

HOBBIE, CORRIGAN & DECARLO, P.C.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

COURTSIDE

Winter 2019-2020

www.hcdattorneys.com

From The Senior Partner...

As we begin 2020, there are many exciting changes happening at our law firm. The onset of a brand new decade marks our 20th anniversary and we want to thank our clients, our colleagues, and our many friends for their support. It is your support that has allowed us to continue to grow and prosper. As our commitment to providing excellent legal representation continues, our objective remains to constantly exceed your expectations and hope that you award us the highest compliment: your recommendation of our firm to others in need.

We hope you find this issue of Courtside of interest. We wish you all a safe and healthy New Year, and I extend our best wishes to you and your families a healthy, happy and peaceful new year.

-Norm Hobbie

Published For Clients, Friends And Referring Attorneys Of The Firm

"Our practice is limited exclusively to Plaintiffs' Personal Injury, Wrongful Death, Toxic Torts, Workers' Compensation and Municipal Court. Our Civil Certified Attorney pays referral fees in accordance with New Jersey Law and the Rules of Professional Conduct."

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Norman M. Hobbie

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\$5 Million Jury Verdict for 6 Year Old Burn Victim

On August 19, 2016 then 6-year-old minor Plaintiff, N.P., suffered second and third degree burn injuries over 26% of his body when the vehicle in which he was seated as a rear seat passenger was rear-ended by a tractor-trailer being driven by Defendant C.B., an employee of Defendant Tristate Trucking, while traveling in Newark, Delaware. As a result of the negligent conduct of the Defendants, N.P. sustained second and third degree burn injuries resulting in skin graft surgeries performed at the Crozier Keystone Health System in Philadelphia

and emotional anguish.

Norm tried the case in Middlesex County before the Honorable Lisa Vignuolo, J.S.C. Liability, causation and permanency were stipulated by the Defendants pursuant to a prior Deblon-Griggs Hybrid Agreement. The only expert to testify was Dr. Michael Marano of the Burn Surgeons of St. Barnabas by way of a *de bene esse* deposition. On March 10, 2020, a Middlesex County jury awarded N.P. \$5,000,000.00.

\$1,050,000 Settlement For 60 Year Old Man Rear-ended By Commercial Truck



On December 18, 2019, Norm settled the personal injury claim of S.O., a motorists who was rear-ended by a commercial vehicle, for the sum of \$1,050,000.00. On May 3, 2016, S.O. then 60 years old, was stopped on Newman Springs Road in Shrewsbury waiting to make a left hand turn onto Hance Avenue when his vehicle was suddenly and violently struck in the rear by an F-250 pickup truck owned by Donato Contracting Company. As a result of the crash, S.O. sustained orthopedic injuries to two vertebrae in his neck and his right elbow, which required him to undergo surgical intervention. The case resolved during Mediation with the Honorable Thomas E. O'Brien, P.J.Cv. (Ret.) on December 18, 2019.

Sanitation Worker Recovers \$4.35 Million in Ocean County for Loss of Leg

In our last issue of Courtside, we reported that Norm negotiated an agreement with the Defendants to pay the initial sum of \$1 Million to L.B. as a partial settlement for injuries he sustained in a work-related motor vehicle crash. On October 2, 2018 Plaintiff L.B. was performing his duties as a sanitation worker on Route 88 in Point Pleasant at the rear of the garbage truck. At the same time, the operator of a commercial vehicle which had been traveling eastbound on Route 88 approached the garbage truck (which was stopped with all of its flashing strobe lights and spot lights). The driver took his eyes off the roadway (in an act of distracted driving) and crashed into the rear of the garbage truck pinning L.B.'s body between both vehicles. As a result, L.B. sustained, among other things, crush injuries to his left leg, which resulted in a partial below the knee amputation.

Norm fully resolved L.B.'s case through Mediation with the Hon. Eugene Codey, P.J. Civ. (Ret.) in June, after obtaining an additional \$3.35 Million from the Defendant's Excess Liability Carrier, for a total settlement of \$4.35 Million of the third-party action [which was separate from the settlement L.B. received in his Workers' Compensation case].



\$1.35 Million Settlement for Trip and Fall Victims

In December of 2019 and January of 2020, Norm negotiated a \$1.35 Million Settlement on behalf of S.R., and her three children in a personal injury case venued in Ocean County arising from a trip and fall that occurred in Point Pleasant on August 20, 2016. Defendant Playa Bowls and Defendant Coney Waffle both operated beachfront commercial establishments out of commercial property owned by Defendants R.E. on Ocean Avenue in Belmar, New Jersey.

The Plaintiff, S.R. was walking along the sidewalk with her two twin daughters while carrying her then 14-month old son, Plaintiff W.R., for the purpose of making purchases at both Playa Bowls and Coney Waffle. Unfortunately, before she made it to the entrance of Playa Bowls (her intended first

stop), S.R. was caused to trip and fall on a hazardous, cracked and broken piece of concrete in the sidewalk abutting the commercial establishments. W.R.'s head struck the concrete.

Norm filed personal injury claims on behalf of W.R. [who was diagnosed with, among other things, Epilepsy and developmental delays], S.R. [who sustained, among other things, ligament injuries in her wrist and ankle, neck and back sprains, and emotional distress. Norm also filed loss of consortium claims on behalf of W.R.'s twin sisters [who were not injured]. The case resolved during Mediation Sessions with the Hon. James P. Courtney, J.S.C. (Ret.) in December and February.

\$1.7 Million Settlement Awarded for Failure to Properly Vet Truck Driver in Negligent Entrustment Case

Norm negotiated a \$1.7 Million Settlement against a national transportation broker and a major office supply distributor whose goods were being transported by an unqualified driver that was employed by a disreputable, dangerous motor carrier that crashed his tractor trailer combination into the rear of a passenger vehicle that had

been stopped at a red light for at least 10 seconds. As a result, the Plaintiff sustained life-altering, permanent injuries. The negligent entrustment/failure to vet claims were Mediated before the Honorable Kenneth J. Grispin, P.J.Cv. (Ret.) on February 20, 2020.

Understanding the Importance of Uninsured and Underinsured Motorist Benefits:

Bodily injury uninsured motorist coverage is the portion of your automobile insurance policy that provides coverage in a case where you are involved in a motor vehicle collision with a driver who does not have any automobile insurance. Similarly, bodily injury underinsured motorist coverage, is the portion of your automobile insurance policy that provides compensation in a case where the other driver's automobile insurance policy limits do not fully cover the damages you suffer in a motor vehicle collision.

In New Jersey, a staggering number of motorists are underinsured or lack auto insurance altogether. Therefore, it is critical to ensure that in selecting an automobile insurance policy, you purchase uninsured and underinsured motor coverage that affords you additional protection in certain situations. Examples of such situations include, but are not limited to: your involvement in a crash where the at-fault driver has no automobile insurance coverage; the at-fault driver's insurance company disclaims coverage; the at-fault driver's insurance carrier becomes insolvent; the at

fault driver leaves the scene/cannot be located; the at-fault driver has the minimum limits of liability coverage required under the law (\$15,000.00/\$30,000.00); or where the at-fault driver has limits of liability coverage that are less than the value of the damages you have sustained.

You should purchase uninsured and underinsurance coverage that protects you and your loved ones for at least the same amount of protection that you purchased in the liability portion of your policy. The uninsured and underinsured ("UM/UIM") limits of coverage under your policy are for your benefit. The limits of liability coverage under your policy are for the benefit of someone that you may cause injury to (in a case where you are the at-fault driver). As a firm client, we would be happy to review the declarations page of your policy to explain the amount of coverage you currently have available. In order to ensure that you have adequate protection, you should read your policy and consult with your insurance professional.



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Courtside is designed to provide general information on legal issues for our clients, colleagues and friends. Our newsletter is not intended to provide legal advice on specific subjects, but rather, to provide insight into legal developments and issues. You should always consult with legal counsel before taking any action on matters covered in Courtside.

Results will vary depending on the facts and circumstances of each individual case.
Names of clients have been abbreviated in order to protect their privacy.