

# The Road To Justice Starts Here

October 2019



**PURCHASE GEORGE  
& MURPHEY P.C.**  
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## REFERRALS

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## KEEP YOUR PROPERTY trick-free this halloween

Halloween is a spooky, festive time for many kids and adults. Whether welcoming trick-or-treaters to your home or escorting your own little ghosts, princesses, or Marvel superheroes around the neighborhood, stay alert to potential property hazards.

For instance, walkways should be clear and well-lit. (If all outdoor lights are off at a residence, avoid trick-or-treating there.) If someone gets into the spirit of outdoor decorating, electrical cords and hoses should not be obtrusive. In-ground decorations are best placed a safe distance from walkways.

For super-indulgent decorators, be mindful that dry ice displays can burn when touched. Fog machines too close to walkways can obviously hamper vision. For some, strobe lights can be disorienting.

Use battery-powered votive candles to light jack-o'-lanterns (at least on trick-or-treat night) to avoid any fire issues, and keep your carved pumpkin handiwork away from the beaten path.

In addition, if you have a dog, keep it inside and away from the door when kids are greeted. The unknown sights and sounds of Halloween can be unnerving, and dogs may react aggressively.

Homeowners may be held liable for injuries incurred on their property (premises liability) if one of three conditions occur:

- The owner caused or created a dangerous condition.
- The owner knew about a dangerous condition but failed to fix it.
- The owner should have known about a dangerous condition.

Renters may also be held responsible for some injuries—for instance, the above-mentioned hazards created by Halloween decorating.

If you (or a family member) are harmed on someone else's property through no fault of your own, contact Purchase, George & Murphey to protect your rights. ■



# breaking news FROM THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES — A HISTORIC WIN FOR WORKERS, SENIORS, AND CONSUMERS!

Purchase, George & Murphey, P.C. is very pleased to report that the U.S. House of Representatives just passed the FAIR Act (225 in favor to 186 opposed) to end forced arbitration in all its forms — a watershed moment in the push to end this poisonous practice and restore Seventh Amendment rights. This legislation is the first time in decades that one house of Congress has actually voted to restore rights on such a grand scale.



With a pro-civil-justice House majority voting to end forced arbitration, the writing is now on the wall for industry — and we're beginning to see results. Pressured by congressional activity, companies such as Google, Apple, and Facebook are starting to eliminate forced arbitration themselves. We've come a long way in the last 10 years!

Injury lawyers, like Purchase, George & Murphey, stand strong in the face of the relentless corporate assault against the Seventh Amendment. As the fight moves to the Senate, we have momentum, but the battle is not yet won. Together, let's make forced arbitration a relic of the past. ■

## THC breathalyzer IN THE WORKS AT PITT, BUT THERE'S STILL NO SOLID LINK WITH INTOXICATION



Inside the Star Lab for sensor development at the University of Pittsburgh, professor Alexander Star holds a black box, about the size of a remote control. It's a breathalyzer developed to measure tetrahydrocannabinol or THC, the psychoactive component in marijuana.

The 3-D printed device has a mouthpiece for breathing into.

Inside the box is

a small sensor chip made up of carbon nanotubes: little tubes of carbon 1/100,000 the size of a human hair. These nanotubes detect the presence of THC and alcohol at extremely low levels. If the device picks up THC, "THC Detected!" appears on the embedded screen.

This breathalyzer is one of a handful in development (<https://www.npr.org/2018/08/04/634992695/the-pot-breathalyzer-is-here-maybe>) across the country, meant to eventually be a tool for law enforcement like an alcohol breathalyzer. Star said there's been more pressure to develop a portable way to measure THC in recent years.

However, a major roadblock exists: there's no research directly linking intoxication with the amount of THC in someone's breath. The chemical compound can stay in a person's system for days after using marijuana, far past the window when someone is actually stoned. Stay tuned! ■



**PURCHASE, GEORGE & MURPHEY, P.C.  
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# GOV. WOLF NOW SUPPORTING LEGALIZING MARIJUANA for recreational use

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf says he is now in favor of legalizing marijuana for recreational use and is asking lawmakers to consider it. Wolf's announcement Wednesday advances his position from December, when he signaled that he was open to taking a look at it as it gathered popularity and momentum, particularly in bordering states.

Before last winter, he had dismissed the idea.

Wolf is a Democrat and made the announcement while releasing a report from Lt. Gov. John Fetterman's statewide listening tour on legalizing marijuana.

Wolf has long supported decriminalizing the possession of small amounts of marijuana, although the Legislature hasn't passed legislation to that effect.

He signed legislation in 2016 creating Pennsylvania's medical marijuana program.

He also wants lawmakers to allow the expungement of past convictions of nonviolent and small marijuana-related crimes. Check out [www.YourErieLawyers.com](http://www.YourErieLawyers.com) for more on these important legislative efforts! ■



## ‘Say it ain’t so, Joe!’



One century ago, the Chicago White Sox were overwhelming favorites to win the 1919 World Series. However, disgruntled players and opportunistic mobsters contributed to a tainted outcome, as the underdog Cincinnati Reds emerged victorious.

White Sox first baseman “Chick” Gandil is alleged to have met with gambler Joseph “Sport” Sullivan—it was the era of nicknames—to discuss the possibility of throwing the Series. Gandil recruited seven teammates to join him, the most famous being outfielder “Shoeless” Joe Jackson, who, incidentally, wore shoes when he played. (Jackson also had the highest betting average in the Series at a lofty .375, which casted doubt upon his involvement in the conspiracy.)

Gandil negotiated a \$100,000 deal, with \$20,000 to be paid immediately after each loss (the World Series was best-of-nine back then) and split among the players. But the scent of a plot was in the air. There were murmurings among sportswriters, and betting odds shifted drastically.

The World Series unfolded. Some games featured head-scratching plays and performances. The mobsters shortchanged the players. Ticked-off players decided to play to win. The mobsters, being mobsters, made death threats. The White Sox eventually lost the Series.

Major League Baseball (MLB) power brokers appeared satisfied to let the controversy fade away, unexamined. However, the following season, evidence that a regular-season game had been fixed forced their hand. The spotlight returned to the 1919 World Series.

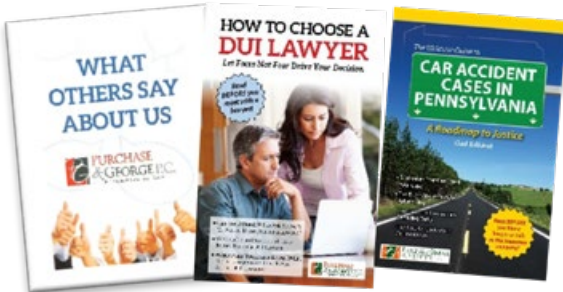
A grand jury convened. The White Sox players allegedly spilled their guts, leading to nine indictments of conspiracy. However, all the paperwork related to the grand-jury confessions mysteriously vanished, upending the case. The “Black Sox” players were found not guilty on all counts. They were, however, forever banned from professional baseball by MLB Commissioner Kenesaw Landis.

Ever since, baseball has been on high alert for gambler influence on the sport. Pete Rose can tell you all about it. ■



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## Free Books



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# Mexican pumpkin punch

This festive fall punch comes with additional options, including an alcoholic variation.

### Ingredients

- 2 cups packed dark brown sugar
- 4 cinnamon sticks
- 1 29-ounce can (or about 3 ½ c.) of pure pumpkin
- 2 limes
- Rum (optional)
- Pineapple chunks and/or pecans (optional)

### Preparation

- Add 12 cups water, brown sugar, and cinnamon sticks to a large pot and boil over medium-high heat, stirring until the sugar is dissolved. Stir in the pure pumpkin and return to a simmer.
- Meanwhile, remove the zest from the limes in wide strips with a vegetable peeler. Add to the pot and simmer 15 minutes.
- Let the mixture cool, then refrigerate 2-3 hours. The pumpkin pulp will settle to the bottom.
- Working in batches, ladle the liquid into a fine-mesh strainer set over a pitcher. Discard pumpkin pulp and lime zest. Return the cinnamon sticks to the punch and refrigerate until serving time.
- Pour into ice-filled glasses. Add a splash of rum, pineapple, and/or pecans, if desired. ■

