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WORKERS'
COMPENSATION
SOCIAL SECURITY
DISABILITY
LONG-TERM
DISABILITY



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Six selected to *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers*,[®] four on *Top 100 PA*, five selected to *Rising Stars*[®]

At Martin Banks we pride ourselves on being a preeminent workers' compensation firm in Pennsylvania that represents the rights of only injured workers and the disabled, not insurance companies and corporations. That's why we are so proud to announce that, for the 3rd consecutive year, the firm

We have more attorneys listed on the Top 100 Philadelphia and Top 100 Pennsylvania than all other workers' comp firms combined!

Statement refers to plaintiff's firms in Pennsylvania.

has had **all 6 partners listed as Pennsylvania Super Lawyers** by the independent rating service *Super Lawyers*^{*}.

We are especially proud to announce that, for the 8th consecutive year, founding partner **George Martin** has been selected as a *Top 100 Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Super Lawyer*. Partners **Matt Wilson**, **Joe Huttemann**

and **Al Carlson** have also been selected to the *Top 100 Philadelphia* and *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers*.

Halmon "Sonny" Banks III has been selected to the *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers* for the 8th consecutive year and **John Dogum** has been selected to the *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers* list for the 6th time.

Five Martin Banks attorneys were also

were listed as a *Pennsylvania Rising Star*[†]. This is **Jody Joy**'s 5th year, **Amit Shah**'s 4th year and **Joseph Conlan**'s 2nd year.

Martin Banks **Social Security Disability** attorneys **Joseph Capitan** and **Maria Harris** made their debut as two of only seven *Pennsylvania Rising Stars* to be recognized in this area of law.



* Super Lawyers selects attorneys using a rigorous, multiphase process. Peer nominations and evaluations are combined with third party research. Each candidate is evaluated on 12 indicators of peer recognition and professional achievement. Selections are made on an annual, state-by-state basis.

The Super Lawyers selection process involves three basic steps: creation of the candidate pool, evaluation of candidates by the research department, and peer evaluation by practice area. The final published list represents no more than 5 percent of the lawyers in the state.

†The selection process for Rising Stars is the same as the Super Lawyers selection process except that: 1) a candidate must be either 40 years old or younger or in practice for ten years or less 2) Candidates do not go through peer evaluation by practice area; no more than 2.5 percent are named to the Rising Stars list.

OUR ATTORNEYS

George Martin ■ Halmon L. Banks III ■ Matthew L. Wilson ■ Joseph C. Huttemann
Alfred J. Carlson ■ John P. Dogum ■ Annabelle R. Cedar ■ Jody Joy ■ Leah Cilo
Amit J. Shah ■ Joseph A. Conlan ■ Joseph D. Capitan ■ Lisa Eldridge ■ Maria E. Harris



A 2012 Top Work Place

Martin Banks has been named both a 2011 *Best Place to Work* and one of *The Top Work Places* of 2012. Martin Banks was ranked number 13 for medium sized companies on the *Best Places to Work* list. This is Martin Banks' first year being ranked on the *Best Places to Work* list compiled by the *Philadelphia Business Journal*, through anonymous surveys completed by staff members. Our staff members have also helped Martin Banks to move up on the *Top Work Places* list. Martin Banks was ranked at number 9 on the Small Companies List, which is a significant jump from last year's ranking of 32. It is also one of only three law firms that were mentioned on the list published earlier this year by the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and *Daily News*.

We are grateful to our amazing and dedicated staff for making this possible!

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NEW WORKERS' COMP CERTIFICATION: *Breaking Ground for the Pa. Bar Association*

By Joseph C. Huttemann, Esq.

When you need surgery on a broken bone, you seek a board-certified orthopedic surgeon. When you get your taxes done, a certified public accountant can provide the specialized experience needed to guide you. But what happens when you want an attorney with very specific expertise in handling the complex and procedurally unique field of workers' compensation? This very issue was recently addressed with an order signed by Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Ronald D. Castille on Jan. 12. The order granted accreditation to the Pennsylvania Bar Association workers' compensation law section as a "certifying organization" in the area of workers' compensation law.

The process and certification that was approved by the order, according to PBA President Matthew J. Creme Jr., benefits both the public and the legal practitioner. "Certification of lawyers in workers' compensation law will give consumers valuable guidance, and it will afford legal practitioners the opportunity to showcase their knowledge and expertise in the area of workers' compensation law," Creme said in a recent PBA press release announcing the order.

With this order, the PBA workers' compensation law section broke ground in becoming the first bar association section in Pennsylvania to gain approval as a certifying body.

Traditionally, under the rules of ethics, attorneys are prohibited from advertising any sort of expertise or specialization. However, this process will now allow some attorneys the opportunity to hold themselves out to the public as a "certified specialist" in the practice, using the following phrase on any public communications referencing the credentials: "Certified as a specialist in the practice of workers' compensation law by the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Section on Workers' Compensation Law as authorized by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court."

The process to get this together took several years, hundreds of volunteer hours and the combined brainpower of a dozen hand-appointed, seasoned workers' compensation professionals who convened in meetings spanning three years and through a number of subcommittees, including bylaws and testing.

Excerpt from the original publication in The Legal Intelligencer. Read the full article on our website at www.paworkinjury.com/certification.

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How Martin Banks Gives Back...

GEORGE & MIRIAM MARTIN FOUNDATION

The George & Miriam Martin Foundation was established by Martin Banks founding partner George Martin and his wife in 1995. Since the beginning, the foundation has given almost \$3 million in grants to more than 91 environmental organizations. These grants help preserve streams and wetlands across the country, including some local contributions that are helping to clean up the Schuylkill River.

PhilaPOSH

Philadelphia Area Project on Occupational Safety and Health (PhilaPOSH) is the only organization in the Greater Philadelphia Area that makes worker safety and health the top priority. PhilaPOSH works with unions and health and legal professionals for safe and protected workplace and rights of injured workers. Partners George Martin and Halmon Banks are committed referral attorneys for the organization, ensuring that workers' compensation rights and the injured workers are protected and understand their options.

TOUGH MUDDER

Martin Banks partner Joseph C. Huttemann, Esq. and paralegal Ed Brittingham completed the Tough Mudder Event on Sunday, April 29. The Tough



Mudder event was a hardcore 11 mile obstacle course, with almost 30 different obstacles designed by British Special Forces to test your all around strength, stamina, mental grit, and camaraderie.

Tough Mudder is a proud supporter of the Wounded Warrior Project. Since Tough Mudder's beginning in 2010 it has raised over \$3 Million for the Wounded Warrior Project to become its largest benefactor.



LEGAL CLINIC FOR THE DISABLED

Martin Banks is a corporate donor for The Legal Clinic for the Disabled (LCD), which provides free high-quality legal services to low-income people with physical disabilities and to the deaf and hard of hearing in Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties, Pennsylvania.

BURGER BRAWL

Partner Sonny Banks was a sponsor for the 2012 Philadelphia Burger Brawl which continues its push towards a \$40,000 fundraising goal, with the aim of building a new computer lab for Meredith Elementary School, a K-8 Philadelphia public school.



Photo Courtesy of Stuart Goldenberg

COMMUNITY SERVICE

All of the attorneys at Martin Banks are involved with different local community service projects, through either the firm or individual endeavors. Martin Banks annually supports WOGL's Radiothon which raises money for the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and Fresh Artists, an organization dedicated to keeping art in public schools. Martin Banks also sponsored the Philadelphia Children's Alliance Bear Affair 2012. Among others, partners Al Carlson and Sonny Banks both coach their children's sports teams and are actively involved in their school activities.

KIDS' CHANCE OF PENNSYLVANIA

Martin Banks is proud to support Kids' Chance of PA. This organization is dedicated to helping kids who need it most - those who need assistance for college or vocational education because a parent was killed or severely injured in a work-related accident.

Find out if you or a loved one are eligible by calling us at 215.587.8400.

Celebrating 25 Years!



On April 25, Martin Banks celebrated Sonny Banks' 25th Anniversary with the firm at The National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, PA.

FACEBOOK: Lock it up, like you lock your house.

Facebook users need to take a good look at their profile and security settings. Research says millions of Americans share their birth date on Facebook that could be used by identity thieves. Or they talk about being out of town, an invitation to burglars.

It's not just criminals who comb through your postings. There are companies whose entire business is going through social network postings for companies and the government.

A lot of that information can be safe if you manage your privacy settings carefully. But 13 million people have never used the settings, either they don't know about it or just don't bother. More than one in four Facebook users share almost all their wall posts beyond their friends, which is a wide audience. That's risky because once you go outside your circle of friends you really don't know who's looking at it.

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Participate in our Market Outreach!

Martin Banks places great value on your opinion of our marketing efforts. *Would you like to offer feedback from time to time on things like newspaper, radio and TV advertisements and other outreach initiatives?*

If so, let us know at paworkinjury.com/marketing, and we will include you in brief surveys that will afford you the opportunity to tell us how best to represent the firm's services, attorneys and staff to the general public. *Thanks!*



Find us online to keep up with all the latest news!



www.paworkinjury.com

Elected and appointed

MARIA HARRIS has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Friends of Farmworkers, a nonprofit organization dedicated to indigent farmworkers, and workers from immigrant and migrant communities.

GEORGE MARTIN was elected to a four year term as Chairman of the West Vincent Township Planning Commission in Chester County, PA.

Speaking engagements

GEORGE MARTIN AND MATT WILSON will serve as faculty members at the upcoming CLE program "Workers Compensation Practice and Procedure," presented by the Pennsylvania Bar Institute in four live presentations and over 20 simulcast/web presentations during the month of May.

JOSEPH HUTTEMANN presented a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) program entitled "Advanced Workers' Compensation" on April 25.

« « **HALMON BANKS** appeared on CBS 3's "Talk Philly" on February 16, to discuss Black History Month and why diversity in the workplace is important.

HALMON BANKS was a faculty member for "Handling the Workers Compensation Case," hosted by the Pennsylvania Bar Institute on March 15.

AL CARLSON spoke at "Mandatory Mediation Two Years Later: Success or Failure?" hosted by the Philadelphia Bar Association on March 2.

AMIT SHAH was a faculty member for "Workers' Compensation Issues Involving the Larger Employer," hosted by the Pennsylvania Bar Institute on March 1.

JOHN DOGUM will speak on the topic of "Violence in the Workplace" at the Philadelphia Bar Association Bench-Bar and Annual Conference in Atlantic City on October 5.

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WORKERS' COMPENSATION ■ SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY

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