

June 2020 Email Newsletter

BASCH & KEEGAN

PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEYS

Brief Insights



A DIGITAL BULLETIN—JUNE 2020




CPR/AED Awareness Week

June 1-7 was National CPR and AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) Awareness Week, an awareness event initiated by American Heart Association in coalition with the American Red Cross and the National Safety Council. As personal injury lawyers, we know the importance of having AED's available in

places of public gathering, as well as a professional trained to operate the AED and deliver CPR on site.

In **a notable case** handled by Basch & Keegan, failing to have an AED on premises contributed to the unfortunate death of a Montgomery County man. Attorney John DeGasperis obtained a settlement of over \$550,000 in this case.



Motor Vehicle Fatalities on the Rise Despite Reduced Traffic

The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting shelter-in-place directives and quarantines have caused Americans to drive less over the past several months, so it is surprising to discover that the amount of motor vehicle deaths has increased in some parts of the United States, including New York.

Early data indicates a year-over-year 14 percent jump in fatality rates per miles driven in March 2020, and New York state has seen a 17 percent increase in roadway deaths within the first three months of 2020.

Though there may be less traffic on the roads, drivers should still exercise caution “We have open lanes of traffic and an apparent open season on reckless driving,” said Lorraine M. Martin, President and CEO of the **National Safety Council**.

In addition to watching their speed, the NSC cautions motorists to be aware of increased pedestrian and bicycle traffic as more people are experiencing “cabin fever” and feeling the need to get out for fresh air and exercise.



NY Lawmakers Vote to Repeal Statute Shielding Police Records

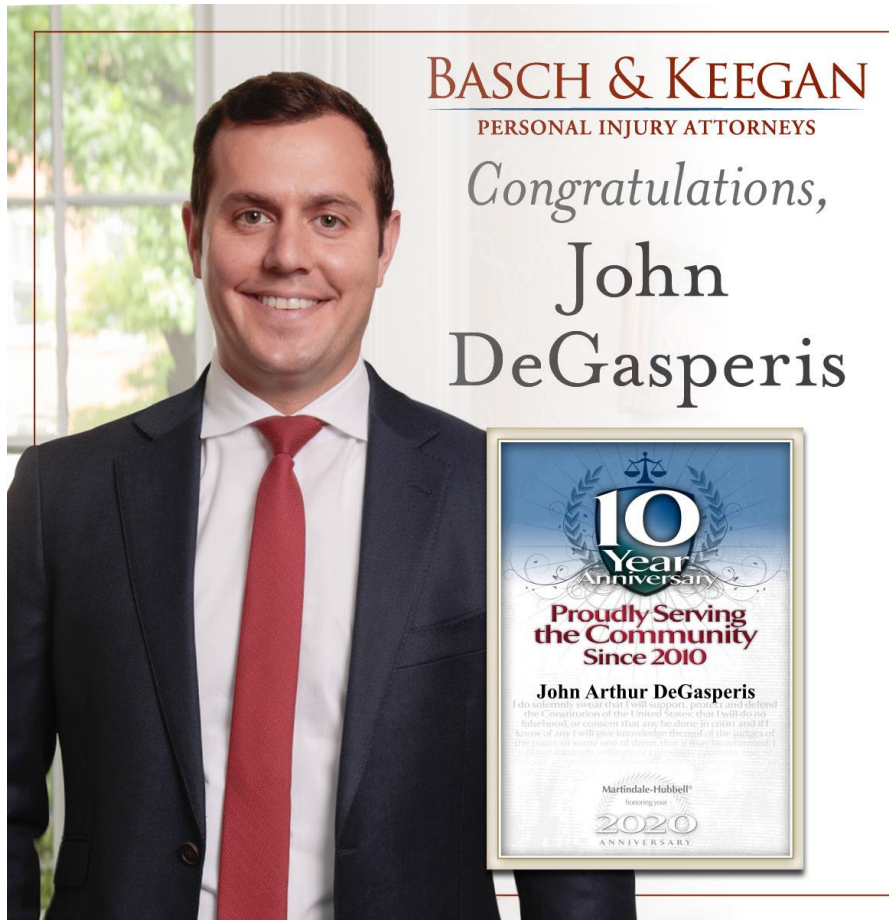
One piece of legal news that has made a lot of headlines recently involves Section 50-a of New York State's Civil Rights Law, which allows police officers to refuse disclosure of their personnel records.

The law dates back to 1976 and was originally intended to prevent defense attorneys from seeking to discredit police officers who give testimony in criminal trials.

As it stands, a judge must review a case file and see if the information is pertinent to the case at hand in order to access these records. If section 50-a is repealed, then the police would only be protected under the Freedom of Information Law, which applies to all public servants.

Amid much public outcry in the wake of George Floyd's death, New York's legislature passed a bill to repeal section 50-a on June 10, approved by Governor Cuomo on June 12.

Attorney John A. DeGasperi Celebrates 10 Years of Practicing Law



Basch & Keegan partner John DeGasperis recently reached an important milestone, having practiced law for 10 years. Prestigious legal information services organization Martindale-Hubbell recognized this occasion with a commemorative plaque.

As an attorney, DeGasperis continues to refine his abilities and further commit himself to the success of our clients. Learn more about John DeGasperis [here](#).

A Brief Relief

ACTUALLY, I'M A PERSONAL INSULT
LAWYER. IF THEY ADD INSULT TO
INJURY, GIVE ME A CALL.

