

THE SLG ADVISOR

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Embracing the Future

How AI Is Revolutionizing Our Legal Services

It's everywhere — artificial intelligence (AI) is taking the world by storm and can perform tasks ranging from simple data processing to complex decision-making. While intimidating, it's also inspiring, handy, and practical.

At Spada Law, we embrace AI to enhance client experience and streamline operations. However, we are also mindful of the challenges AI presents, including ensuring the security and confidentiality of client data and maintaining the personal touch critical in our legal counsel.

Currently, we utilize AI technology to record and transcribe our internal meetings at the office. This software captures our discussions and provides a written transcript that it analyzes to offer summaries and identify key points. While we do not apply this technology to client meetings without their consent, it is invaluable for our internal communications. By generating a summary and listing action items, AI helps streamline our workflow and ensures we stay on top of important tasks discussed during these sessions.

We're also leveraging AI to enhance our marketing strategies and improve our outreach and educational efforts within the community. An advanced version of ChatGPT helps us generate relevant content ideas for our practice areas and identify key topics to highlight and discuss.

We anticipate that AI will significantly enhance our efficiency in managing client cases in the future, particularly by streamlining the initial stages through to settlement. For instance, imagine a client with a case involving 1,000 pages of detailed medical records from multiple surgeries and various specialists. Rather than spending hours manually reviewing these documents, AI would generate concise summaries, highlight critical information beneficial or detrimental to the case, and provide specific page references for further review.

We avoid using public AI platforms like ChatGPT for client-facing tasks because these systems learn from the data input by all users, posing a risk of exposing sensitive information. Since such platforms are not private, processing clients' confidential documents, such as medical records, could compromise their privacy and security.

FileVine, our case management software, offers potential AI capabilities within a secure, private framework unique to our law firm's environment. This technology does not rely on external sources or

expose our internal data beyond our office. Implementing this advanced AI could significantly enhance our legal processes by ensuring no detail in a medical record is overlooked, improving our case presentations based on insights gained from medical records.

Another promising application of AI in our legal practice is its potential during lawsuits. Soon, we anticipate using AI to scrutinize the deposition transcripts of at-fault parties. AI can identify inconsistencies and provide insights lawyers can leverage during subsequent depositions to challenge the credibility of statements. Additionally, AI could suggest areas of further investigation based on the strategy of the case and the discovery materials received, thereby enhancing our attorneys' ability to represent and serve our clients effectively.

AI is undoubtedly becoming more engrained in many aspects of our lives, and we are motivated to keep up with the times and use AI to benefit our clients best. Your attorney at Spada Law will continue to manage your case skillfully. Still, much like a carpenter utilizes various tools and assistants to build a house, AI is emerging as one of our most powerful tools to deliver the best outcomes for our clients!

-Len Spada

WORKERS' COMPENSATION IN MASSACHUSETTS

If you get hurt or sick because of your job or if a family member dies from a work accident, you might be entitled to workers' compensation benefits. It doesn't matter how you get paid or if you don't have official work papers. But you need to have been working in Massachusetts.

WHAT IF MY EMPLOYER DOESN'T HAVE INSURANCE?

Don't worry; if your employer doesn't have the right insurance, you can still get help through a special fund for workers.

WHAT STEPS SHOULD I TAKE IF I GET HURT?

First, tell your employer and see a doctor. Then, if you can't work for more than five days, you can ask for workers' compensation to pay your expenses and cover some of your lost pay. You might start getting help immediately, or it might take a few weeks. It depends on how quickly the insurance company sorts everything out.

CAN I SEE MY OWN DOCTOR?

Yes, after your first visit, which your job might set up, you can choose your own doctor for further treatment.

WHAT IF I NEED MORE HELP LATER?

If your work-related injury requires additional medical treatment after your case appears to be resolved, the insurance should continue to provide coverage.

WHAT IF I CAN NEVER WORK AGAIN?

If your injury permanently prevents you from working, you may be eligible for extended, possibly lifelong, assistance.

DO I NEED TO BLAME SOMEONE TO GET WORKERS' COMPENSATION?

No, it doesn't matter whose fault it was. If you got hurt because of your job, you could get help.

WHAT IF MY CLAIM IS DENIED?

If your claim for help is denied, you can argue your case, sometimes in front of a judge. This is when working with a lawyer might be really helpful.

WHAT'S A SETTLEMENT?

A settlement is a mutual agreement in which you might receive a one-time lump sum payment instead of continuous payments. This arrangement requires consent from both you and the insurance company.

CAN MY JOB FORCE ME TO RETURN TO WORK?

You cannot be forced to return to work until you are ready and your doctor has given the green light. If you attempt to return but cannot continue, you may be eligible to have your benefits reinstated.

This simplified guide is meant to help you understand the basics of workers' compensation in Massachusetts. Remember, each case is unique, so get more information and assistance if needed.

A GUIDE TO WORKERS' COM

If you're injured at work in Massachusetts, the workers' compensation system is designed to cover your medical issues. Here's an overview to educate you on what you need to know.

CHOOSING YOUR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

Your employer may initially suggest a specific doctor for your first visit. However, you have the right to select your own health care provider for subsequent treatments. This choice is crucial because it ensures your medical care aligns with your needs and preferences.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE

Workers' compensation coverage includes emergency services, hospital stays, necessary diagnostic tests, and various forms of therapy. The goal is to ensure you receive the comprehensive medical care you need.

DURATION OF MEDICAL BENEFITS

Time does not limit workers' compensation coverage for medical treatments. As long as treatment for your work-related injury or illness is deemed necessary, you should be covered. However, the insurance carrier might sometimes question continued treatment, so you may need to advocate for your right to continued care.

REVIEW OF THE MONTH



COMPENSATION AND MEDICAL BENEFITS

ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR SPECIFIC INJURIES

Additional compensation might be available in cases where the work-related injury leads to scarring or the loss of bodily functions. This is particularly relevant for visible scars on the face, neck, or hands.

REIMBURSEMENT FOR TRAVEL EXPENSES

Getting to and from medical appointments can be a burden, so workers' compensation also reimburses travel expenses. This includes travel to any medical provider, pharmacy, or therapy session related to your work injury.

CONTINUOUS TREATMENT AND UTILIZATION REVIEW

For ongoing treatments like surgeries or long-term therapy, the insurance company might review them to ensure they are necessary. If they disagree about the necessity of a treatment, you can challenge this through an appeals process, ensuring your continuous care needs are met.

INDEPENDENT MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

An insurance company may request an Independent Medical Examination (IME) by a doctor of their choosing. This is a standard part of assessing your medical condition and needs. While these examinations are meant to be impartial, communicate all your symptoms and concerns during the examination to ensure they fully understand your condition.

Understanding these key aspects ensures you're well-prepared to navigate the workers' compensation system and receive the medical care you're entitled to. It's always wise to stay informed and, if necessary, seek professional guidance to work through any complexities that may arise.

Choosing Spada Law Group for my legal needs was a decision I am grateful for every day. Their team of lawyers demonstrated exceptional legal knowledge and a commitment to my case that was both reassuring and effective.

Communication was a standout feature of their service. I was always kept in the loop, and my questions were answered with clarity and promptness. The lawyers at Spada Law Group were not just advisors but advocates who fought diligently for my best interests.

The outcome of my case was more than satisfactory, thanks to their meticulous attention to detail and unwavering dedication. I wholeheartedly recommend Spada Law Group to anyone seeking legal counsel that is both professional and personable.

– Kevin Moran



GRILLED RED CURRY BEEF SATAY WITH PEANUT SAUCE

Inspired by StarTribune.com

INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/2 lb flank steak
- 1/2 cup unsweetened coconut milk
- 2 tbsp lime juice
- 1–3 tbsp Thai red curry paste
- 1 tbsp fish sauce

For sauce:

- 1 cup unsweetened coconut milk
- 1–2 tbsp Thai red curry paste
- 1 tbsp brown sugar
- 1 tbsp fish sauce
- 1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
- 1 tbsp lime juice

DIRECTIONS

1. Freeze flank steak for 30 minutes. Cut crosswise, against the grain, into thin slices.
2. In a medium bowl, whisk together coconut milk, lime juice, curry paste, and fish sauce. Add steak and toss to coat. Cover and chill for 8 hours.
3. In a small saucepan over medium heat, combine coconut milk, curry paste, brown sugar, and fish sauce. Bring to a gentle boil for 3 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add peanut butter and stir until well blended. Remove from heat and add lime juice.
4. Thread the marinated meat onto 12 long skewers. Grill until beef is medium rare, 1–2 minutes per side.
5. Transfer satay to a platter and serve with peanut sauce.

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4 Fascinating Historical Food Facts

Food is central to every culture. The what, why, and hows of culinary history are diverse and fascinating. From the forgotten Roman condiment to the short-lived hot soda, there's no end to the depth of interesting food facts.

NO. 1: DOUBLE-DIP FAUX PAS

The nobility of the Ottoman Empire followed a complex but rational code of culinary conduct. After washing with soap and water, they ate primarily with their hands. Once the meal began, they followed rules much like ours. Double dipping and lip-smacking were frowned upon, and eating more than one bite of a dish was rude, too. Luckily, meals had dozens of unique dishes.

NO. 2: THE LOST CONDIMENT

The Romans left behind a vibrant legacy. Aqueducts are still used throughout

Europe, while their language is the basis of many other languages. One thing that hasn't stood the test of time is garum. They poured this condiment on almost everything they ate. Made from fermented fish, garum's salty, fishy flavor no longer appeals to the average Westerner's palate.

NO. 3: HOT BEVERAGE FAIL

Dr. Pepper, like most sodas, is best enjoyed cold. This means there are fewer soda sales during the winter when people opt for comforting, warm beverages. To remedy this, the soda company tried to push hot Dr. Pepper in the 1960s. Meant to be served warm with lemon, they marketed it to magazines, television, and radio. The campaign was unsurprisingly unsuccessful.

NO. 4: ROAMING RAMEN

Ramen is one of Japan's most iconic dishes, but it doesn't actually originate from Japan. The noodle soup comes from China, where it is known as *shina soba*. It became popular in Japan after World War II. The country had undergone a food shortage for years but had finally started importing supplies. Chinese food was believed to be nourishing and filling, so street vendors offering cheap but delicious ramen became a mainstay. Once instant ramen was invented, the noodle soup became associated with Japan worldwide.

Whenever you sit down for dinner, consider how you eat and the odd traditions you unconsciously observe. We're all part of a marvelous culinary culture and should celebrate what makes us unique.