winter months, there are a variety of games and activities that families can do inside and outside. Indoor activities can include board games, watching movies, cooking and baking, and decorating for the holidays. Crafts are also a great option for indoor activities. In the Craft Corner, there is a craft idea that is explained by O'Connor Law's receptionist, Patti. On the previous page, Patti also provides a recipe for nut cups in the Recipe Corner.

There are also outdoor activities, such as sledding, ice skating, and playing in the snow. There are also local businesses that people can visit during the winter season. Knoebels, an amusement park located in Elysburg, offers a drive through Christmas holiday experience. Visiting a local library would also be a great place to go to during the winter. Libraries may plan special events for children and families in the winter months.

## Tip for Driving Safe in the Winter

There are certain tips to be mindful of while driving in the winter weather. Weather can be a harmful contributor to auto accidents. In particular, snow, ice, sleet, and slush can impact driving conditions. Being prepared and cautious will help drivers and passengers be safe during the winter season. Listed below are a few safety tips:

1. Have your vehicle inspected before bad weather to ensure your car is equipped and prepared.
2. Be mindful of black ice. Black ice is referred to as ice that has covered the roadways. To drivers, the ice can become unnoticeable.
3. Allow time for cars to heat up before driving. This will help to warm the inside of the car and to melt any snow or ice that may have accumulated.
4. Pack a snow brush and ice scraper in your vehicle. If vehicles are outside, there may be inches of snow or ice if there was a winter storm. The brush and scraper will help to remove the snow and clear the windows.
5. Maintain a safe distance between other vehicles on the road. It is recommended to maintain at least a length of three cars in between other vehicles. This is to allow for additional reaction times and ensure safety.
6. Pay full attention to the road. Drivers should not be distracted while driving.

### Craft Corner

## Snowmen Salt and Pepper Shakers



#### Materials:

- Clear salt and pepper shakers
- White chalk paint
- Black paint
- Orange felt
- Glue, paint brushes, and scissors
- Optional: ribbon

#### Instructions:

Use the white chalk paint to cover the bottom portion of the salt and pepper shakers. It is recommended to use two coats. Then, use black paint to create small dots for the eyes and smile of the snowman. Finally, cut a small portion of the orange felt to represent the nose. Although it is optional, ribbon can be used to decorate the salt and pepper shakers.



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