

New Hope For Black Lung Families

Appeals Court Ruling Open Door For Black Lung Widows' Benefits



Attorney Timothy Lenahan

The lawyers at Lenahan & Dempsey are closely reviewing a recent ruling from the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals that would allow widows and other family members of miners who died from Black Lung disease to reapply for benefits, even if they have previously been turned down. Lenahan & Dempsey is assisting regional widows and their families, who were previously denied benefits, to reapply free of charge as a public service.

The ruling, handed down this month, uses provisions from the Affordable Care Act, and could potentially affect thousands of widows throughout Northeastern and Central Pennsylvania.

“Many parts of our region were built on the backs of coal miners,” said Attorney Timothy Lenahan, Managing Partner of Lenahan & Dempsey. “When these miners died, their Black Lung benefits were very often terminated, in many cases almost immediately upon their death. This often left the widows and children of miners to financially struggle. This ruling goes a long way to remedy this injustice.”



Attorney George Mehalchick

According to Attorney George Mehalchick, Of-Counsel to Lenahan & Dempsey, this is a milestone ruling, “This is a life changer for countless Black Lung widows. The Third Circuit Court of Appeals ruling will impact many lives throughout the region.”

George Mehalchick says that many widows who had their benefits cancelled on the deaths of their husbands lost their cases on appeal and some have gone decades without this valuable financial support. But that’s about to change. According to Attorney Mehalchick, “Under the new ruling, many of these widows can apply retroactively for Black Lung benefits dating back to approximately 30 days after they were initially turned down. That will result in some widows who were denied benefits in the late 1980’s and early 1990’s receiving three or four decades of benefits in a lump sum payment. Think what that money can mean to a woman in her 70’s or 80’s in need of medical care alone.”

As a public service, Lenahan & Dempsey is providing free assistance in obtaining an easy to fill out federal form that will allow those who had previously been turned down to obtain the proper paperwork to reapply. To obtain information on how you can obtain a free form, call Lenahan & Dempsey at 1-888-LENAHAN.

About Attorney Timothy G. Lenahan



Attorney Timothy G. Lenahan

Attorney Timothy G. Lenahan is managing partner of Lenahan & Dempsey, P.C. Among his many practice honors, Timothy Lenahan has been listed in “Best Lawyers In America®” since 2008. He carries dual certification in Best Lawyers In America in the areas of Personal Injury Law as well as Insurance Law.

Attorney Lenahan devotes his practice exclusively to the representation of injured parties, including insurance coverage, first and third party bad faith, auto, medical malpractice and product liability and more. He has served as a co-chairman of the lawyers division of the Lackawanna/Wayne County united Way for over a decade.

About Attorney George E. Mehalchick



Attorney George Mehalchick

George E. Mehalchick serves as Of Counsel to Lenahan & Dempsey. His practice interests include often difficult cases across the fields of Social Security Disability, Workers Compensation, Personal Injury Law, Black Lung Law and more. George Mehalchick earned his law degree, cum laude, from The Vermont Law School. He is a graduate of The Pennsylvania State University and has also attended The University of Tennessee. He is listed as a Pennsylvania Super Lawyer in Philadelphia Magazine and has been honored for his Pro Bono work by both the Pennsylvania and New York State Bar Associations.

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\$ 5,000,000.00	Settlement	Mistreatment of Disabled Children
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\$ 4,350,000.00	Settlement	Motor Vehicle Collision
\$ 3,078,825.00	Verdict	Insurance Bad Faith
\$ 2,700,000.00	Verdict	Motor Vehicle Collision
\$ 2,600,000.00	Settlement	Motor Vehicle Collision
\$ 2,520,809.00	Settlement	Motor Vehicle Collision
\$ 2,500,000.00	Verdict	Motor Vehicle Collision
\$ 1,700,000.00	Settlement	Motor Vehicle Collision
\$ 1,625,000.00	Settlement	Motor Vehicle Collision
\$ 1,600,000.00	Verdict	Medical Negligence
\$ 1,460,000.00	Settlement	Pedestrian Injury
\$ 1,350,000.00	Settlement	Pedestrian Injury
\$ 1,200,000.00	Verdict	Medical Negligence
\$ 1,130,000.00	Settlement	Work Place Injury
\$ 1,000,000.00	Settlement	Motor Vehicle Collision
\$ 1,000,000.00	Verdict	Personal Property
\$ 1,000,000.00	Settlement	Motor Vehicle Collision

* The facts of each case are different. No specific results are implied. Descriptions of awards in previous cases are no guarantee of future results and should not create any expectations that our firm, or any firm, can achieve similar results in another case.

At Lenahan & Dempsey, we are proud to celebrate our 10th anniversary on WNEP-TV's Ask The Legal Professional. Visit us at www.LenahanDempsey.com or at wnep.com and click on "Ask The Professional."



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Scranton Office:

The Lenahan & Dempsey
Professional Building
116 North Washington Avenue
Suite 400
Scranton, PA 18503
Phone: (570) 346-2097

Stroudsburg Office:

The Pocono Mountain Region
701 Main Street
Suite 500
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
Phone: (570) 421-7190

Wilkes-Barre Office:

The Courthouse Square Towers Building
Suite 410
216 North River Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702
Phone: (570) 822-1000

Berwick Office:

106 West Front Street
Berwick, PA 18603
Phone: (570) 752-5915

Tunkhannock Office:

34 East Tioga Street
Tunkhannock, PA 18657
Phone: (570) 836-2115

Montrose Office:

192 Maple Street
Montrose, PA 18810
Phone: (570) 278-7090