

# ANNIVERSARIES

## HAPPY RETIREMENT ANA!



Andrew Finkelstein congratulates Ana Rodriguez on her retirement

Data Entry Clerk Ana Rodriguez has been with the firm for 42 years and recently announced her retirement. In March, we celebrated her retirement and 42nd anniversary by gathering in our Newburgh office to recognize her dedication and commitment to the firm! "In Finkelstein and Partners' 55 years of operation, Ana has been a dedicated employee and a valuable asset to the firm," said Andrew Finkelstein.

Thank you for your 42 years of devotion to Finkelstein and Partners! We will miss you, Ana!

# OUR CLIENTS ARE TALKING

**Do you have something to say?**  
Please share your positive experience with us on Google or Yelp. Please visit: [www.lawampm.com/office-locations.html](http://www.lawampm.com/office-locations.html) We'll help you post your comments online! You can also email [communications@lawampm.com](mailto:communications@lawampm.com) and we will share your feedback with the team.

**Martha H.** *I wanted to thank you for all your help through this lengthy process that has been completed regarding the case my sister. We were very satisfied with the handling of this case. My sister already received the money and everything went very well, thanks to all of you that made things very organized and easy for us, especially for my sister, that she was spared the trip up to the United States and the drawbacks that came with it. Once again thank you. I also want to let you know that I won't hesitate to refer your firm to other people or if in the near future I need to contact you guys myself. My sister has already sent an email to you, stating how she was very satisfied with the process as well."*

**Jeanne H.** *I am really glad I saw your advertising on TV and called you. I am really pleased with the settlement. Special thanks to Partner, Mary Ellen Wright for being so kind and considerate."*

**Susan K.** *"THANK YOU, THANK YOU for the hard work and for being so sweet about keeping us informed!!! Now we can get the bills taken care of!!! Thank you again!"*

**New York Locations:**  
Albany, Binghamton, Bronx, Hempstead, Kingston, Manhattan, Middletown, Newburgh, Port Jervis, Queens, Syracuse, Wappingers Falls  
**New Jersey Locations:**  
Newark and Edison

Follow us on Facebook and our blogs for the latest in safety news and food recalls.

## SPRING - SUMMER 2014

# MOTORCYCLE SAFETY THIS SEASON

With the warm weather having finally arrived, we are seeing more motorcycles on the road. Cars and trucks should always use caution when traveling near motorcycles. Always share the road and never tailgate.

Approximately 80% of reported motorcycle crashes result in injury or death, according to the motorcycle safety guide by the National Highway Traffic Safety Association. Motorcycle fatalities represent 5% of all highway fatalities each year.

As a motorcyclist, your chance of survival can be increased by following these simple safety tips:

- **Never Ride without a Helmet and Eye Protection:** check your helmet for the DOT logo to ensure that it complies with DOT requirements.
- **Read the Owner's Manual:** familiarize yourself with your motorcycle.
- **Attend a Motorcycle Training Course:** it is the best way to learn how to operate a motorcycle safely and skillfully.
- **Wear the Correct Shoes, Gloves & Clothing:** thick, protective attire is all that is between you and the pavement in the event of a crash. It could save your life.
- **Abide By Traffic Rules & Regulations:** the same traffic rules that apply to other motorists apply to you as a motorcyclist.
- **Ride with a Passenger with Caution:** riding with a passenger requires even more skill than riding alone.
- **Avoid Riding Between Lanes:** never ride between lanes of slow moving or stopped traffic. Never share a lane with another vehicle.
- **Be Alert at Intersections:** this is where 70% of motorcycle collisions occur. Watch for vehicles that may unexpectedly turn in front of you or pull out in front of you. Be prepared to react quickly.
- **Assume That You Are Invisible to Other Motorists:** position yourself so that you are seen. Ride in the portion of the lane where it is most likely that you will be seen by others on the road. Avoid "no-zones" or blind spots.

If you or a loved one has been seriously injured in a motorcycle accident, contact Finkelstein and Partners today and fill out our free case evaluation form on our website: [www.lawampm.com](http://www.lawampm.com)

Attorney Advertising.

# Finkelstein & Partners LLP

## THE INJURY ATTORNEYS™

## SPRING - SUMMER 2014

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# OUR NEW SISTER FIRM: FINKELSTEIN, BLANKINSHIP, FREI-PEARSON & GARBER, LLP.

## FBFG | Finkelstein, Blankinship, Frei-Pearson & Garber, LLP

With the addition of our new sister firm Finkelstein, Frei-Pearson & Garber, we will keep you up to date on the latest class action lawsuits! The lawyers at our class action firm are deeply

committed to helping regular people who have been wronged by powerful businesses. We are proud to represent consumers, employees, and others who have been harmed by corporate greed and unlawful practices.

Specifically, our lawyers have experience in fighting for fair wages and have recovered millions of dollars for pizza delivery drivers and other underpaid workers. To learn about more of our other practice areas, please visit: <http://www.4classaction.com/practice-areas> [www.facebook.com/4ClassAction](http://www.facebook.com/4ClassAction) Tweet @4ClassActionLaw

# APRIL IS DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH!



In honor of April being National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, we spread the word to our community about the dangers of texting while driving. As a firm that is highly involved in this issue, our attorneys speak at high schools in the area (at no cost) about the consequences of distracted driving.

Drivers are 23x more likely to be involved in a crash if they are texting while driving and 660,000 drivers are using cell phones while driving at any given moment in the day.

It's time to put an end to distracted and driving. Learn about our efforts by visiting [www.lawampm.com/community/commit-quit](http://www.lawampm.com/community/commit-quit)

# TEAMING UP WITH CBS6 NEWS IN ALBANY TO SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THE DANGERS OF TEXTING & DRIVING TO THE STUDENTS OF HUDSON FALLS HS

Once again, we have teamed up with Albany-based TV station CBS6, to alert teens to the dangers of texting while driving, an ongoing public service commitment for both agencies. To promote the message, the pair joined forces to promote the no-texting message at Hudson Falls High School recently. The school declared November 2013 "No Texting While Driving" month and invited Finkelstein & Partners attorney Elizabeth Wolff and CBS6 to present to the students over the course of two days. Approximately 650 Hudson Falls High students participated in the program.

"Today's teens are avid multi-taskers and think they are invincible, that's why it's so critical that they're made aware of the dangers of distracted driving - which includes texting while driving - even before they get a drivers license," said attorney Elizabeth Wolff who led the program. "As a personal injury firm, we see the devastation of texting while driving first-hand and don't want to see one more young person become a statistic. I appreciated the opportunity to join with CBS6 and talk with the students at Hudson Falls High."



For more information about our Commit to Quit Anti-Texting and Driving program, please visit: [www.lawampm.com/communityrelations/commit-to-quit](http://www.lawampm.com/communityrelations/commit-to-quit)

## FIRM AND COMMUNITY NEWS

### RECOGNIZING “NATIONAL SALUTE TO VETERAN PATIENTS WEEK” WITH DONATION DRIVE FOR CASTLE POINT VA CENTER

Following up on the success of our holiday donation drive for veterans, we hosted a donation drive to recognize National Salute to Veteran Patients week!

Kicking off on February 14 each year, National Salute to Veteran Patients week provides an opportunity to say thank you to the more than 98,000 men and women of the United States armed services who are cared for each day in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers, nursing homes, and other programs and raise community awareness of the VA center's role in the community.

To express our appreciation to area veterans, our

attorneys and staff once again organized a donation drive to collect a variety of items hospitalized veterans can use to entertain themselves during their stay at the medical center. The donations, which included writing and reading materials, games, puzzles, books, and playing cards, video games, and phone cards, were donated to Castle Point VA Center in Dutchess County. Our generous staff donated 50 pounds of goods!

Our Veterans Services Group (VSG) specializes in working with veterans and their families to ensure they receive the benefits they have earned and deserve. Comprised of a team of veterans advocates which includes accredited attorneys,

many of whom are veterans themselves, the VSG represents veterans seeking VA benefits for current medical conditions caused by their military service. Learn more about our VSG by visiting: [www.lawampm.com/veterans](http://www.lawampm.com/veterans)



### COMMIT TO QUIT TEXTING & DRIVING CAMPAIGN:

ANDREW FINKELSTEIN & ATTORNEY LIZ WOLFF FILM PUBLIC SERVICE ADS WITH CBS6 ALBANY



Earlier this year, Managing Partner Andrew Finkelstein and Attorney Liz Wolff filmed our latest public service ads with CBS6 News in Albany as part of our anti-texting and driving campaign. Once again, we teamed up with CBS6 News in Albany to spread the word through high school presentations and public service announcements!

You can watch these public service ads on our website by visiting: [www.lawampm.com/community-relations/commit-to-quit](http://www.lawampm.com/community-relations/commit-to-quit)

If you would like us to speak at your child's school, visit our website at [www.lawampm.com](http://www.lawampm.com) for more information or contact our Marketing Director, Danielle Mackey at [dmackey@lawampm.com](mailto:dmackey@lawampm.com)

### FINKELSTEIN & PARTNERS SUPPORTS LITERACY CONNECTIONS' 23<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL COMMUNITY SPELLING BEE

This year we helped promote literacy by sponsoring two teams at the 23rd annual Community Spelling Bee, which was hosted by Literacy Connections of the Hudson Valley. The firm's teams, "Legal Bee Girls" and "Legal Bee Boys", were comprised of Marketing Assistant Emily Boziwick and Legal Assistant Nicole Giovinazzo, Senior Systems Administrator John Pasqualicchio and Senior Network Administrator William Jackson.

The Bee was held at Marist College and supported by more than 50 local businesses and organizations. The fun, friendly competition

promotes awareness of Literacy Connections' mission to help people to read, write, and reach their full potential. The funds raised from the annual event support literacy services for adults and children in the Hudson Valley.

"Our staff did a great job representing Finkelstein & Partners at the annual spelling bee," said Andrew Finkelstein, the firm's managing partner. "Our firm is committed to giving back to the community and our teams are a prime example of our dedicated efforts. I'm proud of them for getting involved."



Legal Assistant and "Legal Bee Girls" team member Nicole Giovinazzo was a proud supporter of the Literacy Connections' 23rd annual spelling bee!

### FINKELSTEIN & PARTNERS PLACES 2<sup>ND</sup> IN FOOD BANK OF THE HUDSON VALLEY FOOD FRENZY



We are proud to recognize the firm's staff and attorneys for their outstanding participation and second place ranking in the Hudson Valley Food Frenzy again this year! The Food Frenzy is a friendly competition between area businesses to raise food and monetary donations for the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley. A prize is awarded to the company that brings in the largest total donation.

"The Food Bank of the Hudson Valley does a great job of providing food to those in need throughout our region," said Andrew Finkelstein. "And our F&P team did a great job of stepping up once again to help those in need in our community by participating in the Food Frenzy. This is our fourth year and I'm very proud of our second place showing for the second year in a row. But the first place team better watch out because we are catching up. My thanks to all of our staff who supported this community effort."

The firm collected food and monetary donations at all of their Hudson Valley locations during the time of the Food Frenzy competition. At the conclusion of the Food Frenzy, all donations were delivered to the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley where the food was weighed and cash tallied up – a \$1 dollar cash donation is equivalent to four pounds of food – to determine an organization's total donation. The F&P team collected the equivalent of 4,328 pounds of goods, just 622 pounds behind the first place team!

## RECENT CASE RESULTS

### \$1,250,00\* MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT

Our client was a 28 year old college student who was stopped at a stop sign when she was rear ended. The Defendant's vehicle was being test driven by a Toyota dealership employee after being dropped off to have repairs done.

Despite having pre-existing conditions, we were able to demonstrate that our client suffered severe injuries with resulting surgeries from this accident. Her case settled prior to trial.

*Team:* Attorneys Melody Gregory, Michael Feldman, Ron Rosenkranz, Brian Acard, Elizabeth Wolff, Marie Dusault, Ann Johnson, Lawrence Lissauer, George Kohl, and Kara Campbell.  
Case Manager Judy Gentile  
Trial Assistant Lisa Venuto  
Paralegal Heather Stigliani  
Calendar Coordinator Maggie Bonaparte

### \$3,000,000\* MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

Our client was an inpatient at a Poughkeepsie, New York hospital, where she complained for several days of leg pain but received no attention from hospital personnel. The pain was due to a blood clot in her leg and the misdiagnosis resulted in her leg being amputated. This case was settled before trial with co-counsel.

### \$400,000\* MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

Our 48 year old client presented at an Orange County New York Emergency Room with breathing problems and tightness in his chest. After routine tests showed no major abnormalities he was given aspirin and sent home with instructions to schedule a stress test. He immediately attempted to schedule an appointment with a Heart Center, but was told he had to wait when the Center realized he was uninsured. Four days later he died from a massive heart attack. This case was settled with co-counsel.

### VIETNAM ERA VETERAN RECEIVES AWARD BASED ON HERBICIDE EXPOSURE RELATED CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE, DIABETES, AND NEUROPATHY.

Our Pinellas County, Florida client, an Army veteran of the Vietnam conflict, was denied a service related disability for his Coronary Artery Disease, Diabetes, and Diabetic Neuropathy. He was deployed from September 1968 to June 1971 and stationed at Ascom Depot, Korea. Coronary Artery Disease, Type II Diabetes, and Diabetic Neuropathy are recognized by the VA to be related to Agent Orange exposure.

The VA had denied our client's disability due to him being stationed 17 miles from the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), where herbicide presence in Korea was recorded to be most intense. The VA presumes that Veterans who were stationed in a unit in or near the DMZ from April 1, 1968 to August 31, 1971 were exposed to Agent Orange and therefore would be awarded benefits based on diseases recognized by the VA to be linked to Agent Orange Exposure.

Finkelstein & Partners filed a Notice of Disagreement, a Form 9 Formal Appeal and submitted substantial evidence on the Veteran's behalf to show that not only should the Veteran benefit from this presumption, but also to show that he had direct contact (direct connection) with Agent Orange.

Finkelstein & Partners was able to persuade the VA to revisit and revise their previous decision to grant service connection by demonstrating that this veteran made numerous trips to the DMZ as a truck escort, and that he came in physical contact with chemical containers in his security post at the gates of Ascom Depot. As a result, the Veteran's percentage of disability and his monthly payments have increased retroactively to 2009.

\*Prior results do not guarantee future results