

### AREAS OF PRACTICE

Personal Injury Law:

- 🕑 Auto Accidents
- 🐼 Medical Malpractice
- 🐼 Motorcycle Accidents
- 🕑 Wrongful Death
- **CS** Uninsured Motorist
- 🕑 Premises Liability
- 🕼 Alcohol Related Accidents

#### Social Security Disability Law:

- 🐼 Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)
- ☑ Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

### SEVEN CONVENIENT LOCATIONS

PROVIDENCE, RI: (401) 274-7400 685 Westminster Street

WAKEFIELD, RI: (401) 783-0000 231 Old Tower Hill Road, Suite 206

WARWICK, RI: (401) 738-7700 51 Jefferson Boulevard, 3rd floor

WOONSOCKET, RI: (401) 762-9800 603 Park Avenue

LAWRENCE, MA: (978) 988-8800 439 South Union Street, Suite #B-11A

QUINCY, MA: (617) 773-8700 20 Whitney Road

NEW LONDON, CT: (860) 443-7734 21 Montauk Avenue, Suite #G04

Free Parking, Easy Access

#### **ATTORNEYS**

Joseph P. Marasco Donna M. Nesselbush Mariam A. Lavoie Joseph P. Wilson Mark H. Grimm Jennifer L. Belanger Paul E. Dorsey A. Chace Wessling Timothy P. Lynch Jane R. Duket Kyle E. Posey Anthony S. Buglio Philip M. Weinstein, *Of Counsel* 

This newsletter is intended for current and former clients of Marasco & Nesselbush. We thank you for your many kind referrals, and for placing your trust and confidence in our firm.



New England's Trusted Personal Injury & Social Security Disability Law Firm

## SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY

## Serving Those Who Serve

onathan" decided he wanted to be in the Army after watching the 9/11 bombings on television from his second grade classroom. He was 8 years old. When we met Jonathan he was 20 years old, had served in Afghanistan for several years and was returning home with combat related post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI). Jonathan's injuries required over one year of intensive inpatient care at a specialized medical unit far from his home state. He had applied for Social Security disability benefits confident that the Social Security Administration would recognize his injuries and honor his service. Instead, he waited six long months only to have the SSA deny him benefits.

As soon as we heard Jonathan's story and gained an understanding of his medical condition, we got to work! Close to 90% of all claims denied at the first ("initial") level receive a denial at the second ("reconsideration") level. If an application is denied at the reconsideration level, Social Security applicants wait close to one year for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge. We were determined to beat the odds for Jonathan by winning his case at reconsideration. *Continued on page 2 - Serving* 

## **PERSONAL INJURY** Dog Attack Results in \$375,000 Award

arasco & Nesselbush partner Joe Marasco and Associate Attorney Jane Duket obtained an exceptional \$375,000 settlement for a client who was attacked by a vicious dog, amputating a portion of her right index finger.

Marasco & Nesselbush brought suit against both the dog owner and the owner of the property where the attack occurred. Initially, the landlord's insurance company denied liability and refused to compensate our client. He alleged that he was unaware of the dog's dangerous propensities which is a necessary legal requisite when a dog bite occurs within a dog's enclosure. After an extensive and focused investigation, we were able to establish that the landlord did, in fact, know that the dog was dangerous. Specifically, Joe and Jane produced documentation showing the landlord's knowledge of a previous attack by this same dog several weeks earlier.

Shortly after Marasco & Nesselbush made this revelation and instituted suit, the insurance company capitulated and agreed to mediation. Our skilled attorneys' attentiveness, legal research and thorough investigation of the case resulted in an extraordinary resolution (\$375,000) for our client, without the time, expense, and uncertainty of trial.

401.274.7400



Mark Grimm, Esq.

# MARK GRIMM 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

uring our recent staff appreciation breakfast we celebrated the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Attorney Mark Grimm joining our firm. Mark is Marasco and Nesselbush's senior litigation counsel and leads our complex litigation and medical malpractice group. Mark is a graduate of Brown University and Boston College School of Law. He has served as an adjunct professor at Roger Williams University School of Law and is a member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum in recognition of receiving jury awards and settlements in excess of one million dollars. Mark is also an accomplished rock musician and an original member of the acclaimed band the "Schemers".

# "Attitudes are contagious – is yours worth catching?"



DAN JACKSON as Our New Chief Operating Officer



# BRIANNE NOLETTE

Honored as Employee of the Year

n an effort to recognize, reward and promote truly extraordinary client service, Marasco & Nesselbush launched a "Client Service Initiative" in the fall of 2011. The goal of the initiative (internally known as "CSI") is to continually ensure that every client is treated with the utmost respect, dignity and care with the ultimate goal of obtaining extraordinary results for each client.

"The CSI program demonstrates and promotes our continued commitment to excellence and outstanding legal results," said firm partner Joe Marasco.

Since CSI's inception, employees have been recognized for their hard work, exemplary client care, innovative ideas to improve client service, and participation in community activities. Partners, attorneys and managers recognize and reward team members for outstanding performance.

Brianne Nolette began working with Marasco & Nesselbush in early 2012 as a Hearing Assistant. She was quickly promoted to Team Leader of the Hearing Department. More recently, Brianne was promoted to Team Leader of the entire Social Security Department support staff. During her tenure at Marasco & Nesselbush, Brianne has demonstrated the traits that exemplify the mission of Marasco & Nesselbush, as established by Joe and Donna 15 years ago.



"Brianne's talent, work ethic, compassion and leadership skills are traits that make us proud to name her Employee of the Year for 2014. She leads with a smile and an infectious optimism that is consistent with our goals of achieving world class legal service in an outstanding work environment." stated firm partner Donna Nesselbush.

### **Serving -** continued from page 1

Our seasoned attorneys examined Jonathan's application and recognized he could be entitled to additional benefits based on his injuries. We have a cadre of medical experts who help us evaluate cases, so we arranged an immediate examination with a psychologist experienced in the area of combat related mental injuries. The doctor conducted a thorough evaluation and addressed the additional issue of substance abuse in the context of service connected emotional impairments. Thanks to our doctor's expert report and the opinions of Jonathan's VA mental health providers, Social Security reversed course and approved his application at the reconsideration level. Instead of having to endure the agony of an additional denial and the delays and rigors of a hearing, Jonathan is now living independently, focusing on his health and providing for his family. Jonathan bravely served our country, and it was our privilege to serve him. To Jonathan and all members of our armed forces: Thank you for your service.

### COME CELEBRATE

# VALENTINE'S DAY

### Saturday • February 7 • 2015

"In the Name of Love," Marasco & Nesselbush invites you to celebrate Valentine's Day 2015...! Join us on Saturday, February 7, 2015 at the main office of Marasco & Nesselbush, 685 Westminster Street, Providence from 11:00 am-2:00 pm for free prizes, fun, learning and prevention all...In the Name of Love! Members of Crossfit Providence will also be partnering with Marasco & Nesselbush, celebrating American Heart Month in the name of love at their Washington Street location from 9:00-1:00 pm. A portion of the proceeds from the Crossfit event will benefit the American Heart Association.

In the Name of Love, Marasco & Nesselbush will give away chocolate hearts to the first 50 guests at the M&N office location. We have also invited Paws, the mascot of the Pawtucket Red Sox to be on hand to give heart shaped balloons to children. There will be many chances to win an iPad, gift certificates to a supermarket, yoga classes and other attractions.

Marasco & Nesselbush is celebrating American Heart Month with the American Heart Association to showcase the many lifestyle changes that can keep adults and children "heart-healthy." Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women; however, it is preventable and controllable. The American Heart Association (AHA) will demonstrate "CPR Anytime,", an innovative approach to teaching the basics of CPR so anyone can perform chest compressions during a cardiac emergency. The American Heart Association will highlight "Life's Simple 7," the 7 simple steps that lead to a long, healthy life – eat better, get active, lose weight, control cholesterol, manage blood pressure, reduce blood sugar, and stop smoking. Tips for healthy eating and yoga practice demonstrations will provide participants with practical activities that lead to healthy living. Refreshments will be provided.

Radio Station WKKB-FM Latina 100.3 will be broadcasting live from the Marasco & Nesselbush offices, so come meet DJ Gato and give a live on-the-air "shout out" of Valentine's Day love to your family and friends. In the Name of Love, we welcome everyone to our offices to celebrate Valentine's Day, get your free chocolate heart as well as a chance to win big prizes, all while learning the simple things we can do to live long, healthy and happy lives.

In the Name of Love...Saturday, February 7, 2015, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm at the main office of Marasco & Nesselbush, 685 Westminster Street, Providence, RI and at Crossfit Providence, 425 Washington Street from 9:00 -11:00 am. Feel free to call 401.274.7400 for directions.

## MARASCO NESSELBUSH 2014 Noteworthy Personal Injury and Medical Malpractice Cases

Marasco & Nesselbush is proud to represent injured and disabled clients throughout Rhode Island. Our goal is to provide our clients with the utmost care and respect while also achieving extraordinary results. Recently, our Personal Injury and Medical Malpractice division has litigated several cases resulting in millions of dollars for our deserving clients. Some of our recently settled cases include:

**Wrongful Death Recovery** secured \$1,050,000 for the bereaved family of a man killed in a commercial trucking accident on Route 95.

**Confidential Wrongful Settlement** on behalf of the family of a client who suffered a post surgical bowel leak which was not diagnosed resulting in infection and death.

**Wrongful Death Settlement** secured \$2,050,000 on behalf of the family of a man who died because his doctors negligently administered anesthesia and failed to monitor his vital signs during a "routine procedure".

**Confidential Settlement** on behalf of a family of a woman who met her demise due to a failure to timely diagnose breast cancer.

**Recovery** of \$1,000,000 on behalf of an adolescent who sustained traumatic brain injuries falling from a window in a negligently maintained housing complex.

**Award** of \$950,000 on behalf of a family of a woman who died due to a failure of a physician to properly screen for and diagnose colon cancer.





685 Westminster Street Providence, RI 02903

www.M-N-Law.com



Please be sure to visit Marasco And Nesselbush!

Thank You

For Your Kind Referrals and Friendship

ver the past three years more than 2000 new clients have been referred to us by our many loyal clients. We appreciate your many kind referrals of family members and friends as it lets us know that we are providing great legal care and have earned your trust and confidence. To those who have referred clients to us we say...Thank You.



This winter as the weather gets colder we are offering a small token of our immense appreciation. Please contacts us or stop by the Providence office to get a warm and comfortable navy blue fleece ear warmer complete with a proudly and tastefully displayed M&N logo. Come Celebrate VALENTINE'S DAY

# Saturday • February 7 In the Name of Love

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM at the main office of

# Marasco & Nesselbush

685 Westminster Street, Providence, RI Feel free to call 401.274.7400 for directions.