

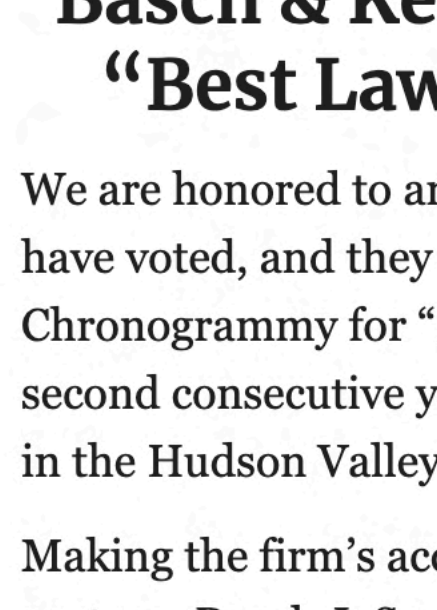
BASCH & KEEGAN

PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEYS

Brief Insights



A DIGITAL BULLETIN—JULY 2022



THANK YOU FOR VOTING

FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW, Basch & Keegan Wins Chronogrammy for "Best Law Firm in the Hudson Valley!"

We are honored to announce that the readers of Chronogram Magazine have voted, and they awarded Basch & Keegan LLP with the Chronogrammy for "Best Law Firm in the Hudson Valley!" This is the second consecutive year Basch & Keegan has won the title "Best Law Firm in the Hudson Valley".

Making the firm's accolades all the better was the news that law firm partner, Derek J. Spada, won runner up in the "Best Lawyer" category.

If you voted for us, THANK YOU! If you haven't heard of the Chronogrammy, it's a reader's choice competition held by Chronogram magazine based out of Kingston, NY. "The Chronogrammy 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 in May. Winners were announced in the July issue of Chronogram. We are thrilled with the results!

Derek Spada Obtains Settlement in Wrongful Death Case Involving Unsecured Firearm and Ammunition

Basch & Keegan represented the family of a man who tragically lost his life. Our client was raised in Ulster County and moved away as a young adult. He was married and had a child.

Our client came home to visit his family and childhood friends. Unbeknownst to our client, one of his childhood friends was suffering from mental illness. Although he had this illness under control in the past, his medication had lapsed. Due to his mental state, his friend had moved back in with his mother.

Our client visited this friend one evening and uneventfully talked with him for approximately one hour. While they were sitting at the kitchen table, our client's childhood friend became confused and apparently believed that our client was an intruder.

The friend went upstairs and retrieved an unlocked pistol, along with unlocked ammunition. The friend then went downstairs and shot our client in the head as he sat at the dining table.

The pistol was owned by the shooter's father, who had passed away. The shooter's mother kept the gun, but never legally transferred ownership after the father's death. Unfortunately, the shooter's mother left the firearm with ammunition unlocked and accessible to her mentally ill son.

This is a tragic example of why it is so important to keep firearms and ammunition secured and out of the hands of those suffering from mental illness.

Derek Spada obtained a settlement from the homeowner's insurance company for the full amount of the policy. Although homeowner's insurance companies will generally not provide coverage for intentional acts, such as criminal acts, they will afford coverage for injuries that result from negligent acts, such as leaving a firearm and ammunition unlocked.

While there is nothing that can undo this tragedy, we hope that the settlement will improve the life of our client's wife and provide a brighter future for his child.

John A. DeGasperis Recovers \$475,000 for Dunkin Donuts' Employee

Partner John A. DeGasperis recently received a favorable settlement for a Basch & Keegan client who suffered injuries from a slip and fall in 2018. Our client slipped and fell on ice outside of the Dunkin Donuts where she worked. She did not see the ice prior to the fall because of the poor lighting conditions at the rear of the building. A security camera recorded the horrific event. The video shows John's client writing in pain on the icy cement for fifteen minutes until a co-worker found her.

John analyzed the facts of this case and won on two theories of negligence. First, the landlord neglected the lighting conditions at the rear of the building. The lighting was poor and inadequate. Second, the landlord neglected to remove the ice from the sidewalk before Dunkin Donuts' employees arrived for work.

As a direct result of the fall, our client was admitted to the hospital and sustained serious injury to her left leg. She had to undergo two major surgeries on her leg and ankle. Her injuries are permanent and include surgical hardware. She was confined to her bed and home for approximately five months following the date of the accident. She missed months from work and thousands of dollars in lost wages.

Our client had an unfortunate history with drug addiction. One the day of her fall, however, she was a recovering addict who had gone through a rehabilitation program and on the road toward recovery. She was no longer using opioids when she fell. Sadly, she was prescribed opioid medications to manage the pain and fell back into addiction after her injury and surgeries. The incident happened in 2018 after opioid addiction began to become a public health crisis. Our client fell back into that addiction due to the negligence of the landlord.

Our client is a young mother and her family suffered immensely from her fall and the consequences of her injuries. John recovered \$475,000. We hope this settlement will improve the life of our client and her family.

Maureen A. Keegan Sworn in as Director of Membership with Mid-Hudson Valley Women's Bar Association

Partner and Co-Founder Maureen Keegan has been on the Board of Directors for the Mid-Hudson Women's Bar Association since 2021. Maureen had the pleasure of introducing special guest NYS Senator Michelle Hinchey during the MHWBA Annual Dinner and Swearing-in Ceremony, Celebrating Women in Government on June 15th.

At the dinner Maureen was sworn in as the 2022-23 Directory of Membership. This is Maureen's 2nd term as Director of Membership with the Mid-Hudson Valley Women's Bar Association.

Derek J. Spada Concludes Unprecedented 3rd Term as Ulster County Bar Association President

After his 3rd term as President, Partner Derek Spada is retiring as President of the Ulster County Bar Association. This is a record for the Bar Association, as no other president has served more than one term.

Derek led the UCBA by adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic and holding virtual events to help the UCBA thrive. He then began to hold ceremonies and events once safe.

Judges and attorneys agree that Derek was the right man for the position and got things done during his term. Derek is proud of his accomplishments and described this process as "ramming a square peg through a round hole." He will continue to be an active part of the Ulster County Bar Association.

First "Cruise In" with Woodstock Harley-Davidson!



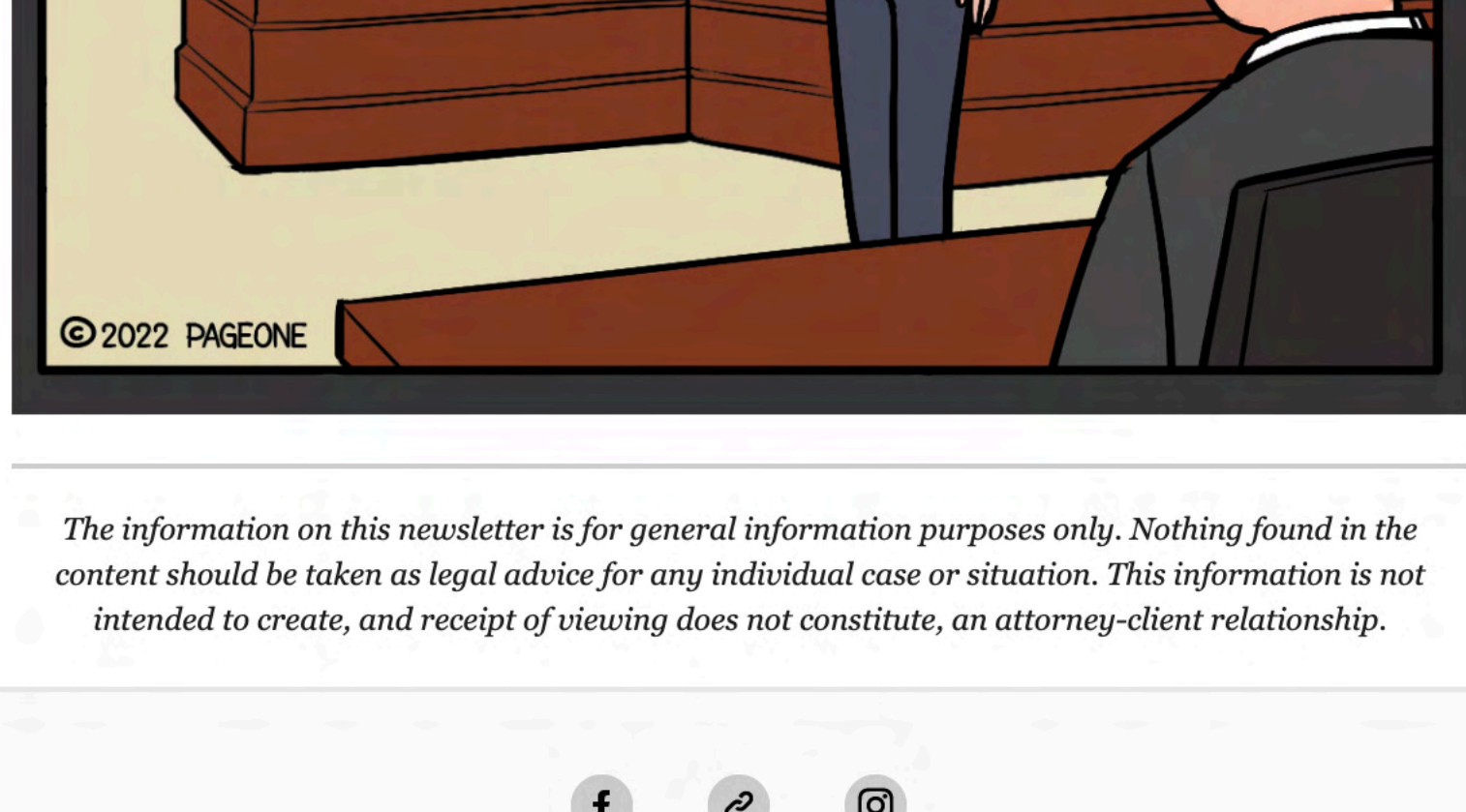
Basch & Keegan is the Presenting Sponsor for Woodstock Harley-Davidson's "Cruise In" Nights. Please join us for food, music, and giveaways on the 3rd Wednesday of the summer months. Bikes, trikes, and cars welcomed! Join us at the next one on Wednesday July 20th, 4pm – 7pm at Woodstock Harley-Davidson. Basch & Keegan is dedicated to helping motorcyclists. If an accident or injury happens while you're on your bike, we're here to help.

COMMUNITY NEWS & Local Events

Upcoming Sponsored Events

- **July 18th:** 3rd Annual Drive Fore Recovery Golf Tournament Benefiting R.Y.A.N at Wiltwyck Golf Club, 8am – 7pm
- **July 20th:** "Cruise In" at Woodstock Harley-Davidson on Route 28
- **August 14th:** 15th Annual La Guelaguetza Festival at Waryas Park on the Hudson in Poughkeepsie, 1pm – 7pm
- **August 17th:** "Cruise In" at Woodstock Harley-Davidson on Route 28
- **August 27th:** Basch & Keegan at the Kingston Farmers Market at the County Courthouse parking lot in Kingston, 9am – 2pm.

A Brief Relief



The information on this newsletter is for general information purposes only. Nothing found in the content should be taken as legal advice for any individual case or situation. This information is not intended to create, and receipt of viewing does not constitute, an attorney-client relationship.