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## SLIP-AND-FALL ACCIDENTS: NO LAUGHING MATTER

When a cartoon character slips and falls on a banana peel, we laugh. When you slip and fall, it is not so funny. In fact, injuries caused by slipping and falling are the second leading cause of accidental deaths, ranking behind only car accidents.



Although we can lose traction and fall down almost anywhere, slips and falls often happen in public locations where a lot of people are coming and going. These accidents are caused by any number of different circumstances, including potholes in parking lots, spilled liquids on floors, defective stairways, and uneven sidewalks.

Generally, a property owner has a legal obligation to keep property that others may use in a reasonable state of repair and to warn and protect people from known dangers. This obligation may mean that the owner must rope off the cracked tile on the floor until it can be fixed, mop up the puddles that form around the front door when it rains, or clean up the spill on aisle six as soon as it is discovered. This sounds like common sense, but it is surprising how often property owners overlook such remedies, resulting in unnecessary injuries.

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## ALMOST \$1 MILLION OBTAINED IN LIQUOR LIABILITY CASE

Recently, attorney Nathan Murawsky of Dorian, Goldstein, Wisniewski & Orchinik, P.C., obtained a settlement of nearly \$1,000,000.00 on behalf of a young man injured by a drunk driver. The accident occurred as a result of a Bucks County tavern continuing to serve an individual after she was clearly intoxicated, and in fact, requiring that she leave the tavern notwithstanding her clear inability to operate a motor vehicle. After the accident, the driver's blood-alcohol level was .24 – three times the legal limit in Pennsylvania.

As a result of the accident, the plaintiff suffered a concussion, multiple rib fractures, a fractured right leg, fractured left shoulder and numerous lacerations. He received extensive treatment for these injuries and was rendered totally disabled. The settlement obtained by Mr. Murawsky will allow this client the ability to provide for himself and his family throughout his life.

If you or someone you know was injured by a drunk driver, liability may also rest with the business that provided the alcohol. Pennsylvania law recognizes that bars and taverns make money by serving alcohol, and requires that those businesses stop serving persons visibly intoxicated and take reasonable steps to ensure not only the safety of their patrons, but the general public's as well.

## SLIP-AND FALL ACCIDENTS

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If you fall and injure yourself on someone else's property and you can prove that the property owner is responsible, you may have a legal claim for damages. You may be entitled to recover your medical expenses, loss of earnings, and compensation for pain and suffering, as well as other damages related to the mishap. However, there are many exceptions, special rules and factors that can affect a slip-and-fall case. If you are injured on someone else's property through no fault of your own, call us immediately. We will go to work for you and get you everything that you deserve under the law. Remember, in real life a slip and fall is no laughing matter.

## IF YOU SLIP AND FALL AT A STORE

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- Get a good look at whatever you tripped over or slipped on. Get pictures if possible.
- Pay careful attention to anything the employees might say. If any of them admit to knowing about the hazard, be sure to get his or her name.
- Do not give a statement about what happened and DO NOT SIGN ANYTHING until you have spoken with us.
- Call us. We have successfully represented many slip-and-fall victims and we are available to discuss your case with you.

## DORIAN, GOLDSTEIN, WISNIEWSKI, & ORCHINIK, P.C.

Three Convenient Locations

2410 Bristol Road  
Neshaminy Valley Commons  
Bensalem, PA 19020

2499B Aramingo Ave.  
Port Richmond Village  
Shopping Center  
Philadelphia, PA 19125

1800 J.F.K. Boulevard  
Suite 1500  
Center City Philadelphia

Contact us at (215) 750-7200  
or on the web at [www.doriangoldstein.com](http://www.doriangoldstein.com)



## Three Of Our Attorneys Named "Pennsylvania Super Lawyers"

*Dorian, Goldstein proudly congratulates Harry Dorian, Mark Wisniewski and Nathan Murawsky, who were all recently named "Pennsylvania Super Lawyers" by Law and Politics and "Philadelphia Magazine". Selection as a "Pennsylvania Super Lawyer" is based upon a peer survey of over 36,000 attorneys in Pennsylvania, with final selection by a Blue Ribbon panel of eminent attorneys*

## THANKS FOR REFERRALS

Despite the modern age of marketing and advertising, the best source of our new business is word of mouth. We are grateful that many of our clients and friends feel confident in recommending our firm. Unfortunately, when many people need a good lawyer, they do not know where to turn. If you or someone you know needs legal help, please call us.



## IF YOU SLIP AND FALL AT A STORE

If you fall and injure yourself at a store, *it is important to get as much information as possible to help you prove your case.* Try to keep your wits about you. Although it is often hard to remember to do so after being injured:

- Get the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of witnesses — both customers and employees. If you cannot do this at the time of the accident, do so as soon as possible afterwards.

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## TIRED TRUCKERS

We all know that feeling: the uncomfortable knot in our stomach we get when we look in the rear-view mirror and see a large tractor-trailer bearing down on us. Even though most trucks are driven safely, the fact is that no matter how big the car you drive, these big rigs are much bigger and will cause more damage in any accident. Unfortunately, the number of accidents involving tractor trailers and automobiles is on the rise, increasing the danger to automobile drivers.

As you might expect, collisions between large trucks and automobiles are especially deadly for the people in the automobile. Federal statistics show that 14 people die each day (over 5,000 each year) in

crashes involving large trucks. What is less well known is that the number one cause of large truck crashes is not defective equipment, traffic hazards, or drunk driving but, rather, driver fatigue – in other words, tired truckers.

Federal law both limits the maximum number of hours a truck driver is supposed to drive and prohibits truckers from driving if they are “impaired through fatigue.” Even so, more and more big-rig drivers are taking to the highways without enough sleep. There are several reasons for this, including the relaxed industry regulations that has resulted in less-experienced truck drivers on the road. This same deregulation has also increased competition among trucking companies, escalating the pressure on drivers to complete their routes quickly. And, changes in the way goods carried by truck are distributed, such as “just in time” delivery, have resulted in tighter deadlines for truckers. All of these factors mean that the pressures on truckers to ignore the law and complete their deliveries even if they are too tired to drive safely will only increase.

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## DORIAN GOLDSTEIN WELCOMES A NEW ATTORNEY



We are pleased to announce that Martin N. Ghen, Esquire has recently joined the firm. Martin has extensive experience handling family law and other civil matters. Having graduated from Pennsylvania State University he earned his Juris Doctor Degree in 1971 from the Dickinson School of Law in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Martin’s experience includes representing parents and spouses in all types of family law matters. He is an experienced civil litigator having tried numerous civil matters before judges and juries. Martin restricts his practice to domestic relations matters including divorce, custody and support. He also has litigated numerous related civil matters such as protection from abuse, family, estate, contracts and business disputes.

Martin is active in the Boy Scouts of America, where he has been an assistant cub master, assistant scout master, and currently counsels scouts in citizenship. In the past he was active in the Lenape Valley Little League and citizen committees for New Britain Township and other organizations.

As an active member of the Bucks County Bar Association, Martin organizes various seminars for the members of the Family Law Section. In the past, Martin was a founder and long-time chair of the Bucks County Bar Association’s Solo and Small Firm Practice Section. As a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, Martin is a member of the Family Law Section and past Secretary and Council Member for many years of PBA’s Solo and Small Firm Practice Section.

Before joining the firm, Martin had an extensive practice in Doylestown. For over 30 years he has represented family law clients in Bucks and surrounding counties.

## ARE YOU REALLY COVERED?

Perhaps the most important coverage you can get in your automobile insurance policy is **underinsured/uninsured motorist coverage**. “Uninsured motorist coverage” protects you and your family for injuries caused by a motorist without *any* auto insurance. “Underinsured motorist coverage” protects you and your family for serious injuries caused by a driver without enough insurance to cover those injuries. Many drivers in Pennsylvania only have minimum liability limits of \$15,000.00. Frequently, \$15,000.00 is simply inadequate to compensate for serious or disabling injuries caused by another’s careless driving.



We strongly recommend that you make sure that your automobile insurance policy has underinsured and uninsured motorist coverage. Since this type of coverage allows you to protect yourself and your family members, rather than relying solely on the insurance coverage another driver may have, it may be the most important coverage you can request. Dorian, Goldstein Wisniewski & Orchinik has fought to protect the rights of people injured in car and truck accidents for more than 34 years. We do **not** represent insurance companies, so our loyalty is to those we represent. If you have been in an accident, please call us at (215) 750-7200.

## TIRED TRUCKERS

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Although recent cases involving truck-automobile accidents have resulted in tens of millions of dollars in damages, all of these cases have one common element: The automobile passengers are dead. If you are aware of the dangers tired truckers present, you can avoid becoming a statistic. Take a look at the box on the right for some helpful safety tips.

## STEER CLEAR OF BIG RIGS

*Remember that a large truck has a large blind spot.* If you are driving in the truck’s blind spot, the truck driver cannot see you. Either stay behind the truck or else pass it quickly.

*Do not follow a big rig too closely.* Large trucks block your view of hazards further down the highway, and a tired trucker might not brake soon enough to give you the warning you need to avoid a collision.

*If in doubt, give the truck a wide berth.* A car almost always loses in a collision with a large truck. The best way to avoid such accidents is to avoid the trucks.

## They Said It

The following things were actually said by people in court rooms across the country.

Q: Doctor, did you say he was shot in the woods?

A: No, I said he was shot in the lumbar region.

Q: Are you married?

A: No, I’m divorced.

Q: And what did your husband do before you divorced him?

A: A lot of things I didn’t know about.

Q: Did you blow your horn or anything?

A: After the accident?

Q: Before the accident.

A: Sure, I played for ten years. I even went to school for it.

Learn more about  
**Dorian, Goldstein,  
Wisniewski &  
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on the web at

[www.doriangoldstein.com](http://www.doriangoldstein.com)