

# The Road To Justice Starts Here

August 2019



**PURCHASE GEORGE & MURPHEY P.C.**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



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# Purchase testifies

## AT LEGISLATIVE HEARING

On June 25, 2019, Eric Purchase was one of two Pennsylvania Bar Association representatives to offer testimony before Pennsylvania's Legislative Budget and Finance Committee on proposed changes to medical malpractice venue rules. Purchase was selected to present the perspective of Pennsylvania lawyers who represent victims of medical errors.

The committee, a bipartisan committee of both Pennsylvania's Senate and House of Representatives, sought insight about a proposal to eliminate special venue rules (rules about where a lawsuit may be filed) that apply only to medical malpractice defendants. Purchase offered a history of the venue rules, a statistical review of the impact of rule changes on medical malpractice filings and verdicts and a jurisprudential analysis of the risks of procedural



protections designed to benefit special classes of Pennsylvanians.

At Purchase George & Murphey we're proud, but not surprised, that the Pennsylvania Bar Association chose one of our lawyers to testify on this important issue. We've been fighting for the rights of negligently injured patients in Pennsylvania, and writing and speaking publicly in support of those rights, since the founding of the firm.

We hope that you and your loved ones never need the help of a medical malpractice lawyer but we'll keep fighting to protect your rights and we'll answer your questions if you believe you've suffered serious injury because of a medical mistake. ■



# ajo blanco

## Ingredients

- 1 green apple, peeled, cored, and chopped
- 1 large garlic clove, chopped
- 3 c. crustless 1-inch cubes of day-old white country bread
- 1 c. seedless green grapes, halved
- ½ c. whole blanched almonds
- ½ c. whole milk
- Kosher salt
- ¾ c. extra-virgin olive oil (with additional for serving)
- 3 Tbsp. red wine vinegar (with additional for serving)
- Freshly ground black pepper
- ½ c. sliced almonds, blanched



## Preparation

- Combine apple, garlic, bread cubes, grapes, almonds, milk, and 2 cups of water in a medium bowl. Season with salt, cover, and chill for 6-24 hours.
- Transfer the mixture to a blender and puree. Add water by the tablespoon if it is too thick and continue until it is smooth. With the motor still running, gradually add the oil and vinegar until soup is emulsified.
- Season soup with salt, pepper, and more vinegar, if wanted. Strain through a fine-mesh sieve into a large bowl. Cover and chill until very cold. ■

# those pesky ‘little flies’



One minute you're outdoors enjoying a pleasant summer evening. The next, you're slapping your arms and legs silly. Mosquitoes have crashed the party.

A mosquito “bites” with a long, pointy mouthpart called a proboscis. One tube in the proboscis draws blood from a capillary; a second one administers saliva that acts as a painkiller and anti-coagulant. An allergic response to the saliva causes swelling and itching afterward.

Only female mosquitoes suck blood. They need it to help their eggs develop. If they had their druthers, they'd stick to nectar like the males.

Mosquitoes are drawn to people by carbon-dioxide emissions, which are detected by receptors on their antennae. Those who inhale and exhale more frequently (e.g., larger people and pregnant women) will be targeted more often. Also, the more heat a person emits, the more likely they are to attract mosquitoes.

Sweat plays a role, too. Our skin produces over 300 chemical odors, some of which mosquitoes find alluring. Mosquitoes also have an affinity for beer drinkers, who have elevated ethanol levels in their sweat.

More ominously, mosquitoes are carriers of some of humanity's most deadly illnesses, such as malaria, yellow fever, encephalitis, and dengue, to name a few. Worldwide, they contribute to millions of deaths each year. And all they need to perpetuate the misery is a tiny amount of standing water to lay their eggs.

To be fair, mosquitoes possess a couple of redeeming qualities: They are a plentiful source of food for many creatures, and the design of their proboscis is being studied to develop less painful hypodermic needles and insertion methods. Beyond that, engendering goodwill toward mosquitoes is a difficult assignment. ■

# focus and patience

## REQUIRED IN SCHOOL ZONES



By the time late August rolls around, many school zones are once again bustling with activity: students walking/bicycling to school, parents picking up or dropping off their kids, and buses delivering or gathering their precious cargo.

But despite lowered speed limits, marked crosswalks, signage, and warning lights to improve school-zone safety, some drivers don't pay attention or abide by

the law. According to the Transportation Research Board, nationwide approximately 100 students are killed annually in school-zone accidents, and roughly 25,000 are injured.

Distracted driving and speeding are frequent culprits in school-zone accidents. Studies have shown that distracted driving is as dangerous as driving intoxicated. As for speed, traveling 10 mph over a school-zone speed limit of 25 mph increases stopping distance by nearly 40 feet in normal conditions. Additionally, parents who drop off or pick up their kids at non-designated areas often force them to navigate traffic.

School kids can make things dicey, too. Cell phone usage or listening to music can distract them while crossing the street. Students may cross at unmarked areas instead of designated crosswalks. Or, they cross where they're supposed to but mistakenly assume a distracted driver will stop.

Drivers shoulder the lion's share of responsibility for school-zone accidents. Student pedestrians will be held to a lower standard of conduct—in circumstances in which an adult pedestrian may be found partially responsible for an accident, a child pedestrian frequently will not be. A parent or guardian will need to file a personal injury claim on behalf of an injured child.

If your child is injured in a school-zone accident, contact a personal injury attorney to protect their rights. ■



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# happy birthday, social security!

When the Social Security Act was signed into law in August 1935 by President Franklin Roosevelt, it wasn't a completely new idea. Following the Civil War, war veterans rendered disabled as a consequence of their service, war widows, and now-fatherless children numbered hundreds of thousands. A pension program was established to help them—a precursor to the Social Security Act.

(As of early 2019, a daughter of a Civil War veteran was still receiving Civil War benefits! For the record, her father was 83 years old when she was born and had married a woman over 50 years his junior.)

Significant factors besides the Great Depression led to the Social Security Act. Extended families, who all chipped in to care for elderly family members, began to wither. Many family members headed to the cities in the early 1900s to find work, weakening this social construct. Also, between 1900 and 1930, life expectancy improved by 10 years; those who needed assistance were requiring it for a longer span.

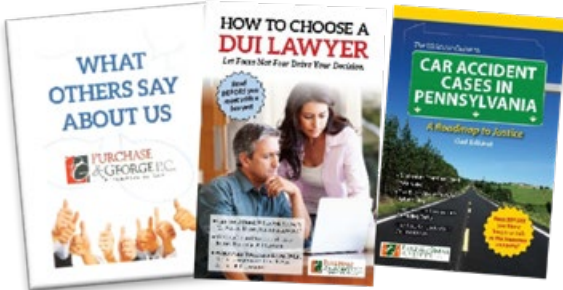
Initially, minorities and women were denied Social Security benefits—a sign of the times—as were many who were employed in social service sectors. Through 1940, recipients received lump-sum payments; monthly payments began thereafter.

Since 1961, workers can choose to begin collecting early Social Security at age 62 at a permanently reduced monthly rate (instead of full retirement at age 65, 66, or 67). Permanently increased monthly benefits can be collected if you wait until age 70. But here's a little secret: No matter when you begin to draw Social Security, you'll be at roughly the same payout total at age 79, the age of average U.S. life expectancy. Something to consider when pondering your retirement decision. ■





# Free Books



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## winner OF THE FAIRVIEW SCHOOL FOUNDATION PURCHASE GEORGE & MURPHEY, P.C. SCHOLARSHIP



Craig Murphey congratulates Fairview High School senior Carolyn Pratt, the winner of the Fairview School Foundation Purchase George & Murphey P.C. Scholarship. Ms. Pratt received the award at the Fairview High Senior Awards Assembly on May 28, 2019.

The firm endowed the \$1500 scholarship to benefit a Fairview senior who has demonstrated great academic prowess, is of high moral character, and who plans to attend Gannon University, St. Bonaventure University or the University of Pittsburgh (the undergraduate schools attended by Eric Purchase, Tim George and Craig Murphey, respectively.)

Carolyn is a most deserving winner! She plans to attend Gannon University and major in Occupational Therapy. Congratulations Carolyn! ■