

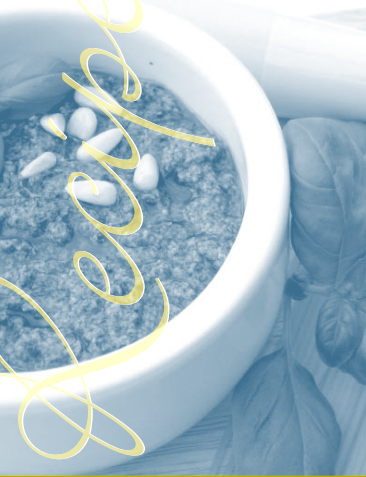


**Uncle Nick always  
knew what was  
truly important:  
family, friends  
and community  
service.**



Pete and Nick Stampone  
"Brotherly Love"

## PESTO DELLA RIVIERA



- ❑ 1 oz pine nuts
- ❑ 2 1/2 oz fresh basil leaves
- ❑ 1 garlic clove
- ❑ pinch of coarse sea salt
- ❑ 4 Tbs of freshly grated parmesan cheese
- ❑ 2 Tbs of freshly grated mature pecorino cheese
- ❑ 4 oz extra virgin olive oil, preferably Ligurian

### Firm's Favorite

And what is this scent of alpine herbs that mixes so strangely with the smell of the rocks, pervading the air from the surf of the sea of all the Riviera? It is the scent of Pesto, the condiment made with basil, pecorino, garlic, pine nuts, beaten in a mortar and mixed with olive oil. Twenty years ago it was hardly known outside the Ligurian region of Italy. Today, it is as common as pasta itself. This recipe for Pesto is most typical of the Italian Riviera. Choose a mild extra virgin olive oil, not a peppery one, so as not to upset the balance of flavours. The Pesto can be used with pasta, or as a spread for bruschetta or as a panini condiment.

Heat the oven to 350°F. Spread the pine nuts on a baking tray and put the tray into the oven for 3 to 4 minutes.

Put the basil leaves, garlic clove, pine nuts and salt into a mortar and grind against the side of the mortar with a pestle, crushing all the ingredients, until the mixture has become a rough paste. Mix in the grated cheeses and pour over the oil very gradually, beating with a wooden spoon. If you want to make your pesto in a food processor or a blender, put all the ingredients in the bowl and whizz until finely chopped. Stop every now and then and scrape down the pesto with a spatula. When the mixture is evenly blended, add the cheeses and whizz for a second or two.

For 4 Portions of Pasta



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# A Letter from Joe

Volume 10, Issue 1

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is not often that we think of a recession as a time of opportunity. But the recent death of my uncle, Nick Stampone, has helped me to do just that. Uncle Nick, a former state senator, was 81 years old when he died in February after a courageous battle with cancer.

Beloved by his family, friends and community, Uncle Nick personified service to others. At 18 years old, he served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps for two years. After that, he spent the duration of his adult life helping his Philadelphia community and all Pennsylvanians through various political and governmental posts.

Uncle Nick's political career began in 1948 when he became a Democratic committeeman of Philadelphia's 41st Ward, which covers the neighborhoods of Mayfair, Tacony and Wissinoming. He later served as ward leader from 1966 until his retirement in 1993. But it was in 1981, when Uncle Nick won a special election to fill a vacant seat in the Pennsylvania Senate, that his political career reached its height. His seat was eliminated by redistricting in 1982. And though he spent just 14 months in the Senate, Uncle Nick sponsored 46 pieces of legislation benefitting senior citizens and working Pennsylvanians.

Earlier in his career, Uncle Nick held numerous administrative and supervisory positions in city government. He was also a dedicated member of community service organizations such as the Sons of Italy Tacony-Mayfair Lodge, where he served as president for many years, and the Torresdale-Tacony-Mayfair Lions Club.

Uncle Nick always knew what was truly important: family, friends and community service. It can be easy to lose sight of that, but as economic constraints keep many of us closer to home, we have an opportunity to reflect on what matters most. Sometimes loss shows us how much we really have. His energy, altruism and spirit will be missed by many.

So, I want to thank all of you who have recommended our law firm throughout the years. We value each of you as our clients and friends. Your faith in us is important and we vow to provide you and your loved ones with the care you deserve.

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Stampone  
Managing Shareholder

# Stampone Business Services Group

Stampone Law announces the launch of their business services group led by Thomas Bogar, Esquire, and Fred Stampone. Areas of practice include business formation and planning; contract negotiations and litigation; real estate acquisition, title services and property management; tax and accounting services; insurance and risk management; banking, loan modification and capital sourcing; retail and hospitality industry services; franchise development; and elder law. For a complete list of services, visit our website at [www.stamponelaw.com](http://www.stamponelaw.com).

## Firm Success Stories



### Motor Vehicle Accidents

#### *\$825,000 Settlement – Philadelphia County*

Our client was a passenger in a PENNDOT vehicle in the course and scope of his employment as a highway maintenance worker, the vehicle was struck from behind on the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

#### *\$525,000 Settlement – Montgomery County*

Our client, a novice motorcycle operator, recovered \$525,000 as a result of a collision with a Montgomery County trainee police officer who violated a stop sign. \$500,000 represented the maximum amount recoverable from a political subdivision under Pennsylvania Law.

### Medical Malpractice

#### *\$500,000 Settlement – Philadelphia County*

Our client, a South American immigrant who was in the U.S. without government authority, suffered a heart attack in the emergency room. The plaintiff had complaints of chest pain and died in the hospital's waiting room.

### Slip And Fall

#### *\$235,000 Settlement – Atlantic County, NJ*

Our client received an arbitration award of \$235,000 as a result of multiple femur fractures she suffered when she slipped and fell at her doctor's office while exiting a medical transit vehicle.

### Premises Liability

#### *\$230,000 Settlement – Philadelphia County*

Our client suffered serious injury as a result of a defective door closing mechanism. The door slammed on her ankle, necessitating surgical repair.

### Underinsured Motorist Claim

#### *\$215,000 Settlement – Montgomery County*

Our client received an arbitration award of \$200,000 from the underinsured motorist portion of his policy. The plaintiff was injured by another vehicle which only maintained insurance limits of \$15,000.

### Workers' Compensation

#### *\$200,000 Settlement – Philadelphia County*

After suffering two heart attacks as a crane operator, our client received a mediation settlement of his workers' compensation claim. The defendant contested the causal connection between the claimant's heart attacks and his employment.

### Defective Construction Claim

#### *\$125,000 Settlement – Philadelphia County*

Our client received a settlement of \$125,000 after his home was damaged by negligent construction work at an adjoining home. The construction work damaged the foundation and structural integrity of the plaintiff's home.

# Social Security

## Financial Help for Disabled Workers

### *The Legal Corner*

**D**id you know that a 20-year-old worker has a 30 percent chance of becoming disabled before reaching retirement?

This is particularly distressing given the uncertain state of our economy. Fortunately, the federal government continues to provide assistance to disabled workers and their families through its Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program.

A worker may be eligible for SSDI benefits if he or she is unable to work due to a physical or mental impairment that is expected to last or has lasted for 12 months, or is terminal. To receive benefits, you must apply for them through the Social Security Administration (SSA) and meet certain requirements. Still, less than half of all claims are approved upon application. This makes it critical to seek the aid of a skilled attorney who will help you present your application in the best possible way. While most claims are denied at the initial level, the majority of those claims are later approved during the appeals process.

Because the SSDI claims process is often lengthy and difficult, the SSA recently launched a new initiative, "Compassionate Allowances." This initiative expedites the processing of disability claims for applicants whose medical conditions are so severe that they obviously meet Social Security

# Disability:

## and their Families: Social Security Disability Insurance & Supplemental Security Income

By Joseph P. Stampone

requirements. Instead of waiting months or even years to begin receiving benefits, applicants suffering from certain rare diseases or cancers can expect the claims process to take from six to eight days. A list of qualifying conditions – 50 in all – is available at [www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances).

### SSDI Eligibility

SSDI benefits are available for total, long-term disabilities only. Benefits are payable to workers who are unable to do the work that they did before and cannot perform other tasks due to their medical conditions. To receive benefits, you must also have worked in the recent past (typically, five out of the last 10 years).

To determine whether your impairment is severe enough to interfere with basic work-related activities, the SSA will look to a list of medical conditions that it considers disabling (available at [www.socialsecurity.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/listing-impairments.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/listing-impairments.htm)). If your condition is not on the list, the SSA will decide whether it is of equal severity to one that is. If your condition is not equally severe, you may still be approved if the SSA decides that you cannot perform the work you did previously and are unable to adjust to other work.

### The Appeals Process

If your application for SSDI benefits is denied, you may appeal your claim. An experienced attorney from Stampone Law can help you secure the benefits to which you are entitled. Statistics have shown that claimants who are represented by an attorney are granted benefits more frequently than those who are not represented.

If your claim is approved, you can expect to receive benefits for as long as you are disabled.

### Supplemental Security Income

Supplemental Security Income, or SSI, provides benefits to disabled individuals based on financial need. Under the SSI program, those who have limited income and otherwise meet the “disability” criteria are entitled to monthly payments as well as Medicaid assistance. SSI applicants must meet most of the same criteria as SSDI applicants.

### Economic Recovery Payments

As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, most individuals who receive Social Security or SSI benefits will also receive a one-time \$250 economic recovery payment.



The SSA began issuing checks in early May, with no action required by beneficiaries. In most cases, individuals who were eligible for Social Security or SSI during the months of November 2008, December 2008 or January 2009 should receive a payment. Further information is available at [www.socialsecurity.gov/payment/](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/payment/)

### Our Role

As you can see, an attorney who knows the ins and outs of SSDI and SSI can help you and your loved ones secure the funds that disabled individuals and their families need during difficult times.

If you have any questions about SSDI or SSI, or if one of the attorneys at Stampone Law can assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are here to help you, every step of the way. In most cases, if we do not secure benefits for you, there will be no fee for our services.

As always, please feel free to contact Joe Stampone or any one of our attorneys for more information or advice at 215.663.0400.