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that the attorneys and  
staff of **Stampone  
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Holloway** show to their  
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many charitable efforts.

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Partners Kevin O'Brien, J.B. Dilsheimer, Joseph Stampone, and Prince Holloway have fostered a culture within the firm in which "people feel like they're part of something bigger than themselves."

Like all of the attorneys and other staff at the personal injury firm founded by his father in 1984, Dan Stampone has fielded countless phone calls from clients and their family members who have had to endure traumatic experiences that have turned their lives upside down. Earlier this summer, he got to interact with injured folks in a much more positive light.

Life Rolls On, one of the many charitable causes supported by Stampone O'Brien Dilsheimer Holloway, is a nonprofit that serves people living with various disabilities through adaptive surfing, skating, and fishing opportunities. Inspired by his friends at The Desatnick Foundation, Stampone volunteered at a surfing event held at the Jersey Shore, helping to lift disabled individuals onto boards and guiding them through the waves. The experience left a lasting impact.

"We've always donated money and traveled to the beach to show our support, but there's nothing like getting in the water with them," he says. "The smiles on their faces, the happiness they exude, and the tears and laughter from their loved ones—it hits you, it really does."

Dan's mind quickly turns to his clients.

"For us, we're on the other side of that conversation normally," he says. "People call us with catastrophic injuries and they've got bills piling up, they can't go to work, they can't play with their children. It really is life altering when these injuries happen. Any way we can go out and support these same people is helpful and meaningful, but to support them in something like this in real, competitive athletic pursuits that have been ripped away from them, it means a lot."

Community involvement and philanthropy have been at the heart of the firm since its founding. Guided by Founder Joe Stampone's compassion and generosity, the team has embraced giving back as a core value. One example is The Superhero Project, an organization that supports families with babies in the NICU. Inspired by his own family's experience, Joe proudly serves on its board and the firm is title sponsor of its largest annual fundraiser—an event enthusiastically attended by the attorneys of Stampone O'Brien Dilsheimer Holloway. He also played a key role in helping the foundation form a partnership with the Women's Philadelphia Triathlon, another event the firm proudly serves as the title sponsor.

These community-driven efforts have only expanded in recent years, fueled by the firm's success in achieving life-changing results for clients affected by trucking accidents, construction accidents, medical malpractice, product liability, and more.

In the past 18 months alone, the firm has earned verdicts and settlements of \$55 million, \$40 million, and \$33 million, along with dozens of other confidential results in the high seven- and low eight-figure range.

Photos by Jeff Anderson and Alison Dunlap; Edelman portrait courtesy of Stampone O'Brien Dilsheimer Holloway

# Connected to the Community

by MATT COSENTINO

The same dedication that the attorneys and staff of **Stampone O'Brien Dilsheimer Holloway** show to their clients and employees extends to the firm's many charitable efforts.





Legal Operations Manager Jean Bryan (left) and Pre-Litigation Case Manager Tracy Steiner, with Joe Stampone. Inset: Paralegal Debbie Edelman

The \$55 million verdict, spearheaded by lead trial attorney and partner Kevin O'Brien, was on behalf of a young woman who suffered catastrophic injuries when she was struck by a tractor-trailer while her car was disabled on the side of a highway; it was the largest verdict ever in the county where the accident occurred.

"After our clients and employees, we have a responsibility to the broader communities that we serve," Dan Stampone says. "A phrase I use is, 'Doing good by doing right.' When we do right by our clients, we're able to do even more good in the community."

As he notes, the clients' needs always come first. The firm focuses intently on doing "the little things" well: answering every call, responding promptly to emails, keeping clients informed, and treating everyone courteously. That same level of care extends to employees as well. By fostering a true family-like environment, the firm has built a culture of loyalty and support, which is why so many team members have chosen to stay for the long term.

Harriet Pagan was the elder Stampone's first-ever paralegal back in the early 1980s and remains with him today. Now in her 80s, she remains intellectually sharp, thoughtful, and shows up excited to work every day.

Jean Bryan and Tracy Steiner have been with the firm since 1993 and 1996, respectively, rising from paralegals to managerial roles. Debbie Edelman came on board as a paralegal 23 years ago and was asked to stay on remotely even after moving to North Carolina four years ago.

"The fact that Jean, Tracy, and Debbie have chosen to build their careers here says everything about who we are as a firm," says Joe Stampone. "Their dedication to clients and to our team is why people trust us and why so many choose to stay. The cul-

ture we've built together is our greatest strength."

"Everyone here cares about each other, and we all know that family is the priority around here," says Jean Bryan. "It's always been that way. Joe has a big family that he puts first, and he takes that into account with all of his employees too."

"Joe has always treated us like family since day one," adds Tracy Steiner. "If you ever need anything, you can always go to him and he'll help you out and do his best to accommodate you. He's very supportive in our work and personal lives, and it's been great."

In turn, those employees want to give their all to the clients. The paralegals are often the unsung heroes as they complete such vital tasks as keeping clients in the loop, communicating with opposing counsel, staying on track with medical records, and preparing legal documents. In the end they find just as much fulfillment as the attorneys in getting justice and financial compensation for the injured clients and their families.

"I like helping people, and there are a lot of deserving people that we've helped," says Debbie Edelman. "There is definitely a team attitude and a family culture here. As the firm has grown, we've only added to that family."

Partners J.B. Dilsheimer and Prince Holloway reiterate this consensus.

"As partners, we've always believed that the best work happens when people feel like they're part of something bigger than themselves," says Dilsheimer. "As we've grown, we've worked hard to make sure our culture never changed."

"We want every attorney, paralegal, and staff member to know that they're valued, supported, and part of our extended family," Holloway adds. "That's what makes this

place special."

Dan is quick to recognize The DeSatnick Foundation, a longtime community partner dedicated to supporting individuals with spinal cord injuries and instrumental in bringing the Life Rolls On event to New Jersey. The foundation, run by brothers Chad and Todd Desatnick, was formed after Chad sustained a spinal cord injury while surfing in Cape May. Although initially told he might never walk again, Chad defied the odds through relentless rehabilitation and the unwavering support of his family. His perseverance continues to inspire Dan, Joe, and the entire firm.

The Jersey Shore has long been a special place for the Stampone family, who have spent their summers there for generations—and even established a firm office in Wildwood Crest. Over the years, Joe Stampone developed strong ties with many of the Crest lifeguards, leading him to donate a brand-new Van Dyne boat, aptly named *Lady Justice* after the iconic mural on the firm's Cheltenham office. The firm is also a proud, repeat sponsor of the South Jersey Lifeguard Racing Series, where *Lady Justice* proudly carries on the firm's winning tradition.

The firm's community support extends well beyond the beach. Through its partnership with Delmo Sports, they proudly sponsor several triathlons, while also giving back locally with donations of new scoreboards to Lower Gwynedd Little League and La Salle University—where founder Joe Stampone played baseball before being inducted into the school's Athletic Hall of Fame. The firm further supports the arts as a committed sponsor of both the Philadelphia Ballet and the Cheltenham Center for the Arts.

Clearly, Stampone O'Brien Dilsheimer Holloway goes above and beyond in multiple ways. Just as it remains committed to achieving justice and peace of mind for its clients, the firm stays true to the communities in which its members work and live.

"Getting significant verdicts and settlements like we have requires a level of legal knowledge and skill, but also attention and care, which we have plenty of in our office," Dan Stampone says. "I heard a great quote on my drive in this morning: 'People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.' In our office, we care deeply about winning for our clients, supporting all of our employees, and being involved in our communities." ■



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