

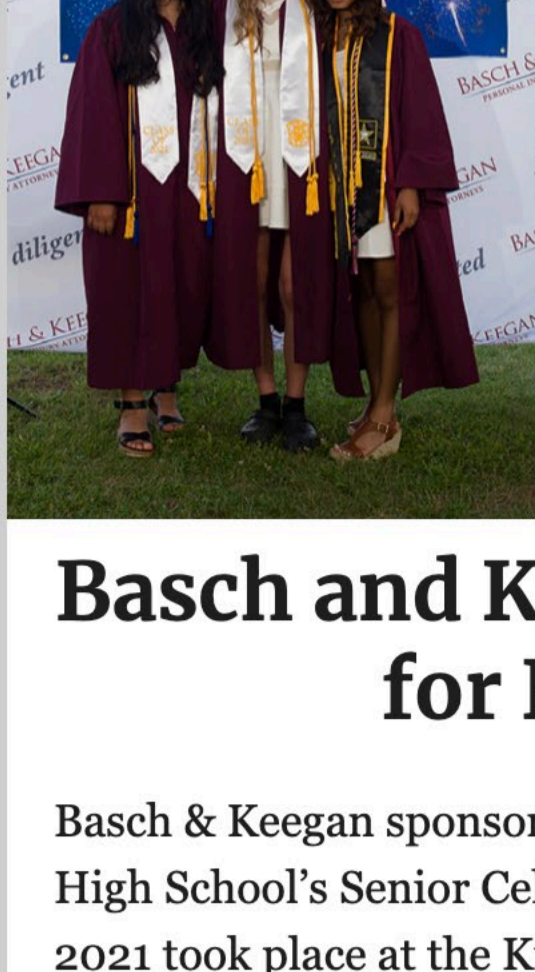
BASCH & KEEGAN

PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEYS

Brief Insights



A DIGITAL BULLETIN—JULY 2021



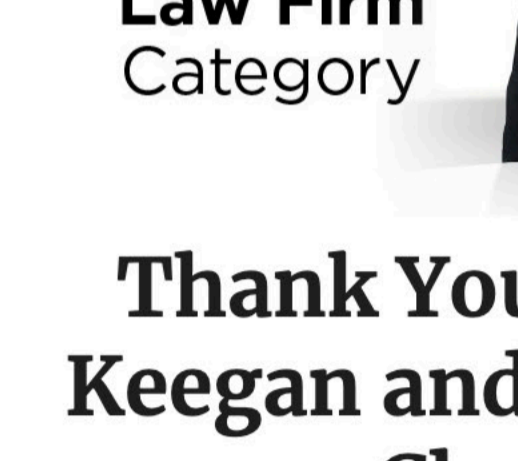
Basch and Keegan Sponsor Fireworks for KHS Class of 2021

Basch & Keegan sponsored a ten-minute firework display for Kingston High School's Senior Celebration. This celebration honoring the Class of 2021 took place at the Kingston Rotary Park on Friday, June 25, 2021. We were honored to help provide the Class of 2021 with a memorable event capping off their senior year of high school. Our firm felt this class of students had been deprived so many experiences and rites of passage due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Class of 2021 had no Junior or Senior Prom. The students adjusted to virtual learning during the last two years of high school. They missed the normal teenage interactions with their friends on bus rides, in the classroom or hallway, at lunch breaks and recess times. They had few sport events, if any. When they did finally return to the classroom, they were required to wear masks and socially distance themselves from friends. The students handled these challenges with aplomb. These graduates have demonstrated their resilience and they deserved a night dedicated to them. It only felt right to help them end their senior year with some fireworks! We were happy to be involved.

The Ulster County Chamber of Commerce hosted the Senior Celebration for the senior class. Basch & Keegan sponsored the fireworks. Feeney Shipyard donated the barge for the fireworks display. Many other local businesses donated goods and resources. Local governments assisted as well, including the Ulster County Executive's Office, Kingston Mayor Steve Noble and his staff, and the Ulster County Sheriff's Office. The night was a huge success!

Thank you to everyone involved. We wish the Class of 2021 the best of luck in all their endeavors!



Law Firm Category



Thank You for Voting: Basch & Keegan and John DeGasperis Win Chronogrammmies

We are honored to learn that readers of Chronogram magazine have voted, and they awarded Basch & Keegan LLP with the **Chronogrammy** for "Best Law Firm in the Hudson Valley."

Making the firm's accolade all the better was news that law firm partner, John A. DeGasperis, received a Chronogrammy for "Best Lawyer in the Hudson Valley!"

John smiled hard when he learned the news of his Chronogrammy Award, and he said, "I was honored to be nominated. I never thought I would actually win considering my competition for the nomination consisted of my mentors Eli Basch and Maureen Keegan, but also one of Ulster County's most successful lawyers, Joseph O'Connor."

If you voted for us, THANK YOU! If you haven't heard of the Chronogrammmies it is a readers' choice competition held by Chronogram magazine based out of Kingston, NY. "The Chronogrammmies is the voice of readers, offering them a platform to highlight what they love about the places so special to all of us."

Voting started in January. The finalist round was open until May. Winners were announced in the July issue of Chronogram. We are thrilled about the results!



Office Appointments Begin Again As We Lift COVID Restrictions

As COVID-19 numbers continue to decline, we are pleased to announce that Basch & Keegan is once again offering office visits and appointments.

This last year was hard on everyone, especially our injured clients who saw the resolution of their cases delayed. We at Basch & Keegan had to change the manner in which we interacted with our many clients by going remote or virtual. Operating a virtual law practice had its challenges, but we rose to the occasion and adapted for our clients. We learned a lot about ourselves in the process.

We are happy to see the light at the end of the tunnel, and are looking forward to welcoming everyone back into the office!



John DeGasperis Obtains \$1.45 Million Verdict for NYPD Officer Injured On The Job

John A. DeGasperis, Esq. recently obtained a trial verdict for \$1,450,000, rendered in favor of a New York City Police Officer who was attacked on the job.

John represented a female police officer that had been assigned to watch guard over a patient admitted to the mental health unit of a Staten Island hospital. The mentally ill patient had been arrested for criminal possession of a dangerous weapon just prior to his hospitalization. He was thought to be dangerous.

He was admitted to a hospital under police guard and handcuffed to the hospital bed. Shortly after his admission, the patient asked John's client for permission to use the restroom. The Officer carefully removed the handcuffs from the bed rail to allow the man an opportunity to use the restroom. Once freed, the patient attacked the Officer knocking her to the ground. The patient got on top of the Officer and punched and kneed her multiple times. He slammed her head into the floor. He then grabbed for the Officer's gun. In doing so, the patient threatened to kill the Officer multiple times. The Officer fought for her life, screaming for help while protecting her gun. Finally, another hospital patient intervened, enabling hospital security time to subdue the patient.

John's client suffered a multitude of injuries including abdominal trauma, head trauma, and musculoskeletal injuries. The Officer suffered mental and emotional damages too, including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. She needed significant medical treatment. She lost two-and-a-half years from work due to the injuries she sustained in the attack, although she did eventually return to law enforcement.

John filed suit on behalf of the Officer against her assailant. The Complaint contained causes of action for two intentional torts, i.e., assault and battery. John had the assailant served with the Summons and Complaint in jail. He defaulted and never appeared in the action.

Here is where the story takes an interesting twist: Before his arrest, the patient had been involved in a police chase. Injuries were inflicted on him during the struggle with police so he filed a civil rights lawsuit against the NYPD seeking compensation for his injuries. He was awarded a sizable settlement, but the New York's Attorney General's Office swooped in with an injunction before he ever collected a dime. The AG's office acquired the injunction through New York's "Son of Sam Law," which was passed in an effort to prevent criminals from profiting from their crimes.

The trial took place in the New York Supreme Court in Ulster County. The verdict included \$450,000 worth of compensatory damages for the Officer's bodily injuries and economic losses. The other \$1 million represented punitive damages against the assailant. The trial was held in New York State Supreme Court, Ulster County. It was John's first verdict over \$1 million.

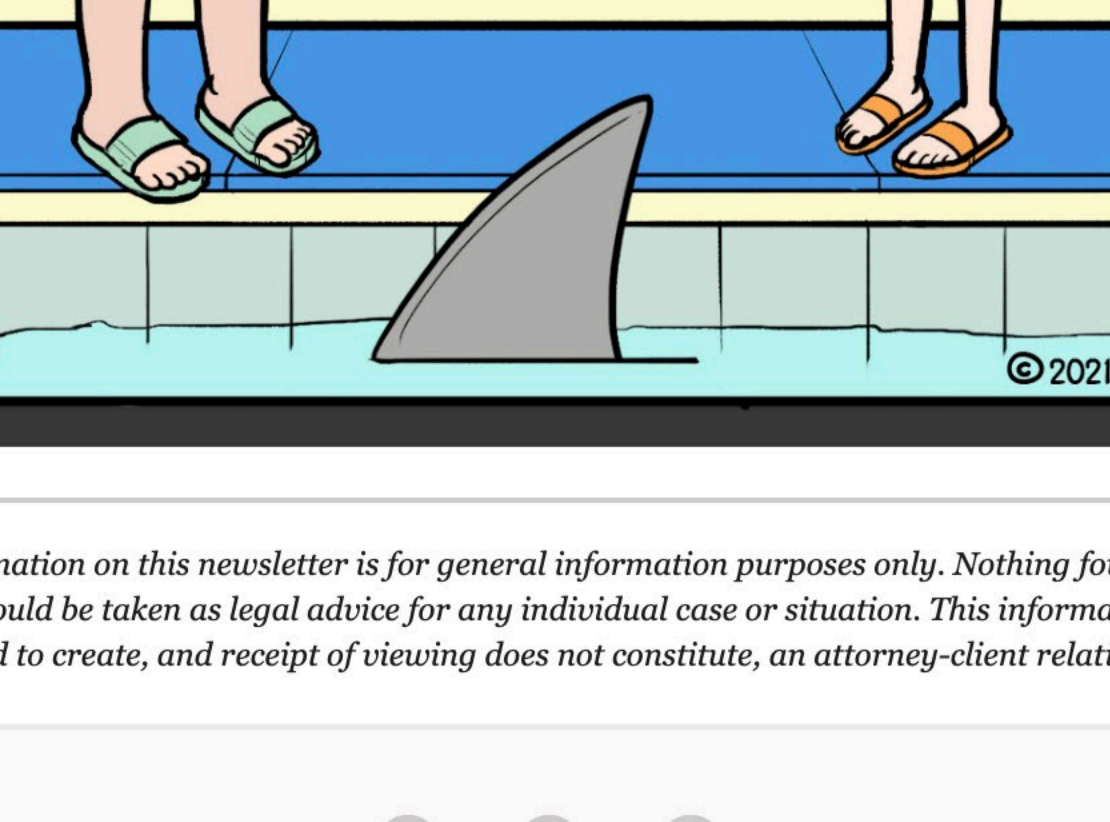
Punitive damages are designed to punish the wrongdoer. Punitive damages are awarded intended to prevent the wrongdoer from committing a similar act in the future, and punitive damages are also effective at setting examples for others. Punitive damages are reserved for conduct that amounts to malicious, evil, intentional or particularly fraudulent acts. In this case, John sought punitive damages for his client to punish the assailant for threatening and attempting to take the life of the officer.

According to John, "The Officer's assailant deserved to be punished. The man not only threatened to take my client's life, but he attempted to do it too. He committed an attempted murder. He deserved to be punished with an award of punitive damages."

Our client is grateful to be alive and for her training as a police officer that protected her. John's dedication to his client and knowledge of the law allowed him to successfully resolve this case for this Officer.

A Brief Relief

THESE MATS KEEP IT FROM GETTING TOO SLIPPERY AROUND THE POOL, JUST LOOK OUT FOR THE SHARK.



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