

MARTIN
BANKS

main office
1818 Market Street
35th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103

phone
215.587.8400

toll free
888.PA.COMP1 (722.6671)
877.320.4SSD (320.4773)

fax
215.587.8417

e-mail
info@paworkinjury.com

online
www.paworkinjury.com
www.ssdisabilityfirm.com

branch offices
38 NORTH 6TH STREET
READING, PA
Berks County

72 WEST LANCASTER AVENUE
MALVERN, PA
Chester County

2901 GRANT AVENUE
Northeast Philadelphia

WORKERS'
COMPENSATION
SOCIAL SECURITY
DISABILITY

Leaders in Workers' Comp:
Ten Attorney's Selected
to the 2011 Pennsylvania
Super Lawyers® or Rising Stars®

* 2011 Pennsylvania Super Lawyer ** 2011 Top 100 Philadelphia Super Lawyer
† 2011 Top 100 Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Super Lawyer ‡ 2011 Pennsylvania Rising Star



Al Carlson**



Matt Wilson†



George Martin†



Halmon Banks†



Joe Huttemann**



John Dogum*



Jody Joy‡



Amit Shah‡

Five partners listed in the
Top 100 in Philadelphia
and three partners listed in
Top 100 Pennsylvania!



Jodie Taraborrelli‡



Joe Conlan‡

Martin Banks prides itself on representing the rights of only injured workers' and the disabled not insurance companies and corporations. For the second consecutive year the firm has had **all 6 partners listed as Pennsylvania Super Lawyers®** as listed by the independent rating service *Super Lawyers®*.

We are proud to announce that, for the seventh consecutive year, founding partner **George Martin** has been selected as a *Top 100 Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Super Lawyer®*. Partners **Halmon Banks** and **Matt Wilson** have also been selected to the *Top 100 Philadelphia*

and *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers®* for the first time, while **Al Carlson** and **Joe Huttemann** are each on the *Top 100 Philadelphia Super Lawyers®* list. Also selected to the 2011 *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers®* list for the fifth time is **John Dogum**.

Four Martin Banks attorneys were also were named as *Pennsylvania Rising Stars®*. This is **Jody Joy's** 4th year, **Amit Shah's** 3rd year and **Joseph Conlan's** 1st year. The head of our **Social Security Disability** team, **Jodie Taraborrelli**, is one of only four Pennsylvania *Rising Stars* to be recognized in this area of law.

* Super Lawyers selects attorneys using a rigorous, multiphase process. Peer nominations and evaluations are combined with third party research. Each candidate is evaluated on 12 indicators of peer recognition and professional achievement. Selections are made on an annual, state-by-state basis.

The Super Lawyers selection process involves three basic steps: creation of the candidate pool; evaluation of candidates by the research department; and peer evaluation by practice area. The final published list represents no more than 5 percent of the lawyers in the state.

The selection process for Rising Stars is the same as the Super Lawyers selection process except that: 1) a candidate must be either 40 years old or younger or in practice for ten years or less; 2) Candidates do not go through peer evaluation by practice area. No more than 2.5 percent are named to the Rising Stars list.

OUR ATTORNEYS

- George Martin ■ Halmon L. Banks III ■ Matthew L. Wilson ■ Joseph C. Huttemann
Alfred J. Carlson ■ John P. Dogum ■ Annabelle R. Cedar ■ Jody Joy ■ Leah Cilo
Amit J. Shah ■ Jodie L. Taraborrelli ■ Joseph A. Conlan ■ Joseph D. Capitan ■ Lisa Eldridge

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WC Legal Updates:

House Bill 808

Your right to be treated for your work injuries by a doctor of your choosing is under attack in Pennsylvania. The PA House of Representatives will vote on HB 808, which extends the time period for captive treatment with a panel doctor from 90 days to 180 days (6 months). This is the insurance companies' version of rationed medical care. ***This is not just a bad bill, it is bad medicine.*** It will deprive injured worker's the right to select their own medical provider and limit access to quality medical care. ***Please contact your legislators today and ask them to vote NO to HB 808.***

WC Bureau Procedural Revisions

The Department of Labor & Industry, Bureau of Workers' Compensation, has introduced a series of new procedures and documents which directly effect medical providers and injured workers'. Martin Banks is on the cutting edge of reviewing these documents and procedures. ***Please contact our office if you have any questions about changes to your legal rights.***

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Workers' Compensation Reminders

Concurrent employment

Please be reminded that if an injured worker had a second job at the time of their injury and is disabled from that second job as well, they can collect workers' compensation for that second job.

Retirement benefits

Injured workers' should be reminded not to apply for any type of retirement or pension benefit without consulting with an attorney first. Applying for these benefits without legal counsel can be detrimental to your case.

Beware of Social Media

We caution you to be very careful about what information and photos you post on your web sites

and accounts. Please take a moment now to review the content on any social networks to which you belong.

Referrals

While Martin Banks prides itself on its exclusive practice in workers' compensation and Social Security Disability matters, we work with a wide network of attorneys who handle a variety of legal issues. We regularly have referring attorneys come in to speak about different subject matters, such as defective hip replacements; wage and hour violations; toxic tort; etc. This helps us to identify when a potential client has other legal matters at hand. ***If you are seeking an attorney in any legal matters, please contact Minda Riente-James at 215-587-8400 and she will provide you with a competent referral in the area you need.***

DID YOU KNOW?

Joseph Capitan, a new associate at Martin Banks, focuses his practice on Social Security Disability and Long-Term Disability matters. ***If you or someone you know is need of assistance with their Long-Term Disability claim, please contact Joseph Capitan at jcapitan@ssdisabilityfirm.com.***



Team Contacts

George Martin's Team

gmtteam@paworkinjury.com

Paralegal, Noreen Ulmer
Secretary, April Buscio
Assistant, Angelica Crespo

Halmon Banks' Team

hlbteam@paworkinjury.com

Paralegal, Ed Brittingham
Secretary, Stacey Green
Assistant, Kaitlyn Russell

Matthew Wilson's Team

mlwteam@paworkinjury.com

Paralegal, Amanda Turner
Secretary, Jennifer Milillo
Assistant, Meredith Kamp

Joseph Huttemann's Team

jchteam@paworkinjury.com

Paralegal, Lauren Ruggeri
Secretary, Yatora Johnson
Assistant, Asia Williams

Alfred Carlson's Team

ajcteam@paworkinjury.com

Paralegal, Kristi Aurelien
Secretary, Paula Cedar
Assistant, Pamela Mellace

John Dogum's Team

jdpteam@paworkinjury.com

Paralegal, Robin Thompson
Secretary, Jenifer Mondevergin
Assistant, Kenesha Nabried

Jody Joy's Team

jjteam@paworkinjury.com

Paralegal, Samantha Grayson

Amit Shah's Team

ajsteam@paworkinjury.com

Paralegal, Niki Desai

Joseph Conlan's Team

jacteam@paworkinjury.com

Paralegal, Ashley Martin

SSD Team

Jodie Taraborrelli's Team

Joseph Capitan, Attorney
ssdteam@ssdisabilityfirm.com

Case Manager, Denisse Sanchez
Case Manager, Michelle Winter
Case Manager, Cathy Bundy
Case Manager, Heather DeBiasio
Medical Records Assistant,
Tremil Williams

Secretary, Shani Temple

Secretary, Tamika Harper

Senior Intake Specialist

Minda Riente-James
mjames@paworkinjury.com

Medical Referral Team

Jill Mitchell
jmittchell@paworkinjury.com

Paul Paoletti
ppaoletti@paworkinjury.com

Marketing Manager

April Colby
acolby@paworkinjury.com



Tips for a safe and fun summer

Food Safety — To avoid food poisoning, cook fresh poultry to 165 degrees, hamburgers to 160 degrees and beef

to at least 145 degrees. Refrigerate all perishable food within 2 hours, 1 hour if the temperature outside is above 90 degrees. Keep uncooked meats away from other foods.

Grill Safety — Consumers should thoroughly clean a grill of any grease or dust. Keep lit cigarettes, matches or open flames away from a leaking grill. Do not use a grill in a garage or near any surface that can catch fire.

Water Safety — To prevent drowning, avoid alcohol when swimming or boating. Wear a life jacket whenever you are on a boat. Make sure young children are supervised at all times when near any water. Don't swim alone or in bad weather. We also recommend that you learn CPR in case of an emergency.

Sun Safety — Protect against sunburn and heat stroke. Wear sunscreen with at least an SPF of 15 or higher and apply it generously throughout the day. Wear a hat outdoors and a good pair of sunglasses to protect your eyes. Drink plenty of water, especially when in the sun or if you are sweating heavily.

Air Conditioner Safety — To fight the summer heat with air conditioning, be sure to follow these safety tips. Always plug in your air conditioner to a grounded

outlet. If you need to use an extension cord to help power your unit, make sure that the cord is designed specifically for air conditioners and that it can handle the necessary load. Also, have your air conditioner cleaned and checked to make sure it works properly before the start of summer.

Travel Safety — Do not drink and drive or travel with anyone who has been drinking. Wear your seat belt at all times. Ensure your vehicle has been serviced before a long road trip.

Biking Safety — If you want to avoid a biking accident, know the dangers you'll be exposed to. Selecting the proper type of bicycle as well as a snug fitting helmet are also extremely important. Wear bright and/or reflective clothing, avoid riding on ice, and slow your speed for blind corners.

Smoke Alarm Safety — Ionization-type smoke alarms are much less effective than the newer and slightly more expensive photoelectric smoke alarms, yet over 90% of U.S. homes have only the ionization smoke alarms. To provide the best possible safety for you and your family, install the photoelectric smoke alarms in your house. You should test your smoke alarms each month and change the batteries once a year. Also, developing and practicing escape plans for all areas of your home will greatly decrease confusion and panic in the event of a house fire.

Have a safe and fun summer!



A 2011 Top Workplace

We are excited and honored to have been named to the Top Workplaces list for 2011. The firm was listed as number 32 of 50 on the Small Companies list. Martin Banks was one of only two law firms to be listed in the publication which was published in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* on March 20 and the *Daily News* on March 21. Some of the items the firm was mentioned for are the firm's extra perks including free massage's for employees on Friday, a staff weekend retreat every Spring, and quarterly wine and cheese social gatherings.

The firm is grateful to their amazing and dedicated staff for making this possible.

Martin Banks is Going Green

In an effort to produce less waste and be a *green* firm we have taken a number of steps, including:

- Using 100% recycled paper
- Recycling batteries
- Shredding & recycling CDs
- Sending more mail electronically

This is where we can use your help! If you have not already provided us with your e-mail we would appreciate you giving us a call and letting us know your e-mail address.



Let's leave the Earth a better place than we found it!



Thank You!

MARTIN BANKS



Partner, **Matthew L.**

Wilson on the night of his induction into The College of Workers' Compensation in Boston, MA.

April 9, 2011

Photo Courtesy of Leonard Y. Nason

Find us online to keep up with all the latest news!



www.paworkinjury.com

Elected and appointed

« « **MATT WILSON** was inducted into The College of Workers' Compensation Lawyers on April 9, 2011 at the Annual Induction Dinner in Boston, MA. Mr. Wilson joins partner George Martin to become only one of nine Pennsylvania attorneys to be nominated and voted into this group of elite attorneys.

AL CARLSON has been nominated for a 3-year term as a member of the Board of Directors for the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association.

MATT WILSON is currently Treasurer for the Workers' Compensation Law Section Council of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and will assume the role of Secretary in the Fall.

Speaking engagements

MATT WILSON and **AL CARLSON** were both recently presenters in the biennial seminar "Tough Problems in Workers' Compensation."

AL CARLSON recently presented a course on Workers' Compensation Settlements at Villanova Law School.

JODY JOY was recently a guest speaker at Villanova Law School, on the topic "Findings of fact and conclusions of law for the best interest of the client and judge."

MATT WILSON recently presented a panel discussion on Settlements and Mediation at the Bureau Conference in Hershey, PA.

GEORGE MARTIN will guest lecture at the 27th Annual Pennsylvania Bar Association's Workers' Compensation Fall Section Meeting held in Hershey, PA.

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WORKERS' COMPENSATION ■ SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY

1818 MARKET STREET, 35TH FLOOR, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

SUMMER
2011