



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Russell J. Bopp, Esquire

Associate Attorney at Marcus & Mack

Marcus & Mack's associate attorney, Russell Bopp, is dedicated to helping injured people through some of the most difficult times in their lives. Having previously practiced law as an attorney defending insurance companies and large corporations, Russell now leverages that experience to benefit clients that have lost loved ones or suffered injuries through no fault of their own.

In a legal industry crowded with attorneys that view their clients as another "case", Russell is known for his caring approach in representing clients from the initial call through final resolution. When asked about this approach, Russell commented:

The unfortunate reality is that we are often confronted with life-altering circumstances—through no fault of our own—which can only be resolved through the legal system. I view my career in law as an opportunity to help my clients navigate the legal system as they pick up the pieces and start to rebuild their lives. I believe that a career in law, as a personal injury attorney, places me in a unique position to make a positive and tangible impact in the lives of my clients.

Attorney Russell Bopp is proud to be a first-generation graduate of college and has strong roots in western Pennsylvania. Russell graduated as valedictorian from Marion Center High School, obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science at Grove City College, and earned his Juris Doctorate at Duquesne University School of Law, where he graduated first in his class.

Over the course of his career, Russell has distinguished himself in the legal community through his hard work and excellent results. Russell has been recognized as a Top 40 Under 40 Civil Plaintiff Trial Lawyer by the National Trial Lawyers for the past two years running. This recognition is limited to attorneys who have demonstrated excellence and have achieved outstanding results in their careers.

Russell currently serves on the Board of Governors for the Western Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association and is an active member of the Indiana County Bar Association, Pennsylvania Bar Association, Pennsylvania Association for Justice, and American Association for Justice. Russell is currently licensed to practice law in Pennsylvania's state courts as well as the Federal Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. Russell has experience litigating cases in both state and federal courts all across Pennsylvania.

At Marcus & Mack, we care. We take the time to get to know our clients and listen to their concerns. You can rely on our experience, skill, and passion to fight for your rights. If you or a family member have been seriously injured, make sure you call the right law firm. Call Marcus & Mack at **1-800-488-0338**.



Sharing the Road with Commercial Trucks

Driving around commercial trucks can be dangerous. Trucks have larger blind spots, are hard to maneuver and take longer to stop.

- 1. Avoid a truck's blind spots** Big rigs and other large vehicles have much larger blind-spot areas than passenger cars:
 - ▶ One lane wide on the driver's side, extending back to about half the length of the trailer
 - ▶ Two lanes wide on the right side, extending back slightly behind the trailer
 - ▶ 20 feet in front of the truck
- 2. Practice safe passing** Careful passing is important near a large truck because the heavy vehicle cannot stop as quickly. Truck drivers need time to react, adjust their speed and brake accordingly. When passing a large truck, always approach from the left side since it is easier for the driver to see you. Keep a consistent speed and always signal clearly in advance. Before you enter the lane in front of the truck, make sure you can see it in your rearview mirror to ensure a safe distance. When a truck passes you allow plenty of space in front of you for the driver to maneuver safely.

- 3. Allow more time** When you change lanes or turn near a commercial truck, activate your signal earlier to give the driver more time to respond. Avoid moving into the lane in front of a large truck. A sudden lane change may not give the truck driver enough time to stop.
- 4. Increase following distance** Leave at least four seconds between your vehicle and a commercial truck. If you cannot stop in time or are rear-ended while traveling too close to a truck, your car may be pushed underneath the trailer. If traffic is stopped, leave extra space behind a truck in case it rolls backward.
- 5. Watch for wide turns** Semi-trailer trucks need room to make turns. The cab and trailer may need to swing left to gain room for a right turn or may start a turn from the middle lane. Do not pass a truck that has a turn signal on. When you are stopped at an intersection make sure your car is safely behind the line because trucks need extra space to make turns.
- 6. Drive patiently** Be patient when sharing the road with semi-trailer trucks. Honking, aggressive driving, or maneuvering through traffic will not cause trucks to speed up but instead may put you in danger.

Not only do trucking accidents tend to be more severe than passenger vehicle accidents they are also often more complicated. There may be multiple parties who are liable for the damages you have suffered. If you have been injured in a truck accident, call our office. We are here to help.

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Fall Word Search

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|----------|----------|----------|
| FOOTBALL | CAMPING | APPLES |
| HUNTING | BICYCLE | PUMPKINS |
| LEAVES | WALKING | HOODIES |
| CARNIVAL | COLORFUL | BONFIRE |
| HIKING | SCENIC | |

F X W H B F G H Y H M B
 J O K U L I O O H I N O
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 M A B I C Y C L E L K G
 A A P P L E S I N E P M
 C A R N I V A L I A M S
 D G J W A V B N C V U F
 W A L K I N G H L E P O
 C O L O R F U L T S E Z

Dangers of Driving on Wet Leaves

It's the time of year for hot chocolate and cooler weather. As the colors on the leaves change, traveling to see the beautiful scenery is beckoning. As beautiful as a drive can be, wet leaves can cause problems for drivers. These leaves can cause problems because they become as dangerous as ice. It is important to be cautious so you do not lose traction or stability.

If you find yourself driving on wet leaves, here are a few things to keep in mind. One important tip is to take your time. Taking your time, especially on roads you are not familiar with, reduces the risk of an accident. Wet leaves can leave you twisting and turning on a roadway if you are going too fast. Slowing down helps you avoid sliding on the road. Not only does taking your time help keep you from sliding on wet leaves, but it helps you navigate things on the road that might be hidden by the leaves. Potholes or cracks in the road can develop on any roadway and are dangerous when you do not see them. Taking your time helps you navigate these surprises.

Another suggestion is to be aware of other drivers. Most country roads do not have a lot of traffic. However, people will still be on the road and you should allow a safe distance from the car in front of you. Since wet leaves can act like ice, you will want the extra time to come to a complete stop. Also, having good tires helps you maneuver through the wet leaves and gives you better traction.

Going for a long drive in the fall can be a wonderful way to see the beauty of nature. Being prepared for your trip can help you enjoy the beautiful fall days ahead. If you have been injured in an accident, call our office. We are here to help.



Park & Trail Safety

While You Hike this Fall

The weather is cooler and the days are shorter. Fall is here. With the beautiful colors and crisp air, it can be a wonderful time to enjoy the outdoors. Hiking is a common activity that a lot of Americans enjoy. In fact, hiking is now one of the most popular adventure activities, according to Travel Weekly. As hiking popularity grows, it is important to know how to keep yourself safe on your adventures.

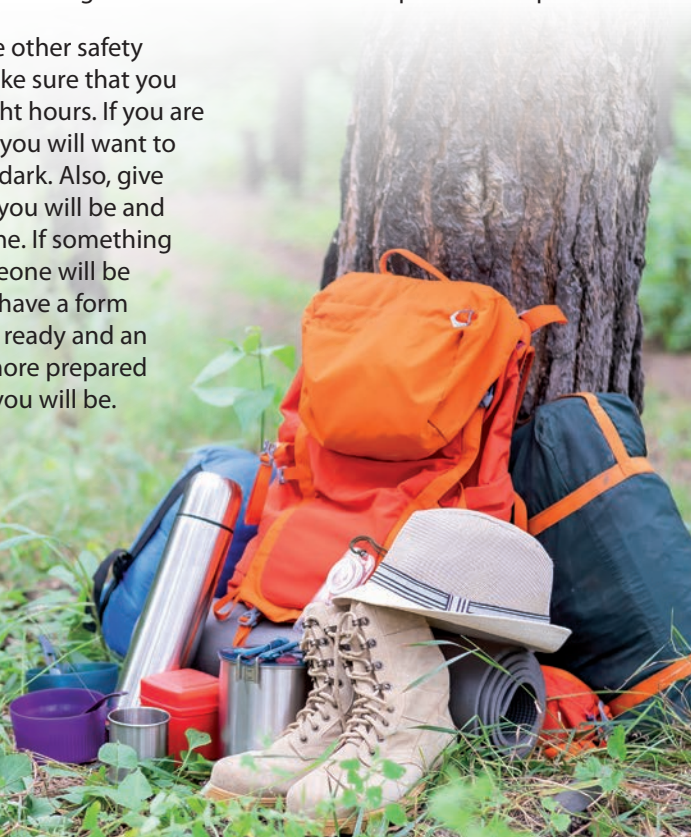
Here are THREE tips to hike smart this Fall.

- 1. Plan your Hike** When planning a hike, a beautiful view should be on the agenda but it is important that you keep in mind what physical abilities are required to get there. Are you a first-time hiker or more experienced? These are important questions to ask yourself when you are choosing the location for a hike. Also, have a few trails to choose from in case one trail does not work out. A plan B is always a good idea.
- 2. Check the Weather** Fall weather can be beautiful but it can change quickly. Conditions can shift over days or even hours and can surprise unexpected hikers. Checking the weather conditions will help you prepare for any changes that may happen during your hike. Also, this helps you stay dry and warm on long hikes. Wet clothing or being cold can be dangerous on a hike, but if you are prepared for the weather conditions, you have less chance of being caught off-guard.
- 3. Be Prepared** Whether you are hiking for a day or for a week, being prepared is an important part of any hiker's trip. Make sure you know how to pack your bag.

Here are a few important items:

- ▶ Water and Food
- ▶ Sun Protection
- ▶ Fire Starter
- ▶ First Aid Kit
- ▶ Insulated clothing
- ▶ Emergency shelter
- ▶ Bug Spray
- ▶ Flashlights
- ▶ Compass and Map

With your bag packed, there are other safety measures that you can take. Make sure that you plan your day for shorter daylight hours. If you are not going on an overnight trip, you will want to make sure you get back before dark. Also, give someone an itinerary of where you will be and a time they can expect you home. If something should go awry, you know someone will be looking for you. Make sure you have a form of emergency communications ready and an emergency plan in place. The more prepared you are for your hike, the safer you will be.



Apple Crisp

Ingredients:

- ▶ 6 apples (peeled and chopped) or use apple pie filling
- ▶ 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- ▶ 1 ¾ teaspoons ground cinnamon (divided)
- ▶ 1 ½ teaspoons lemon juice
- ▶ 1 cup light brown sugar
- ▶ ¾ cup old fashioned or quick oats
- ▶ ¾ cup all-purpose flour
- ▶ ½ cup butter (diced into small cubes)
- ▶ Add pinch of salt

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 F degrees. Butter an 8x8 baking dish, or spray with non-stick cooking spray. Set aside.
2. In a mixing bowl, add chopped apples, granulated sugar, ¾ tsp of the cinnamon and lemon juice. Stir to combine, then transfer to prepared baking dish.
3. In a separate mixing bowl, add topping ingredients (brown sugar, oats, flour, 1 tsp cinnamon, salt, and diced cold butter). Use a pastry cutter to cut the butter into the oat mixture, using a slight downward twisting motion, until mixture resembles pea-sized crumbs. Alternatively, you can use two forks or even your hands to cut butter into the mixture.
4. Spread topping over apples in baking dish, and gently pat to even it out. Bake 40-50 minutes, until golden brown and bubbly.
5. Serve warm and enjoy!

Make Sure You Have the Right Amount of **Liability Coverage**

When you are looking at your budget to cut costs many people will look at their auto insurance. Cutting your auto insurance coverage may save you some money now but it could cost you much more in the long run if you are in an accident. Liability Insurance can protect you from financial ruin. A few extra dollars will help ensure your home and family are protected.

Liability auto insurance includes Bodily Injury liability (BI) and Property Damage liability (PD). When shopping for auto insurance, be concerned about your liability coverage. BI covers personal injury damages that you as a driver or policy holder cause. BI covers you if you are at fault for an accident that causes injury to the other driver, passenger, pedestrian, bicyclist or a motorcyclist. BI coverage also pays for medical expenses for the other person, funeral expenses, loss of income, scarring and disfigurement, and pain and suffering. PD protects you if you damage someone's property. This includes their vehicle, yard, fence or home. Your liability insurance also covers you if you are sued for injuries and damages after an accident.

If you have a low deductible and limited liability coverage, you are probably spending a similar amount of money as someone with higher liability coverage and a higher deductible. \$100,000 in liability coverage may sound like a lot, but if you hit someone with multiple people in the car, or if you injure someone who is unable to work for an extended period of time, or if the collision results in hefty medical bills, low liability coverage simply may not be enough. If you or a family member have been injured in an automobile accident, call our office. 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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The information included in this newsletter is not intended as a substitute for professional legal advice. For your specific situation, please call the appropriate legal professional.

Camp Lejeune **Water Contamination Update**



Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune is the home to one of the most tragic water contamination cases in the U.S.. For over three decades millions of civilian workers, soldiers and their families were unknowingly exposed to dangerous chemicals in their water. From 1953 to 1987, toxic chemicals contaminated the water wells. This included benzene and trichloroethylene (TCE) which are chemicals known to cause serious health problems such as cancer, Parkinson's disease or liver disease.

In August 2022, the president signed the Camp Lejeune Justice Act. This new law allows those who were exposed to the contaminated water the ability to seek compensation

and file a lawsuit which they were previously denied.

You may be eligible to file a claim if:

- ▶ You or your loved ones were exposed to the contaminated water for at least 30 days between August 1st 1952 and December 31st 1987.
- ▶ Suffered from cancer, Parkinson's disease or other health issues caused by the exposure.

If you or your loved ones have been affected by the Camp Lejeune water contamination and have suffered a medical condition, reach out to us today!