



Corradino & Papa, LLC

A Personal Injury Law Firm



# Your Biggest Accident Could Be Your Choice of Attorney

page 2

Insurance adjusters:  
Not your buddy; not your friend

Don't delay filing a personal  
injury claim

page 3

The mighty sequoia

Did you know?

page 4

Tasty recipe



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## Corradino & Papa, LLC is Recognized by the NJ Law Journal

**Robert Papa \$5.8M Verdict was the  
Highest Workplace Injury Result in 2014**

219 N.J.L.J. 653

MARCH 2, 2015

PERSONAL INJURY HALL OF FAME

WINNER: WORKPLACE INJURY

### **Ceglie v. JGK: \$5.8M for Construction Site Accident**

Attorney: Robert Papa Jr.

The largest workplace injury result in 2014 was a \$5.8 million verdict obtained by attorney Robert Papa Jr. on behalf of a construction worker who was injured when he stepped into a hole in the floor of a building he was working on.

In July 2009, Carlo Ceglie, the foreman in a refurbishment project at the Newport Office Center in Jersey City, New Jersey, stepped into an opening in the floorboards, according to Papa.

Ceglie sued the general contractor, JGK, and subcontractor, Computer Floors, claiming the

hole in the floor was not cordoned off or marked.

In the fall, Ceglie, then 43, sustained a herniated lumbar disc and medial meniscus tear, which both required surgery. Ceglie also underwent a bilateral hip replacement after steroid treatments for his back affected his hips, according to Papa and Joseph Carolan, who heads a Parsippany, New Jersey, firm and represented JGK.

During a seven-day trial before Superior Court Judge Patrick Arre, the defendants contested liability, but the jury found both liable, attributing 60 percent of the fault to JGK and 40 percent to Computer Floors, the lawyers said.

They said Ceglie and JGK

entered a high-low agreement prior to the verdict. The award triggered the high, though neither lawyer would reveal the amount. Carolan said JGK's exposure would be less than 60 percent of the \$5.8 million total award.

Computer Floors was represented by Robert Hanlon Sr. and Bonnie Hanlon of Goldberg & Segalla in Princeton, New Jersey.



# insurance adjusters:

## NOT YOUR BUDDY; NOT YOUR FRIEND

One of the tactics insurance companies use to minimize, under-value or deny your accident claim

is to have their adjusters become friendly and chatty with you. They'll try to talk with you about your family, where you grew up, your favorite sports teams, family pets, etc. all in an effort to throw you off guard while they gather information from you that could damage your claim.

Insurance adjusters are trained to find any information about your life and previous injuries that could be used to lower the amount of compensation you'll receive from the insurance company. It could be something as simple as you talking about an old sports injury. A casual, off-handed comment you make

might compromise the damages you receive on your claim for injuring your knee in a recent auto accident since the insurance company could argue that your previous sports injury needs to be considered when assessing the amount of compensation you might receive.

If you have a personal injury claim in place, please remember this: it's in your best interest to say as little as possible to any insurance adjuster. Their job is to under-cut your claim, pure and simple. They are **not** your friend.

A successful settlement of your accident case depends on many factors, but knowing how to deal with the tricks of insurance adjusters will put you ahead of the game. It comes down to this: the less said the better, especially when you're dealing with an insurance adjuster. ■

# don't delay

## FILING A PERSONAL INJURY CLAIM

As you may or may not know, each state has a statute of limitations that gives you a certain amount of time to file a personal injury claim after you've been injured. Problem is, most folks don't know how long they have to file, or others figure that they can just wait until right before the deadline. That can be a terrible mistake.

Here's why: Let's say another driver rear ends you while you are at a red light and leaves your child, who was sitting in the back seat, with a severe brain injury. As he lingers in a coma, you and the rest of the family wait by his hospital bed hoping for the best.

Meanwhile, medical bills are piling up, memories of the accident are fading, evidence can be compromised, and the statute of limitations is ticking away. If you wait too long to file an injury

claim, a jury may even wonder why, which can

influence the amount of damages they're willing to award you.

Granted, dealing with a terrible injury to a loved one is a very stressful time for any family, but someone needs to begin the process of contacting an experienced auto accident attorney to recover damages.

In the midst of serious injury, there's no way to adequately predict the length of treatment and other medical costs during the recovery period. The sooner you connect with a personal injury attorney, the better chance you have to recover damages. Waiting too long to file may result in your settlement being reduced or denied outright. ■



# the mighty sequoia

The rugged mountains of the Sierra Nevada provide refuge to the Earth's largest living creature: the giant sequoia. These trees invoke wonder and awe in anyone fortunate enough to behold them, attaining heights of greater than 250 feet and trunk diameters of 30 feet.



Sequoias can live for thousands of years, with the oldest recorded tree age exceeding 3,500 years—think prior to the days of Moses... now *that's* old. Their stoutness can be attributed to their heartwood and bark (sometimes two feet thick), which are infused with tannic acid and other chemicals that guard against fungal rot and other diseases. Wood-boring beetles are of no consequence; their girth renders the wind a moot point; even lightning, though it can cause damage, will generally not kill a sequoia.

Giant sequoias are also flame resistant and in fact are

aided greatly by ground fires. Fires clear out competitors, enabling sequoia seeds to take root. The rising heat from fire dries out the cones of the sequoia, releasing seeds by the millions. Sunlight and ash serve as a rich nutrient base, giving new sequoias the start in life they need.

Many sequoias were chopped down in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, but their abundant wood did not provide the value that loggers sought. Not long after, someone came up with the following equation: awesome visual + tourists = money.

Though other countries have adopted giant sequoia trees, the 77 groves in the Sierra Nevada Mountains covering an area of 48,000 acres are the only place these giants are native to and where they reproduce naturally. If you're in that neck of the woods, check them out. You can't miss them! ■

April 2015 – Important Dates

April 2 – Holy Thursday  
April 3 – Good Friday  
April 4 – Passover begins  
April 5 – Easter  
April 15 – Tax Day  
April 22 – Administrative Professionals' Day and Earth Day  
April 24 – Arbor Day

## did you know?

With tax month upon us, it's easy to forget that people have been griping and fussing (and fighting) about paying taxes for a long time in the United States... hundreds of years, actually. In 1794, President George Washington faced an uprising known as the Whiskey Rebellion, during which a group of farmers in western Pennsylvania – angry about having to pay an excise tax on whiskey produced in the U.S. – attacked and destroyed a tax inspector's home. Fearing the uprising might spread to other states, Washington ultimately ordered 13,000 militia troops into the area, and the rebellion collapsed. Two men were convicted of treason but later pardoned by Washington. ■



**Tarring & feathering an excise officer.**  
John Rogers, 1863; Source: *History of American conspiracies, 1760-1860.*

## COMING SOON!

Get Jack Corradino and Robert Papa's *New Ultimate Guide to Accident Cases in NJ*, written by Jack and RC. It will explain "Why your biggest accident could be your choice of attorney", and what to do in the event you are injured.

**Quote of the Month:** "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." –Mark Twain

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## tasty recipe

This quiche is perfect for a brunch or lunch!

### Ingredients:

- 1 frozen pie shell (thaw before use)
- 8 strips lean bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 4 large eggs
- 1 1/2 cups half-and-half or whole milk
- 1/4 teaspoon dried leaf thyme
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 1 cup shredded sharp Cheddar cheese

### Preparation:

For the pie shell, preheat oven to 350° and bake the thawed pie shell for 10 min. Set aside.

In a small bowl, whisk together the eggs, milk, thyme, and pepper. Pour into the baked pie shell. Crumble bacon over the top with the shredded Cheddar cheese. Bake at 375° for about 30 minutes, or until quiche filling is set and top is lightly browned. Serve the quiche with fresh tomato wedges or a tossed salad. ■

