

STAMPONE D'ANGELO RENZI DIPIERO

Attorneys at Law, P.C.

*Good Friendships make
Great Partnerships.*

Pictured right—
Joe Stampone and
Drew D'Angelo in 1991



SPINACH SALAD



Salad Ingredients

- Fresh Spinach
- 8 ozs. sliced white mushrooms
- 2 hard boiled eggs, chopped
- Fresh bacon bits
- Croutons

Dressing Ingredients

- 1 small onion, minced
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup cider vinegar
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoon Grey Poupon mustard
- 2 tablespoon Ketchup
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

Firm's Favorite

My Sister-in-Law, Eva's, Ridiculously Good SPINACH SALAD

Clean and prepare salad ingredients and mix in a large bowl. In a separate container, mix dressing ingredients together starting with the oil and vinegar. Add sugar, onion, mustard, ketchup, Worcestershire and lemon juice. Mix thoroughly and shake well before dressing the salad. Serve chilled.

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Attorneys at Law, P.C.
500 Cottman Avenue, Cheltenham, PA 19012 | 215.663.0400

A Letter from Joe

Volume 8, Issue 2

STAMPONE

DEAR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES,

As we near 25 years in business, I want to share a bit of our history and vision. In 1982, Drew D'Angelo and I founded the firm to serve the residents of Northeast Philadelphia, where we grew up. We set up shop next to my parents' house in a one-room space, and landed our first client by sitting on the sidewalk in front of the tiny building.

We saw our first significant victory when we represented one of my childhood friends in a product liability lawsuit. Tragically, my friend, a union ironworker, fell to his death while rebuilding the Platt Memorial Bridge. We were able to prove that the accident resulted from a defective product designed and manufactured by multiple contractors hired for the project. As a result, we helped my friend's family deal with the financial consequence of his death.

In 1991, Nicholas Renzi joined the firm. A South Philadelphia native, Nick is known for his aggressive, yet humorous personality. He knows how to get the job done! In 2004, we added Andrew DiPiero, Jr., and we moved into our newly renovated building at 500 Cottman Avenue to better accommodate our growing size and the needs of our clients. Andy, like Nick, hails from South Philadelphia. He brought vast trial experience and a particular penchant for medical malpractice litigation to the firm.

As our neighborhood roots have supplied us with an ever-growing client list, we have not lost sight of our strong commitment to protecting individual rights. While hard-fought litigation is a hallmark of our now eight attorney firm, it is personal attention and a family atmosphere that truly sets us apart. We are invested in the people who turn to us for help.

Think of us as "your" lawyers. If you have legal matters that need attention, we are here for you. If we cannot handle a matter, we will refer you to a competent firm that can. And please feel free to refer us to your family, friends and neighbors for their legal needs. We always welcome the opportunity to help.

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Stampone
Managing Shareholder

DiPiero Named 2006 Pennsylvania Super Lawyer as Featured in Philadelphia Magazine

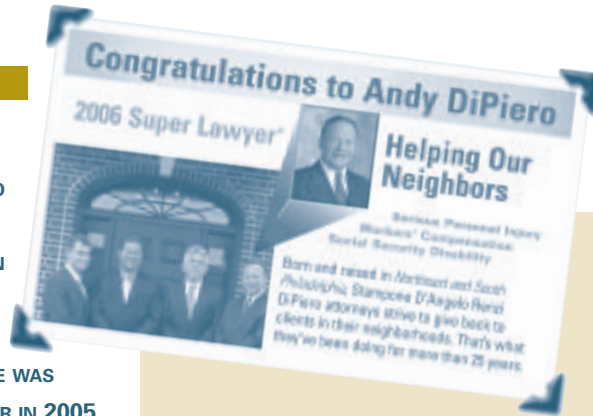
ANDREW E. DIPIERO, ESQ., OF STAMPONE D'ANGELO RENZI DIPIERO WAS NAMED A 2006 PENNSYLVANIA SUPER LAWYER® AND IS FEATURED IN THE JUNE 2006 PHILADELPHIA MAGAZINE AS A TOP LAWYER IN PENNSYLVANIA. JOSEPH P. STAMPONE WAS NAMED PENNSYLVANIA SUPER LAWYER IN 2005.

DiPiero and Stampone were chosen by their peers as being among the best in the profession. Law & Politics Media conducts the research and surveys. The list of Pennsylvania Super Lawyers® includes the top five percent of the Pennsylvania Bar in all fields of practice.

DiPiero has 25 years experience in complex civil litigation including catastrophic injuries and wrongful death matters stemming from automobile accidents, defective products, medical malpractice, construction claims, liquor liability and slip and fall accidents.

He has been certified as a Civil Trial Advocate by the National Board of Trial Advocacy since 1998.

Born and raised in Philadelphia, DiPiero is a graduate of St. John Neumann High School, LaSalle College and Widener University School of Law. He resides with his family in Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania and has been a trustee of Quaint Oak Savings Bank in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, for the past 20 years.



Andrew E. DiPiero, Jr., Esquire

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Automobile Accidents, Catastrophic Personal Injury, Wrongful Death, Product Liability, Medical Malpractice, Construction Claims, Liquor Liability, Premises Liability and Real Estate Litigation.

EDUCATION

Widener University School of Law
Wilmington, Delaware
Juris Doctor 1981

LaSalle College
Philadelphia
Bachelor of Arts 1974

St. John Neumann High School
Philadelphia, Diploma 1970

BOARD CERTIFICATION

Civil Trial Advocate
National Board of Trial Advocacy
1998- Present

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Bar Association
Association of Trial Lawyers of America
Pennsylvania Bar Association
Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association
Philadelphia Bar Association
Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association
The Justinian Society

The Social Security Disability Safety Net *Claiming the benefits you deserve when you are unable to work.*

MOST OF US GO TO WORK EACH DAY THINKING ABOUT THE TASKS THAT LIE AHEAD, AN IMPORTANT MEETING, OR MAYBE OUR EVENING PLANS. WE DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IF WE BECOME DISABLED AND ARE UNABLE TO WORK FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME.

But according to the Social Security Administration (SSA), we should be prepared for just such an event. Fortunately, Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and its cousin, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), can act as safety nets for sick or injured workers and their families.

In 2004 – the most recent year for which figures are available – SSD payments totaled approximately \$70 billion. Nearly 7 million disabled workers collected \$6.2 billion in disability benefits during May alone. The average monthly benefit paid to injured or sick workers that month was \$943.

SSDI is available to a disabled worker and his or her family members provided that the worker meets certain criteria. SSDI is a federally administered program financed through Social Security taxes. Disability benefits are calculated based on prior earnings; financial need is not a consideration. Once SSD beneficiaries have received payments for 24 months, they also become entitled to Medicare coverage.

The Legal Corner

Unlike SSD, Supplemental Security Income, or SSI, is based solely on financial need. An SSI recipient need not have paid into the Social Security system through prior jobs in order to receive benefits. Disabled individuals who have less than \$2,000 in assets may be eligible for SSI benefits. The maximum dollar figure jumps to \$3,000 in assets for couples. SSI recipients are also entitled to Medicaid free of charge. In some cases, a worker may receive SSD and SSI payments.

While the thought of a financial safety net might help us sleep better, the administration denies a surprising 60 percent of all initial SSD claims. This is partly because the SSA uses a complex set of regulations. Under the Social Security Act, a “disability” is defined as the inability to work due to severe physical or mental impairment that has lasted, or is expected to last, for at least a year, or that is expected to result in death. Whether you can work is determined not by your ability to go back to your previous job, or by whether you have been able to find a new job, but rather by your physical and mental ability to do a job that is available in the everyday work place.

The five-step process that is used to determine eligibility for benefits looks like this:

1. Current Employment Situation: If you are working and earning more than \$860 per month, you generally will not be considered disabled. If you are not working or are earning less than \$860 per month, the administration moves on to step 2.

2. Severity of Condition: This is where the technical definition of “disability” comes into play. Your condition (or combination of conditions) must be severe enough to interfere with basic work-related activities,

and must have lasted, or be expected to last, for at least one year, or be expected to result in death.

3. List of Disabling Impairments: At this stage, the administration checks to see whether your condition is found on its list of impairments that are so severe that they are automatically considered disabling. If your condition does not appear on the list, the administration will determine whether your condition or combination of conditions is of equal severity to an impairment on the list. If so, your claim for benefits will be approved. If not, the administration moves on to step 4.

4. Ability to Return to Work: Here, the administration examines whether your illness or injury makes it impossible for you to do any work that you have done during the last 15 years. If it does not, your claim will be denied. If it does, the administration moves to step 5.

5. Ability to Do Another Type of Work:

The administration will examine your age, education, past work experience, medical condition and transferable skills to decide whether or not you are capable of adjusting to a new kind of work. If you are not, your claim will be approved. If new work is a possibility, your claim will be denied.

Many of the 60 percent of applicants whose initial claims are denied simply give up and assume they will not be able to obtain benefits. This is a mistake because it is possible to ask the administration to reconsider an application. Approximately 20 percent of reconsiderations results in an approval. Applicants who are denied still should not give up. The second denial can be appealed, and statistically, more than 50 percent of all claimants who continue to pursue benefits ultimately receive them.

While you are entitled to seek benefits without the help of an attorney, statistics show that applicants represented by counsel have a greater chance of obtaining benefits. At the beginning of the process, an experienced lawyer can help you gather, prepare and submit the evidence necessary to show you are disabled. Your attorney can contact your physician to make sure that he or she submits a report consistent with Social Security regulation requirements. Your lawyer can also help you obtain documents from your SSD file. If you hire an attorney during the appeal process, he or she can help you prepare to testify at your hearing, present medical and other evidence to support your claim and make sure you receive a fair hearing by objecting to improper evidence and questioning adverse witnesses. If you secure benefits, your lawyer can make sure that the administration calculates them correctly. If benefits are denied, your attorney can help you appeal to a federal court.

We handle SSD cases on a contingency basis and will only be paid if you obtain benefits. By statute, your attorney can earn either 25 percent of the past-due benefits or \$5,300, whichever is less. Applicants who do not obtain benefits will pay no fee.

It is important to apply for benefits soon after you become disabled and unable to work. You do not need to wait 12 months to apply. If your initial application has been denied, you have a very limited amount of time to appeal, so it is important to take action quickly. Our lawyers are available to answer your questions and to guide you and your family through the process of obtaining the benefits you are owed. For more information, contact our office at 215-663-0400.



Call us anytime if you have questions about your legal needs.

Joseph P. Stampone
 Drew P. D'Angelo
 Nicholas J. Renzi*
 Andrew E. DiPiero Jr.**

Armand E. Olivetti Jr.†
 James P. McNally
 Kimberly Thomas*††
 Daniel C. Breen*

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*ALSO MEMBER OF THE NEW JERSEY BAR

††ALSO MEMBER OF THE NEW YORK BAR

‡CERTIFIED AS A CIVIL TRIAL ADVOCATE BY THE NATIONAL BOARD OF TRIAL ADVOCACY

†FORMER WORKERS' COMPENSATION JUDGE

~OF COUNSEL

The Stampone D'Angelo Renzi DiPiero law firm is a team of dedicated attorneys and legal administrators, who strive to provide ethical, forthright and enlightened legal representation, prompt client responsiveness, diligent preparation and unwavering intensity. Our goal is to pursue the best course of action in litigating cases while understanding our clients' individual needs and personal situations. We respect and value our clients and our professional responsibility to them. We strive to maintain a secure place of employment for our team members to grow professionally and personally.

If you just want to say hello, we are located at 500 Cottman Avenue. If you have questions about your legal needs, call us anytime at 215.663.0400.

STAMPONE D'ANGELO RENZI DIPIERO

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