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Messa & Associates
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WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

2025 Super Lawyers
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CONGRATULATIONS 2025 MESSA & ASSOCIATES SUPER LAWYERS & RISING STARS!

Messa & Associates is proud to announce our 2025 Super Lawyers and Rising Stars. At Messa & Associates, P.C., we are committed to being there for injury victims at their time of greatest need. "While it is certainly a noble cause to fight the big corporations in the medical, manufacturing and insurance industries, it never gets easier to see the continuous suffering of people due to negligence, poor medical care and corporate wrongdoing," says founding partner Joseph Messa. To us, our clients are like family. Their concerns are our concerns. We never stop fighting for our clients, and you can see that in our results.

Congratulations to Joseph Messa, Paul Brandes, and Richard Heleniak on being named a Super Lawyer for over 15 years in a row, Irene McLafferty and Lee Rosenfeld for 15 years, and Thomas Sweeney 10+ years. Joseph Messa is also named Top 100 Pennsylvania and Philadelphia attorney.

Our other Super Lawyers at the firm are Angelo Theodosopoulos, Ramon Arreola, Brett Furber, and Laura Laughlin. Our Super Lawyers Rising Stars are Megan M. Kwak, Ashley DiLiberto, Alaina Gregorio, Samantha M. Spinelli, Graham Bickel, and Colby Ciarrocca.

Boating Safety: More Than Just Common Sense

By: Graham R. Bickel, Esq.

As summer heats up, more people are heading to the Poconos and the Jersey Shore to enjoy the outdoors. Boating can be a great way to relax and connect with family and friends—but it's important to remember that boating is not without risks. At Messa & Associates we want you to enjoy your time on the water safely—and understand the legal implications if things go wrong.

Boating Safety 101

According to the U.S. Coast Guard, operator inattention, alcohol use, and excessive speed remain the leading causes of boating accidents. Whether you're operating a motorboat, Jet Ski, or sailboat, safety should always be your top priority. Here are a few key reminders:

- **Wear a life jacket.** Around 85% of drowning victims in recreational boating accidents were not wearing a life jacket.
- **Avoid alcohol.** Boating under the influence (BUI) is not only dangerous—it's illegal. Impaired judgment and slowed reaction times are a recipe for disaster.
- **Take a safety course.** Pennsylvania and New Jersey require boating safety certifications depending on your age and the time of vessel you operate. Even if you're not required to have a certification, taking a course can make a real difference.
- **Keep an eye on the weather.** Sudden changes in weather can lead to dangerous conditions on the water.

Understanding Liability on the Water

Boating accidents can cause serious injuries or even death—and when an individual's negligence causes an injury, there can be serious legal consequences. If a boater fails to operate their vessel responsibly and someone gets hurt, they may be held liable.

For example, if a boat operator is speeding, intoxicated, or distracted and causes a collision, they may be considered negligent under the law. Passengers and others injured in such accidents may have grounds to file a personal injury claim.

If You've Been Injured in a Boating Accident

If you or a loved one has been injured due to unsafe boating, it's important to act quickly. Evidence can disappear fast, and boating laws differ from typical car accident cases. Our experienced legal team at Messa & Associates understands the complexities of personal injury cases and we are here to help you navigate your rights.

Stay Safe, Stay Informed

Boating should be fun—but it also comes with responsibilities. Safe boating protects not only you and your loved ones but also everyone else on the water. If someone else's negligence turns your day of fun into a nightmare, know that you have legal options.
Stay safe—and enjoy your summer responsibly.

About the Author:
Graham Bickel focuses his practice on catastrophic injury cases, including trucking accidents, motor vehicle accidents, and slip/fall or premises liability cases. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Association for Justice, the Montgomery County Bar Association, and the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association. Mr. Bickel is licensed to practice law in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Settlements and Verdicts

- $1 Million recovery for the family of an elderly woman who died as a result of anesthetic complications during routine cataract surgery.
- $1.4 Million Recovery for a man who was permanently injured due to a defective electric wheelchair.

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