

O'CONNOR LAW

O'Connor Law Attorneys Named 2023 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers and Rising Star

Practice Areas

Workers' Compensation

Social Security Disability

Personal Injury

Traffic Violations

Auto Accidents

Motorcycle Accidents

Tractor-Trailer Accidents

Slip & Fall Accidents

Wills, Estates, & Elder Laws

Featured Articles

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Attorney David Miller



Attorney Michael J. O'Connor



Attorney James O'Connor

Attorney Michael J. O'Connor and Attorney David Miller have been selected to be Pennsylvania Super Lawyers and Attorney James O'Connor has been named a Pennsylvania Rising Star. Attorney Michael J. O'Connor is the founder of O'Connor Law and has been selected as a Pennsylvania Super Lawyer since 2004.

The title of Super Lawyer is given to attorneys that are considered to be in the top 5% of attorneys in each state, and Rising Stars represent the top 2.5% of attorneys in each state. In order to receive the titles, there is a multi-step selection process. Super Lawyers states that the process includes nominations, independent research, and peer evaluations to make the final decision. The nominations, such as formal, informal, and research processes, are to be based on personal observation rather than on reputation. Research is then conducted by Super Lawyers under multiple factors, such as experience, education, and awards. After a peer evaluation, candidates are then selected to become Super Lawyers. The selection process for Rising Stars is identical to Super Lawyers. However, there is one difference in that attorneys must be under the age of forty or have been practicing law for ten years or less.

Girardville Basketball Association Sponsor

O'Connor Law has been a proud sponsor for the Girardville Basketball Association (GBA) and their youth basketball program for more than 20 years. To mention, Attorneys Mary Kathleen O'Connor and James O'Connor are former Girardville Basketball Association players. In March, the President of GBA, Paul Kowalick, presented a commemorative basketball to Attorney Mary Kathleen O'Connor as shown in the photo below to thank O'Connor Law for their support.



Recipe Corner

Patti's Cheese Ball

Recipe

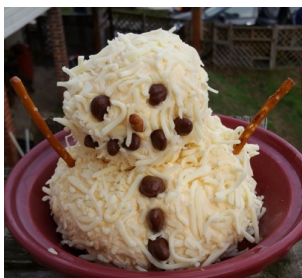
Ingredients:

- 1 pound of Velveeta cheese
- 2 packages of 8 oz cream cheese, softened
- 2 cups of grated cheddar cheese
- 1 teaspoon of Worcestershire sauce
- ½ teaspoon of garlic powder

Directions:

Melt the Velveeta cheese in the microwave until smooth. Then, mix in all the other ingredients. It should be a thick mixture. Pour the cheese mixture onto a piece of plastic wrap with a sheet of aluminum foil under it. Pull the sides to form a ball. Put into the refrigerator to set.

Optional: You can roll the cheese ball in chopped pecans. You can also make two cheese balls, one large and one small, and roll them in shredded mozzarella cheese to form a snowman. You can also make a turkey by using pretzel sticks.



Employees Work Anniversaries

Recently, three employees celebrated their work anniversaries. Patti Brinich, Ellen Guers, and Zenaida Rivera have worked at O'Connor Law for 15 years. We are so glad to have Patti, Ellen, and Zenaida as part of our amazing staff and are grateful for all of their hard work and dedication. Congratulations and Happy Anniversary!



Patti Brinich is the receptionist at O'Connor Law. Patti also provides the recipes in the Recipe Section of our newsletters, including the cheese ball recipe to the left. Patti has worked many roles in the office, including travel arranger, planning staff events, and preparing deeds for clients.



Ellen Guers is O'Connor Law's intake coordinator. Ellen says that she loves her job and the ability to help people daily. She also enjoys working with the knowledgeable attorneys and staff. She is also proud of the work that everyone does at O'Connor Law to help clients.



Zenaida Rivera works in the intake department and is the Spanish intake specialist for O'Connor Law. Zenaida defines her 15 years of experience as working with amazing coworkers and attorneys who have all become a family to her.



O'Connor Law Participates in 4th Annual Project Cheer

For the fourth year in a row, O'Connor Law participated in Project Cheer. Staff at O'Connor Law organized a donation of gifts for children and families. Employees and Attorneys purchased and wrapped presents to give to children and families during the holiday season. As shown in the picture to the left, Attorneys James O'Connor and Steven Yurkonis delivered the gifts to a Christmas party hosted by Project Cheer for local families.

Project Cheer is a local project in Schuylkill County that aims to bring cheer and happiness during the holiday season to families. Project Cheer was started in 2018 to help one family and has since expanded to help multiple families. Businesses or people in the community can also help Project Cheer and donate items, such as gifts or a dinner. Project Cheer also accepts donations for children's toys, canned food, and monetary donations. We are looking forward to supporting Project Cheer during the 2023 holiday season and for years to come.

The Benefits of Hiring a Social Security Disability Attorney

Social Security Disability is a beneficial program for millions of people who receive benefits for their severe injuries. The application process for Social Security Disability can be a difficult process for many people. Social Security Disability attorneys will be able to assist clients during this process. Our attorneys have supported clients for decades, and we are ready to help you receive your benefits today! Call our office to talk to one of our attorneys for a free initial consultation.

Advise the Waiting Period Time. It is important to call and hire an attorney as soon as a disabling injury occurs. Attorneys will be able to advise clients about their waiting period when applying for benefits. For Social Security Disability Insurance, there is an approximate 5-month waiting period that must occur before receiving benefits.

Expert Knowledge and Experience. The attorneys at O'Connor Law have years of experience in Social Security Disability cases. They will be able to assist clients in making informed decisions regarding their case. O'Connor Law has more than three decades of legal experience. Our firm is a name to trust and count on to assist you during your case.

Explain the Eligibility Requirements and the Social Security Disability Blue Book. Attorneys have expertise knowledge on many areas of Social Security Disability, including eligibility. In order to become eligible to receive benefits, people must meet certain requirements. Common examples include having a qualifying disablement, received a certain number of work credits, or have a special circumstance. The Social Security Disability Blue Book by the Social Security Administration provides a detailed explanation of disablements and how people would be eligible to receive benefits from their impairments.

Resolve Problems with Applications. It can be difficult to receive compensation from Social Security Disability if an impairment does not meet the Social Security Disability's definition of the disability. For example, Social Security Disability defines a disability as a disablement that impairs a person's ability to work and is predicted to last at least a year. There are other circumstances in which people can receive benefits if other requirements are completed.

Responding to Denied Claims. Initially, most Social Security Disability applications are denied. Although there are other causes, this can generally be a result of insufficient information or an incomplete application. By hiring a Social Security Disability attorney, they will be able to assist people with their case and ensure that it has the best potential of approval once it is re-filed.

Medical Marijuana Reimbursement under the PA Worker's Compensation Act

In a pair of opinions filed on March 17, 2023, the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court concluded that insurers must reimburse claimants who lawfully use medical marijuana to treat an accepted work injury when the use of medical marijuana is reasonable and necessary. The opinions in *Fegley, as Executrix of the Estate of Paul Sheetz v. Firestone Tire & Rubber (WCAB)* and *Appel v. GWC Warranty Corporation (WCAB)*, both penned by Judge Anne E. Covey, reach the same conclusion but by way of different petitions filed by the parties.

Both opinions included a nearly identical analysis of the PA Workers' Compensation Act, the PA Medical Marijuana Act, the Federal Drug Act and a provision of the Federal Consolidated Appropriations Act as well as a comparison with laws of other states that have enacted a medical marijuana statute. Ultimately, Judge Covey concluded that there is a distinction between providing coverage for a treatment and reimbursing the out-of-pocket expense of a treatment. The opinion explains that although the specific language of the PA Medical Marijuana Act states that an insurer cannot be required to provide coverage for medical marijuana, the statute does not prohibit coverage or reimbursement. And, because the PA Workers' Compensation Act mandates employers to reimburse claimants for out-of-pocket costs of reasonable and necessary treatment related to the work injury, employers are required to reimburse claimants for medical marijuana.

To date, no further appellate action has been taken on either of these cases. However, legislation has been offered to codify the requirement of insurers to reimburse claimants for the out-of-pocket cost of medical marijuana.

Article written by Attorney David Miller

Our Office Locations

Allentown 1275 Glenlivet Dr #100 Allentown, PA 18106	Harrisburg 330 E Park Dr Harrisburg, PA 17111	Marlton, NJ 10000 Lincoln Dr E #201 Marlton, NJ 08053	State College 119 S Burrowes St State College, PA 16801	Williamsport 460 Market St #205 Williamsport, PA 17701
Bala Cynwyd 2 Bala Plaza #300 Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004	Hazleton 1201 N Church St #220 Hazleton, PA 18202	Pittsburgh 301 Grant St #4300 Pittsburgh, PA 15219	Stroudsburg 731 Sarah St Stroudsburg, PA 18360	Principal Office Frackville 608 W Oak St Frackville, PA 17931
Bloomsburg 24 W Main St Bloomsburg, PA 17815	Lancaster 1853 William Penn Way Lancaster, PA 17601	Reading 606 N 5th St #4 Reading, PA 19601	Sunbury 106 Market St Sunbury, PA 17801	
Chambersburg 550 Cleveland Ave Chambersburg, PA 17201	Lock Haven 333 N Vesper St Lock Haven, PA 17745	Scranton 116 N Washington Ave Scranton, PA 18503	Wilkes-Barre/Kingston 26 Pierce St Kingston, PA 18704	

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OConnorLaw.com

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