

Marcus & Mack

Pennsylvania Personal Injury Lawyers

SUMMER | 2022

phone: 1-800-488-0338

web: www.marcusandmack.com



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Brad Holuta

Associate Attorney at Marcus & Mack

After finishing a day in the courtroom, Marcus & Mack associate attorney Brad Holuta heads to the classroom. But not as a student. After the standard 4 years in college and 3 years in law school, he has sat through more than his share of classes. For the past 8 years, Brad has been a

member of the faculty at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. His course, "Legal Aspects of Healthcare" is designed for students pursuing careers in the healthcare field, whether as a nurse, therapist, administrator, or technician. The course starts with an overview of the government and court systems so that the students have a common starting ground. The course then advances into various topics that healthcare workers may encounter, such as malpractice, informed consent, advance directives, confidentiality, and employment matters.

"I try to make it fun while being educational," he says. "I don't stand up there and just lecture. I try to incorporate real-world examples that students can relate to, so that the material becomes relevant and meaningful." He also employs a bit of the "Socratic Method" of instruction. Popular in law school courses, this is a method of instruction first utilized by Greek philosopher Socrates more than 2,000 years ago. Instead of lecturing, the instructor poses questions to students which make the student think and reason his or her way through a concept. Brad describes an example he often uses. "Suppose a law simply says, 'No texting while driving.' The driver is stopped at a red light and looks at a text message. Is that a violation?" He calls on a student to talk through

it. "It depends on what is meant by 'texting'. Is looking at a text message considered 'texting'? Or must a message be typed? What if the driver types a message but never sends it? What if the driver sends a picture message? Does sending an email count as 'texting'?" Students soon realize that like a lot of legal concepts, there is not necessarily a clear right or wrong answer. Brad says, "Situations are often not black and white, but rather full of gray areas, and it is the gray areas that lead to lawsuits." He strives to teach the students to think and reason analytically, with the hope that those skills will translate into other areas of life. He explains, "Rather than having them memorize material for an exam, knowing they are likely to forget most of it, I try to teach them how to reason and think. Those skills will stay with them forever."

The course has adapted through time to include current events and issues. Since even non-healthcare students take the class as an elective, he also teaches other legal concepts, such as landlord/tenant issues, family law, and employment issues. Brad believes that serving as an instructor has made him a better lawyer. "I'm in front of a group every single week, and I'm constantly trying to determine if they're understanding me and comprehending the material, and if not – I have to step back and adjust until they get it. It is a lot like helping a jury to understand the facts of the case." Brad has also been invited to speak to other groups at Pitt and at various other conferences and universities.

For Brad, it is seeing the students grow that is most rewarding. He says, "To see a student at the start of the semester who doesn't know anything about the legal system, and a few months later she is able to articulate legal arguments and think like a lawyer would think, that is very fulfilling." He often receives calls and emails from former students with updates on their lives and careers. "My ultimate goal is to give them tools that they'll use for life. There is a quote – 'Education should be a living fountain, not a reservoir.' That's what we teach."

5 Reasons Why Summer is the Best Season



Sand, sunshine and surf! Summer is a wonderful season. The kids are home from school, the days are longer and the temperatures are warmer. Here are five reasons to fall in love with the summer season.

- 1. More Family Fun Time** During the school year it can be tough to make time for your kids. When they're out of school for the summer you can spend more time with them. Whether you go on a family vacation or simply cook dinner together at home, spending more time together will strengthen family bonds.
- 2. Outdoor Adventures** The dreary winter weather limits our time outside. When the summer season rolls around you can enjoy more fun in the sun! Fresh outdoor air is good for the mind and the body. Go to the beach, take a hike with your dog or sunbathe in your backyard!
- 3. Ice Cream!** Ice cream is the perfect summertime treat. Nothing is more satisfying than enjoying a yummy ice cream cone on a hot summer night.
- 4. Longer Days** Do you hate driving home from work at 5pm when it's already dark? In the summer, you can enjoy more daylight. Take advantage of the longer days by hosting a backyard barbeque or playing games with your kids outdoors.
- 5. Relaxation** Summer is the most relaxing season of them all! Lounge by the pool, get pampered at a spa or enjoy a relaxing weekend getaway with your spouse. During the summer everything is in chill mode.

5 Fun Ideas to Add to Your Summer Bucket List

Summer is the perfect season to go on adventures and try new hobbies. To fully enjoy the sunshine and warmer weather you should create a summer bucket list.

Need some inspiration? Here are five fun ideas to add to your summer bucket list:

- 1. Fly a Kite on the Beach** Whether it's at the lake or the ocean, flying a kite on the beach can reawaken your inner child. Feel the sand between your toes and the cool breeze on your face as you let your kite fly high. If you have kids of your own, consider building a kite with them instead of buying one.
- 2. Go Somewhere New** Is there a new restaurant in town you've been dying to try out? How about a museum you've never been to? Summer is a great time to go somewhere new. Whether it's a city across the state or a store down the street, check out someplace you've never been before.
- 3. Visit a You-Pick Farm** Nothing screams summer more than farm-fresh fruit! Find a local farm in your town where you can pick your own cherries, strawberries or raspberries. When you get home you can then enjoy the fruits of your labor.
- 4. Grow Something** Want to enjoy fresh herbs or veggies at every meal? Plant a garden this summer! It doesn't have to be huge. A simple windowsill flower box can do the trick. Get your kids in on the action. They'll love watching their plants grow!
- 5. Tell Stories Around a Campfire** Get out into nature by going on a weekend camping trip. Get cozy around the campfire and share stories with your loved ones. Don't forget the chocolate so you can make s'mores!

Sudoku

		2		7			1	
	3			6	5			4
	4	6			8	5	7	
		4		1				5
5			6	4	3		8	1
3	6					7		
	7		2			8	9	6
6			5		7			
8	2			9			5	

When Should You Go to the Hospital After a Car Accident?

Being involved in a car crash can be a terrifying ordeal. When should you seek medical treatment after an auto accident? Here's everything you need to know.

Should I Go to the Hospital After a Car Crash?

It's in your best interest to see a doctor after a car collision. Even if you have no serious injuries and feel fine, you should go to an emergency room, urgent care clinic or doctor as soon as possible.

If you don't, your health and finances could be at risk. Some injuries may not appear right away. However, hidden injuries can be just as severe as burns or bruises. A few injuries that are not easily detected without a medical professional assessing your situation include:

- ▶ Strains or sprains
- ▶ Internal organ damage
- ▶ Internal bleeding
- ▶ Concussions

To protect your well-being always seek immediate medical attention after a car crash.

Should I Go to the ER or Urgent Care Clinic?

For a life-threatening or serious injury you should always go to an emergency room as soon as possible. Severe burns, breathing problems and major broken bones should be treated at the ER.

For injuries or symptoms that are less severe seek help at an urgent care clinic.

Why Do I Need Prompt Medical Treatment if I Feel Fine?

Getting medical treatment following an automotive accident is important for your health and financial future. The longer an injury goes untreated the worse it could get. This may lead to higher medical bills and prolonged pain and suffering.

When filing a personal injury lawsuit it is crucial that you sought medical attention right after the accident occurred. This will increase your chances of getting the compensation you need and deserve. If you or someone you know has been involved in an auto accident call our office. We are here to help.

Why Should I File a Police Report After an Accident?

Many people wrongly assume that they don't need to file a police report after a minor vehicle accident. Minor or major, a police report is very important to file after any accident if there is a chance you are going to pursue compensation. What may seem like a minor injury or minor vehicle damage at the time can end up being much more serious (and expensive). A police report provides an unbiased view of what happened. Having this documentation makes any insurance claim easier and is vital if a lawsuit is filed. Filing a police report is important for the at-fault driver as well. It can provide protection against any exaggerated or faked injury claims. A normal police report will include the date, time and location of the accident. It will detail damage to the vehicle(s) as well as any injuries. It will also contain statements by those involved and any witnesses. To file a report, call the police and cooperate with the officer who responds by answering all questions to the best of your ability. Make sure to get a copy of the report to send to your insurance provider. If you are in an auto accident and have any questions about how to best pursue fair compensation, call our office to schedule a consultation.

Never Unsubscribe from Spam

Spam is one of the bigger annoyances of digital life. We all want it to stop but unsubscribing from spam e-mails or texts can actually make the problem worse.

The kind of spam we're talking about is unsolicited messages from strangers who are trying to scam you or steal from you. The spammers send massive amounts of messages out into the world, hoping for a small number of them to pay off. They don't know you, aren't targeting you, and don't even know if your e-mail address or phone number is valid. By responding in any way, you're telling the spammer that this contact information is indeed real, so you end up inviting more spam. The best thing you can do when receiving a spam e-mail or text is to mark it as spam and delete it. Otherwise, ignore it.

If you're getting ads or a newsletter from a legitimate business that you provided your contact information to, and no longer wish to receive communications from them, you should unsubscribe. This is different from the spam discussed above.

The best way to get less spam is to prevent it from reaching you in the first place. While zero spam is basically a pipe dream, you can cut back on the amount of spam you receive by avoiding posting your email address or phone number in any public place on the internet. Spammers use automated programs to search blogs, social networking sites and forums looking for addresses.

Pineapple Angel Food Cake



Ingredients:

- ▶ 1 (16 ounce) package angel food cake mix
- ▶ 1 (20 ounce) can crushed pineapple with juice
- ▶ 1 (12 ounce) container frozen whipped topping, thawed

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Spray a 9x13 inch pan with vegetable oil spray.

In a large bowl, combine cake mix and pineapple (with juice). Mix until well blended.

Pour batter into prepared 9x13 inch pan. Bake at 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) for 25 minutes or until golden brown. Let cool.

Serve with whipped topping

How to Teach Your Child to Safely Interact with Animals

It's a fact – kids love animals! Whether it's their tiny pet hamster or a cartoon lion they saw on TV, children are naturally drawn to animals. That's why it's important to teach your kids how to safely interact with animals from a very young age. This ensures both your child and the animal stay safe.

Here are three easy ways to teach your youngsters how to stay safe around animals.

1. Always Ask an Owner Before They Pet a Dog

Not all people love dogs, just as not all dogs love people. This may be because of poor socialization or past abuse. To protect your child from a potential dog bite, teach them to say hello to the owner before they say hello to their dog. Educate them on the importance of asking an owner if their dog is friendly before they approach the animal to pet it.

2. Never Approach Wild or Stray Animals

While a fox or racoon may look cute and cuddly, they are actually wild animals that could harm your children. Tell your kids that it's never safe to approach or pet stray or wild animals, even if it's a stray kitten. These animals could bite, scratch or even be diseased.

3. Give Them Pet Responsibilities

If your child is old enough, consider giving them some pet-related responsibilities. These can include feeding the dog or grooming the cat. Always supervise your kids and show them the proper ways to feed, pet, walk and play with their pets.

Animal safety begins at home. To prevent your kids or pets from getting injured, teach your children how to interact with animals properly. If you or a family member has been injured by someone's pet, call our office. We are here to help.



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Who is Liable for an Uneven Sidewalk Accident?

An uneven sidewalk may not seem like a big deal until you trip on it. Tripping accidents from cracked or uneven sidewalks can cause back injuries, knee injuries, cuts, bruises and even head or brain trauma. In extreme circumstances, the victim may even experience permanent or life-threatening injuries.

But who is responsible for uneven sidewalk accidents? The answer may surprise you.

Who's to Blame?

The person who is liable for an uneven sidewalk accident depends on where it's located. In some cases negligent property owners are to blame for accidents caused by uneven sidewalks. In other cases city government or municipalities are responsible. Sometimes, more than one entity can be liable.

If a sidewalk is on privately-owned property, such as a house, the property owner is

responsible for maintaining their premises. This puts them at fault for injuries caused by an uneven sidewalk. If the sidewalk is public property, the local government or a business might be responsible. In all scenarios you may be able to recover compensation for your tripping accident.

Can I File a Personal Injury Lawsuit for an Uneven Sidewalk Accident?

If you tripped on an uneven sidewalk and suffered severe injuries you might be entitled to compensation.

No matter what type of injury you sustain, you shouldn't be left with hefty medical bills because of someone else's negligence.

To learn how you can receive compensation for your pain and suffering contact our office today. We are here to help.

Marcus & Mack

Pennsylvania Personal Injury Lawyers



A referral is the greatest professional compliment we can receive. If you have a friend, neighbor, or family member who is in need of legal representation, please consider referring them to our firm. We will do our best to provide the highest possible level of service and deliver winning results.



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57 S. 6th Street
Indiana, PA 15701

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3 Essential Safety Tips for the Ultimate Summer Road Trip

Are you ready to hit the open road with your family or friends this summer? Road trips are the perfect way to make memories that will last a lifetime. Before you buckle up, it's important to be prepared.

Here are three essential safety tips for your summer road trip.

- 1. Get Your Car Road-Worthy** Schedule a tune-up at your local automotive repair shop to ensure your vehicle is ready for its long journey. If you want to do some prep work at home, check your tire pressure, fluid levels and exterior lights. If you notice any issues book an appointment with a certified mechanic before it's time to drive.
- 2. Pack an Emergency Kit** If you're planning to drive long distances between pit stops pack an emergency kit to prepare for the unexpected. Your kit should contain:

- ▶ First aid kit
- ▶ Flashlight
- ▶ Blankets
- ▶ Jumper cables
- ▶ Flares
- ▶ Bottled water
- ▶ Cell phone charger
- ▶ Non-perishable snacks such as dried fruits or nuts

- 3. Sign Up for Roadside Assistance** If you haven't already, now's a great time to enroll in a roadside assistance plan. If your car breaks down and you need a tow or tire change roadside assistance has you covered.

These three simple safety tips will help you prepare for the Ultimate Road trip.