

# WORKING HARD FOR WORKING PEOPLE

## Buckley, Mendleson, Criscione & Quinn – Attorneys at Law – Focus on Worker’s Compensation, Social Security, Disability and Personal Injury

By Gail Snyder

In tough economic times, the last trouble an employee needs is to suffer a work-related injury or illness. If this happens, however, the first thing that employee needs to know is what to do next. That’s where Buckley, Mendleson, Criscione,

& Quinn (BMCQ), a law firm in Albany, NY, comes in. With a 40-year-long proven track record in protecting workers’ rights, this firm stays abreast of the evolving legislation that emerged in 1911

when Wisconsin adopted the first Workmen’s Compensation Act.

Litigation, Wrongful Death, Product Liability, and Securities Brokerage Customer Claims cases. The team, with a combined 150 years of experience, stands ready to provide free consultation to any person who has been injured at work or has been turned down for Workers’ Comp or Social Security Disability claims.

They’ll also advise any injured worker that after informing one’s employer about an injury, seeking medical attention, and filing a claim, a waiting period of a few weeks is reasonable. However, if four or more weeks pass without a reply or you are contacted by an insurance agent, it’s time to seek council. “As soon as you receive a denial, get an attorney, or you will be at the mercy of an insurance company,” advises Jim Buckley, principal partner and Worker’s Compensation attorney. “My view is that people who work for a living have a right to the same high-quality representation as insurance companies and employers,” he states. “We put a lot of effort into giving our clients that high-level, quality representation to which they are entitled.”

### SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY – A CONVOLUTED SYSTEM

Are you confused by the Social Security Disability (SSD) system? Well, who isn’t? The answer for you would be Ira Mendleson, a BMCQ principal with the firm for more than thirty years. Mendleson exclusively practices Social Security law, a concentration for which his clients are most grateful. Mendleson’s clients learn that a work-related condition is not a requirement for receiving Social Security Disability benefits. However, many of the firm’s clients who have been injured at work and collect Workers’ Compensation are also

eligible for SSD if their disability is a long-term condition as the result of that injury. An SSD claim may be in process for several months before it is denied or accepted. The

administrative details can be frustrating for the average citizen not well acquainted with this particular area of the law, so Mendleson recommends consulting with an attorney to anyone who has been denied an SSD claim by the Social Security Administration. He points out that the statistics on winning a case have remained consistent for years. “Those people who represent themselves at the hearing level, which is the critical stage of a case, win about 40 percent of the time,” he explains. “Those who have a representative win about 60 percent of the time. With a 50 percent better chance of winning with an attorney, it makes sense to have legal representation in Social Security cases.”

### BEYOND WORKERS’ COMPENSATION

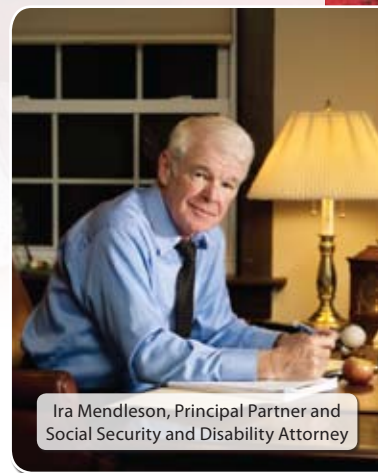
Worker’s Compensation doesn’t cover long-term income loss, permanent medical conditions or pain and suffering resulting from workplace accident or illness. In such cases, or in wrongful death, a third-party liability case may be brought against a defective product or a liable third party (other than the employer). A third party might be another person, a company, the state or a municipality, that has played a



Jim Buckley, Principal Partner and Worker’s Compensation



John Criscione, Principal Partner and Personal Injury/Third-Party Litigation



Ira Mendleson, Principal Partner and Social Security and Disability Attorney



## Someone to Lead the Way

In 2007 New York state passed reforms regarding Workers' Compensation in an attempt to reduce the amount of time for a contested claim to be resolved. So-called "Rocket Docket" legislation was designed to resolve disputes within 90 days, yet resolution sometimes extends well beyond

that timeframe. According to the Workers' Compensation Research Institute (WCRI), in a comparison of New York's data to 14 similar states, a significantly lower number of New York claimants – 19 percent

compared to 41.5 percent – received their first payment within 21 days. From 2007 to 2008, the number of New York state employers cited for violating Workers' Compensation insurance requirements increased by 17 percent. This information, the reality of rising medical costs, and the fact that legal consultation regarding Workers' Compensation and Social Security Disability is free unless you collect is an equation that adds up to one sum total – contact the professionals – Buckley, Mendleson, Criscione & Quinn.

Brendan G. Quinn, principal, speaks for himself and for his partners and associates with this closing statement: "For me, the most important case is the one I'm working on now, regardless of the value or the money at stake. I devote my utmost attention to every case, because I know for that particular client there is nothing more important."



Brendan G. Quinn, Principal Partner and Workers Compensation Attorney

role in a work-related injury or illness. Since the Workers' Compensation carrier is also involved in these cases, the proceedings can be complicated, so hiring a lawyer is highly recommended.

"To determine if there is a third-party liability case arising from a Workers' Compensation claim, BMCQ reviews every

Workers' Compensation case we are working on to find out as much information as possible about how the client was injured or how they attained their illness on the job. This review helps us ensure that clients get everything they are entitled to through the legal process," explains John Criscione, a BMCQ principal who focuses on personal injury cases.



Karen Arndt, Attorney



## QUICK STATS

### Type of Business

Law firm

### Year Founded

1925

### Expertise

*Jim Buckley:*

Workers' Compensation

*Brendan Quinn:*

Workers' Compensation

*Ira Mendleson:*

Social Security, Disability

*John Criscione:*

Personal Injury/Third-Party Litigation

### Other BMCQ attorneys

*Timothy J. O'Connor:*

Represents clients victimized by greed and fraud

*Richard M. Goldman:*

Licensed massage therapist, understands client rehabilitation needs

*Karen Arndt:*

Devoted herself to law after losing her father in a tragic auto accident

*Wayne L. Burton:*

Assists with civil litigation, business and commercial, wills, trusts and personal estates

*Christopher Steadman:*

14 years in the construction industry provide common ground with his Workers' Comp clients

### Key to Success

More than 150 years of combined experience, free evaluation and no fee unless you collect

### Contact Info

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