

*Geseende Kerfees en 'n gelukkige nuwe
jaar—Udah Saidan Wa Sanah
Jadidah—Shen tan jie kuai le. Hsin*

Nien Kuaile—Joyeux Noël

*Année!—Frohliche Weihnachten und
ein glückliches Neues Jahr!—Aronia*

polla kai epythismenos o kainourios

**Happy Holidays
and Thank You!**

Tivo—Shukriyyatun—Merry—Nalagan

Shona Ohuit—Eid Mubarak—Buon

*Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo!—Shinnen
omedeto. Kurisumasu Omedeto—Sung*

*Tan Chuk Ha—Lingsmu Kaledu ir
laimingu Nauju metu—En frohlicher*

Grischtdaag unen hallich Nei Yaahr!—

Wesolych Swiat Bozego Narodzenia—

Pozdreteyayu s prazdnikom Rozhdestva is

Novim Godom—Veselo Vianoco a stastny

novy rok—Feliz Navidad y Próspero Año

Nuevo—Srozhdestvom Kristoovym—

Cestitamo Bozic!—Geseende Kerfees en

STAMPONE D'ANGELO RENZI DIPIERO

Attorneys at Law, P.C.

**From the Stampone
D'Angelo Renzi DiPiero team**



Holiday Pizzelles

Recipes

- 6 eggs
- 3 -1/2 cups flour
- 1-1/2 cups sugar
- 3 Tbsp. anise extract
- 1/4 tsp. pure vanilla extract
- 2 sticks unsalted butter, melted
- 4 tsp. baking powder
- 2 Tbsp. anise seeds (optional)

Firm's Favorite

Pizzelles

Beat eggs, adding sugar gradually.
Beat until smooth. Add cooled
butter, vanilla and anise extract.

Sift flour and baking powder together
into a separate bowl. Blend flour
mixture slowly into egg mixture until
smooth. Add anise seeds (optional).
Dough will be sticky enough to be
dropped one teaspoon at a time.

Bake in pizzelle iron. Makes
approximately 100 small pizzelles.

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A Letter
from Joe

Volume 8, Issue 2

STAMPONE

**DEAR FRIENDS AND
COLLEAGUES,**

Happy Holidays and Thank You!

On behalf of everyone at Stampone D'Angelo Renzi DiPiero, we wish you the happiest of holidays and thank you for your continued patronage.

This year has been a particularly pleasurable one for members of our staff as we've seen success in so many ways. We have shared in the celebration of marriage and we have welcomed new children into the world. We've been featured for a second year in the 2006 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers® and in the June 2006 issue of Philadelphia Magazine. We've participated in neighborhood sporting events, cultural events like the National Italian American Political Action Committee Carnevalé Festival and the planning of the Italian American Cultural Center in Northeast Philadelphia.

As part of our ongoing commitment to community, the firm and its members continued to give back in 2006. Members of our team donated time and funds to various youth softball, baseball, basketball and soccer teams, an adult amateur baseball club, school ball clubs, and much more. In the spirit of giving, we will also participate in several clothing, food and toy drives for the holidays.

We thank each of you who has recommended our law firm to your family members, friends, relatives and neighbors. We value you as our client and friend and know that your legal issues deserve our undivided attention. Your faith in us is important and we vow to provide you and your loved ones with the care you deserve.

May we wish you all a MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY CHANUKAH,
BLESSED YULE, and HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Sincerely,



Joseph P. Stampone
Managing Shareholder

At Stampono D'Angelo Renzi DiPiero, we pride ourselves on the atmosphere in which we work. We have a professional, hardworking team – all of whom are encouraged to get involved in the community and share good news.

First, please join us in congratulating Erica Green who was married to Jeffrey Schmidt on November 4, 2006. Mazel Tov!



The firm also sponsored two receptions for the Italian American Cultural Center which hosted a delegation from the Senate of the Republic of Italy and members of the Parliament of the Republic of Italy led by Senator Sergio DeGregorio. The event raised funds for the Italian American Cultural Center which is the combined effort of Italian American individuals and corporations to build a center to sustain the vitality and cultural vibrancy of the Italian American heritage. The Center will facilitate community involvement through working partnerships - creating opportunities to interact with other ethnic groups. While providing a meeting place for social and professional events, the center will be utilized to host educational, cultural, recreational and sporting events. The 22 acre site in Northeast Philadelphia will consist of an athletic facility, meeting rooms, banquet hall and outdoor gardens.

Joe Stampono also had the great pleasure to greet and congratulate his good friend Vince Papale, at an exclusive preview party of the movie *Invincible* at Positano Coast in Philadelphia. Papale is a former Eagles' wide receiver and special teams captain. The



movie centered around Papale's journey on how he became a Philadelphia Eagle while becoming the oldest rookie in the history of the NFL. He still is!

Joe and his brother Fred Stampono are also involved in a Philadelphia-based real estate development company called FJ3. Joe adds his legal savvy to a team of four entrepreneurs. The partners have focused their development in the ever-changing landscape of Florida - in the heart of the state. One of their projects, known as Pebble Ridge and currently before state zoning officials, will more than double the town's population of 3,000. As a result of this undertaking, a new school, water treatment facility, retail center and 18-hole golf course will be added to the community. To learn more about FJ3, go to www.fj3development.com.

Online for the Holidays: Tips for Safe Internet Shopping

With the busy holiday season upon us, many will rely on the Internet to save time selecting and purchasing holiday gifts. But while the Internet is a terrific way to avoid crowds, compare prices and shop from the comfort of our own homes, it is important to remember that it can also harbor hidden dangers any time we use credit cards or divulge personal information. Identity theft – when someone uses your name, Social Security number, credit card number or other information to commit fraud or theft – is the fastest growing crime in the United States. Every 79 seconds another American becomes a victim of this damaging criminal offense. Once a thief has your information, he or she can destroy your credit rating and your good name by taking out fraudulent loans, opening credit card accounts and even buying cars or leasing an apartment in your name. To help you safeguard your information while shopping online, we have compiled these useful tips and information about what you should do if you suspect that you have become a victim of identity theft.

- **Make your computer a virtual fortress:** Install firewalls, spam filters and anti-spyware, anti-virus software to protect your online activities. Once you have installed these programs, keep them up-to-date by using your computer's "auto-update" function.
- **Exercise e-mail savvy:** Beware of "phishing" e-mails that look like they came from a bank, credit card or other financial company, such as PayPal®, but in reality were created by would-be identity thieves.

The Legal Corner

By Joseph P. Stampone, Esq.

These e-mails often indicate that there is a problem with your account and ask for your account information to "correct" the problem. Legitimate companies do not contact you via e-mail for such information. Do not click on Internet links within unsolicited e-mails. Instead, type the URL into your browser. Never send account numbers, PIN's or other personal information in the body of an e-mail. E-mail is not secure and could be intercepted.

- **Do not enter personal information into pop-up screens:** Identity thieves sometimes create authentic-looking pop-ups that appear when you access a company's Web site. These screens include blanks for personal information that can later be used to make fraudulent transactions in your name. Reputable companies do not ask for information in pop-ups. You can also install anti-pop-up software to prevent this nuisance.
- **Investigate unfamiliar merchants:** Check the Better Business Bureau's Web site (www.bbb.org) to learn more about the company's reputation before making a transaction. The Federal Citizen Information Center's Consumer Action site lists state consumer protection resources at www.consumeraction.gov/state.shtml. Be sure to check a seller's feedback page if you are buying from an online auction.
- **Choose your passwords wisely:** Do not use the same password for all of your computing activities. Do not make your e-mail password the same as the password you use to log onto your computer. Always create a unique password for online transactions, and especially for sensitive sites such as online banking. Do not use your name, date of birth, home address or phone number as a password. Instead, choose a string of letters, numbers and symbols.

- **Only divulge information under lock and key:** Before entering your personal information or credit card account number on a merchant's Web site, make sure that the transaction is secured by encryption technology. The URL at the top of the page you are viewing should change from "http:", to "https:" or "shttp:". Your Web browser should also display a locked padlock or an unbroken key to let you know that your information is being encoded to protect it from potential thieves.
- **Use a dedicated credit card:** When shopping online, pay with a dedicated credit card. Should a problem arise, federal law permits you to dispute the charges. In addition, many card issuers protect their account holders with "zero liability" policies. Having a credit card exclusively for online use also makes it easier to monitor your purchases.
- **Document your orders:** Print out receipts from online retailers for future reference.
- **Do not store personal information on your computer:** If you need to record personal information such as passwords or credit card numbers, create a CD and keep it in a secure location. If you must store personal information electronically, use an encryption program to protect it. Do not use your computer's "Remember My Password" feature, because anyone using your computer could access your information or make transactions in your name.
- **Safe public computing:** If you are using a public computer, never walk away from it while you are logged on. When you are finished with your session, be sure to log out and close the browser window.
- **Offline protection:** Carefully review credit card and bank statements; the majority of identity theft crimes are self-detected. Check your credit report at least once each year to

make sure there is no fraudulent activity. Obtain a free copy of your credit report one time per year from the three major credit agencies, which are Trans Union, Equifax and Experian.

If, despite your best efforts, you think you have become a victim of identity theft, it is crucial to act quickly to minimize damage to your credit and your good name.

- The Call For Action consumer network offers a hotline (866-ID-HOTLINE) and Web site (www.callforaction.org) that provides consumers with free, confidential step-by-step guidance for addressing identity theft.
- Immediately place a "fraud alert" on your credit report by contacting one of the three major credit bureaus. Within 24 hours, the bureau you contact will have alerted the other two bureaus. Equifax may be reached at www.equifax.com or 800-525-6285. Experian may be reached at www.experian.com or 888-397-3742. TransUnion's Web address is www.transunion.com and its hotline is 800-680-7289.
- File a police report and keep a copy of the report number as proof of the crime. Being able to prove that you reported the theft can be helpful when dealing with creditors.
- Close any accounts that you did not open, or that have been subjected to tampering. Make sure each creditor with which you maintain an account is aware that you have been a victim of identity theft.
- Finally, file a complaint with the FTC at www.ftc.gov/ftc/consumer.htm or call 877-ID-THEFT.

As always, please feel free to contact Joe Stampone or any one of our attorneys for more information or advice at (215) 663-0400.



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

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~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.

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