

CECERE SANTANA

Attorneys at Law

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Happy Holidays!

Newsletter
Winter 2016



Injured Workers Now Receive More Pay

A recent ruling by the 1st District Court of Appeals (DCA) extended a Florida Supreme Court ruling regarding payment of temporary wage loss benefits to injured workers. Previously, injured workers who were receiving temporary total disability benefits could only receive payment up to a total of 104 weeks. However, the Supreme Court ruled in *Westphal v. City of St. Petersburg* that this period was too short and it was extended to 260 weeks. On November 9, 2016, in the case of *Vincent Jones v. Food Lion, Inc.*, the 1st DCA extended that 260 weeks of checks to a different category of wage loss. Injured workers who are on temporary PARTIAL disability benefits (these are individuals who have work restrictions that cannot be accommodated by their employer and who are not yet at Maximum Medical Improvement) can now receive up to 260 weeks of pay.

Personal Injury • Property Litigation • Workers' Compensation • Immigration

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Cecere Santana Collects Food & Toys for Those in Need

Throughout the holiday season Cecere Santana continued its tradition of helping less fortunate families in the community. Cecere Santana employees, clients and colleagues, joined forces to support the community by collecting toys and food items for underprivileged families.

In December, the firm joined Operation Elf to collect toys and gift cards for South Florida children and families in need of a brighter holiday season. During Thanksgiving, Cecere Santana collected non-perishable food for Feeding South Florida, a local organization that helps to feed families in need.



Diana Castrillon named Vice-Chairperson of the West Broward Section of the Broward County Bar

Attorney Diana Castrillon was recently named Vice-Chairperson of the West Broward Section of the Broward County Bar Association. Serving in this capacity is a great honor and it's indicative of her leading role in the Broward legal community. In her role, she will work closely with BCBA staff to further knowledge and professionalism in the practice of law. As Vice-Chairperson, some of her responsibilities include assisting in organizing continuing legal education seminars and securing writers to author substantive articles for the Barrister publication, as well as other efforts that are beneficial to the Bar members.

Attorneys at Cecere Santana Share Driving Tips for Teens to Prevent Fatal Accidents

According to recent reports, the number of teenagers involved in deadly car crashes is rising for the first time in nearly a decade. In 2015, there was a 10-percent increase in teen driving deaths. "In fact, teenage drivers are more than one-and-a-half times more likely than adults to be involved in a deadly crash," said attorney Erick Santana.

To help prevent fatal accidents involving teens, Santana and attorney Michael Cecere share the following three tips:

No. 1: Always wear your seat belt. "Of the teens who died in passenger vehicle crashes, approximately 55% were not wearing a seat belt at the time of the crash," said Cecere. "Research shows that seat belts reduce serious crash-related injuries and deaths by about half."

No. 2: Practice driving with your parents. "It is also important for the parents to provide at least 30 to 50 hours of supervised driving practice over at least six months," added Santana. "Practicing on a variety of roads, at different times of day and in varied weather and traffic conditions will help an inexperienced driver. Parents should stress the importance of continually scanning for potential hazards, including other vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians."

No. 3: Avoid distractions while driving. "It is crucial to always refrain from any activity that can cause distraction while driving," concluded Cecere. "This includes talking on a cell phone, texting, eating or playing with the radio."

