

STAMPONE D'ANGELO RENZI DIPIERO

*Attorneys at Law, P.C.*

# Appearances Can Be Deceiving

Deuce at Sunset Lake,  
Wildwood Crest, NJ



# JULIA'S FAMOUS NEW ORLEANS BANANAS FOSTER



- ❑ 1/4 cup butter
- ❑ 1 cup packed brown sugar
- ❑ 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- ❑ 1/4 cup banana liqueur
- ❑ 4 firm bananas, cut in half lengthwise, then halved
- ❑ 1/4 cup dark rum
- ❑ 4 scoops vanilla ice cream

*A  
Scrumptious  
Dessert!*

Combine the butter, sugar and cinnamon in a flambé pan or skillet. Place the pan over low heat on top of the stove, and cook, stirring, until the sugar dissolves.

Stir in the banana liqueur, then place the bananas in the pan. When the banana sections soften and begin to brown, carefully add the rum. Continue to cook the sauce until the rum is hot, then tip the pan slightly to ignite the rum.

When the flames subside, lift the bananas out of the pan and place four pieces over each portion of ice cream. Generously spoon warm sauce over the top of the ice cream and serve immediately.

Makes 4 servings.

**Firm's Favorite**

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## *A Letter* from Joe

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### DEAR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES,

More than a century ago, revered orator and lawyer George Graham Vest told a jury that “the one absolutely unselfish friend that man can have in this selfish world, the one that never deserts him, the one that never proves ungrateful or treacherous is his dog.” The Missouri jury to whom he was speaking had been seated to decide whether a farmer whose hunting dog, Old Drum, had been killed by a neighbor should receive the maximum damages permitted by law – then, \$150. The jury, moved to tears, awarded Old Drum’s master \$500. In winning the case for Old Drum’s master, Mr. Vest observed that “when all other friends desert,” a man’s dog remains. “When riches take wings, and reputation falls to pieces, he is as constant in his love as the sun in its journey through the heavens.”

My family and I recently bade a sad farewell to our beloved and noble companion, Deuce, our Doberman. Deuce was affectionate, loyal and endlessly devoted to our family. As my children grew, Deuce became the child that once again fell asleep in my lap. He was my constant breakfast companion, always hoping to receive a treat of bacon and eggs (which I’ll admit, he always did).

In fact, as my family and I recalled our favorite Deuce stories after his passing, it occurred to us that many of them involved his enthusiastic appetite. From birthday cakes to filets, nothing in the kitchen was safe unless it was closely guarded. But mindful of his waistline, Deuce also enjoyed runs on the beach in Wildwood Crest, walks along Sunset Lake, and acting as my first mate on our family boat.

Wherever we went, whatever we did, Deuce was ready for action and adventure. He made each day joyful and peaceful, and for that we will always be grateful. Deuce spent his final days enjoying the ocean and sunning himself on our dock at the shore. He passed away as we made our way home on a Sunday in July. So to Deuce we say, thank you for standing by us year after year, for sharing your warmth and your humor, and for making each day just a little bit better. You will be forever missed.

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Stampone  
Managing Shareholder

# Firm News

*At Stampone D'Angelo Renzi DiPiero, we are grateful for all of the blessings in our lives and believe in giving back to those in need. We encourage all of our professional, hardworking team members to get involved in the community and share good news. To that end, we would like to take a moment in this issue of our quarterly newsletter to focus on autism.*

According to a 2007 survey by the Centers for Disease Control, autism is a disability that affects millions of Americans. More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than with AIDS, diabetes and cancer combined. This disability has touched the lives of people we know and given its prevalence, it has probably touched some of yours also.

The good news is that on August 13, 2007, more than two dozen surfers took part in the first-ever surf paddle around the island of Manhattan to raise money for nonprofit organizations that assist individuals and families coping with autism. The event – SEA Paddle NYC – was created and organized by the nonprofit Surfers' Environmental Alliance (SEA). Fifty percent of the proceeds went to three autism organizations and the remaining funds went to SEA to preserve beach ecology and coastal habitats.

Joe Stampone's good friend Bill Zamulinsky participated in this ground-breaking event, paddling 28 miles from Wall Street to Battery Park City. Joe contributed to Bill's fundraising efforts in honor of a close friend. All told, SEA Paddle NYC raised thousands of dollars to benefit individuals and families dealing with autism.

If you would like more information about autism or to assist those in need, please visit [www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org) or [www.autism-society.org](http://www.autism-society.org). To learn more about Surfers' Healing – an organization founded by two surfers whose son is autistic, for the benefit of other autistic children – please visit the Surfers' Healing Web site at [www.surfershealing.org](http://www.surfershealing.org). These groups and many others provide information about autism as well as opportunities to aid in the fight against this debilitating disorder.

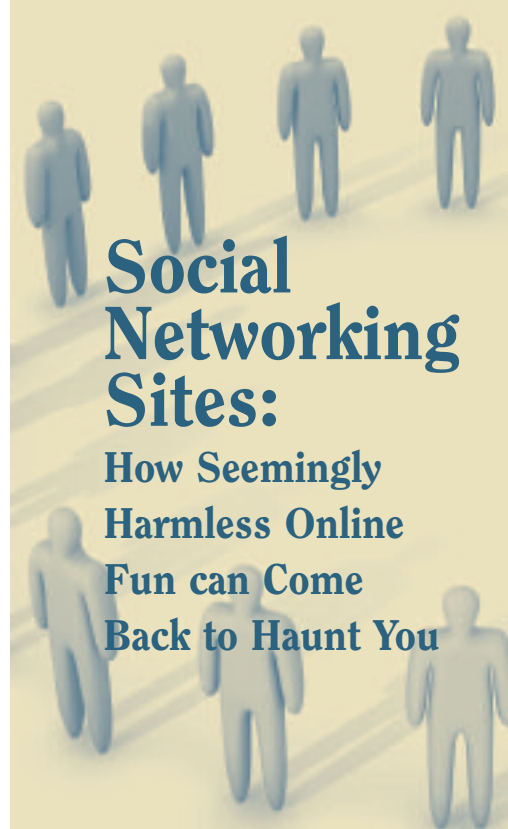
## Social Networking Sites:

### How Seemingly Harmless Online Fun can Come Back to Haunt You

Social networking Web sites like MySpace, Facebook and Xanga are becoming increasingly popular among children, teens and adults alike. Politicians and celebrities even use these sites to boost their visibility and generate buzz.

But recently, social networking sites have been grabbing attention as much for the damage they can cause as for their wild popularity. In addition to being a haven for criminals who prey on children, social networking sites offer another way for employers, potential employers, jurors and others to investigate individuals' backgrounds.

"Social networking sites" are online communities that permit members to share personal information and meet others with similar interests. There are hundreds of these Web sites. Friendster.com and



A decorative background image on the left side of the page shows several light blue silhouettes of people walking in a line, receding into the distance. The silhouettes are of various heights and are positioned against a white background. A horizontal bar with a blue and gold gradient is located below the silhouettes, extending across the width of the page.

# The Legal Corner

By Andrew DiPiero, Jr.

Classmates.com are also examples which are typically free to join. Members' profiles may include pictures and videos as well as age, gender, location and contact information. Users can search for other members and contact them by leaving comments on their profile pages or through e-mail, instant messaging, chat rooms or discussion boards.

## **The Dangers of Online Networking**

Many news articles have highlighted the importance of exercising caution when using social networking sites. While being one of more than 100 million social network users may make a member feel anonymous to everyone but his or her friends, the simple truth is that anything posted on the Internet becomes public information. And public information can come back to haunt you in the form of identity theft, stalking, a rescinded job offer or even damage to your case in a lawsuit. Parents also need to be vigilant about monitoring their children's online activities.

According to recent reports, numerous sex crimes have been linked to social networking sites. Young members often fail to consider that strangers peruse their online profiles, experts say. With the click of a mouse, predators can easily learn how old children are, where they live and go to school, what their activities and interests are, and even how to reach them by phone.

Similarly, many adults don't realize that tales of drunken escapades, unsavory photos and rants about their former employers may end up costing them a job or even a court decision. Just this past July, Miss New Jersey's crown was jeopardized because of questionable photos of her on MySpace. Earlier this

spring, Millersville University refused to award a teaching certificate and education degree to a student who posted a drunken photograph of herself on her MySpace page. The incident led to a lawsuit.

And in a California case decided earlier this year, a Santa Barbara judge ordered a young woman to serve more than five years in prison for driving under the influence after her passenger was killed in a car accident. The judge in the case was likely influenced by the pictures on the young woman's MySpace page, which showed her partying with friends after the accident.

Multiple surveys have also revealed that employers investigate potential hires and current employees by digging through their "digital dirt," a term used to describe information about an individual that is available online. Your digital dirt includes anything from your hobbies to unflattering photographs to radical political views to legal proceedings. To protect yourself, it's important to know what kind of dirt is out there and to clean it up.

## **Cleaning Up Your Online Persona**

The first step in making sure that you have a positive online presence is determining what is already out there. Type your name into Google's search page and do the same on other search engines. If you find negative information about yourself you can ask the person who posted it or the site's webmaster to remove it. If you cannot have it removed, you should be prepared to explain it.

If you have posted information about yourself that you wouldn't want an employer, a parent or a spouse to read, remove it. Get

rid of derogatory comments, off-color jokes, embarrassing photos and the like. Also make sure that any information that remains is accurate and well-stated.

Going forward, don't post anything online that you wouldn't want published in your local newspaper for all to see. And make sure you regularly monitor any online profiles you maintain for distasteful comments or other negative information.

## **Protecting Your Children**

Last but certainly not least, make sure that you talk to your children about their online profiles. Remember that they can often access the Internet at the school library or at a friend's house.

The experts advise asking to see your child's MySpace or Facebook page. The pages should not contain suggestive photos or references to bad behavior. Many teens, for instance, will state that they have shoplifted, gone skinny dipping or consumed alcohol. Teens may also present themselves as being older than they actually are.

Finally, make sure your children know not to post their schedules, locations or telephone numbers online.

## **The Bottom Line**

While social networking sites present exciting opportunities to keep in touch with friends and meet new people, it is important to remember that what you post is public information and act accordingly. If you wouldn't want your grandmother or your boss to read it, don't post it.



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

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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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