

AUGUST 2017 NEWSLETTER

Hello from Liner Legal! We've created this newsletter to share relevant information with our clients and the community. Included are updates from our office, businesses, and doctors in the local community, as well as national news topics we believe you should know about.

Doctor's Corner: Reuben Gobezie, M.D.



Dr. Gobezie

Dr. Gobezie is not only an orthopedic and shoulder surgeon, but is also the Director of the Cleveland Shoulder Institute. He knew he wanted to be a doctor since he was a child, and was mentored by the orthopedic surgeons he knew growing up. Dr. Gobezie chose orthopedic surgery because, "people come to you with problems with mobility, and kinds of problems that really are most visible in one's lifestyle," he says.

"And you work on them, and they get better, and they love it and go back to what they do."

When it comes to shoulder injuries, Dr. Gobezie tells how they can affect people in all kinds of ways. "The truth is that most people, once they have a shoulder problem, I hear them often say that they never appreciated how much they use their shoulder in a day," he says. Shoulder injuries also affect sleep. He believes that not sleeping is one of the most powerful ways to impact someone's quality of life.

Dr. Gobezie occasionally gets questions about Social Security disability from patients. The patients he sees are those who often have had multiple surgeries. These surgeries can result in disability because that person has been out of work for a few years recovering. "They don't have good tissue anymore, it's hard to get them back into the work force," he says. "My advice is before you have your surgery, if you need surgery, you research who is doing the surgery and make sure you understand why you're having it."

Dr. Gobezie explains his favorite part of being a doctor is impacting someone's life in a way that is meaningful to them. "It's a tremendous blessing to be in a position where you have an influence on somebody."

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In the Neighborhood: La Posada Café

Jose Melendez, owner of La Posada Café, opened his first

restaurant location last month in Old Brooklyn. He chose Old Brooklyn because it was close to home and there were a lot of Latino-based restaurants within inner Cleveland. However, his favorite part of Old Brooklyn is the people. "They're very humble, they're a helping hand," he says. "I grew up in Cleveland, but definitely Old Brooklyn is becoming a very nice place to live."



Melendez went to school for chemical engineering but food was his passion. He sees it as an art. "I grew up eating a lot," he says. "Tasting different flavors and getting ideas of what I want to do." He learned from looking at his mom and other family members' recipes. Melendez describes his style of cooking as "Latin Fuse." His expertise is cooking Puerto Rican, Columbian, and Mexican food, but he makes the style his own by using his own flavors and infusing the Latin into the classic. These innovative dishes have traditional flavors, with a modern take.

When you come to the restaurant, try the Bandeja Criolla. This platter is loaded with fried chicken and pork chicharrones, tostones and yucca fries served with a pink garlic sauce. Or if you're in the mood for a Caribbean-inspired dish, order the tropical shrimp dinner, which has shrimp sautéed with pineapple, mango and roasted red peppers.

Melendez also offers the first and only Latino full-service catering business in Cleveland, and hosts the only all-you-can-eat Latin buffet once a month at La Posada Café.

3600 Biddulph Ave. Cleveland, Ohio 44109, (216)-749-4504

End of DFA Program

Ohio | Department of Job and Family Services

Ohio used to be one of 26 states that offered General Assistance programs for low-income individuals, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services announced in July that the Disability Financial Assistance Program (DFA) would end December 31, 2017. The DFA provided up to \$115 a month in cash assistance for individuals who met income-based and medical requirements.

Individuals in the program were low-income, disabled, and were not currently receiving help from other financial assistance programs, such as Ohio Works First, Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Social Security Income. Now that the program is ending, those individuals will lose that extra assistance each month.

The Clark County Department of Job & Family Services released a statement saying, "As of July 1, 2017 any new applications or reapplications for DFA will be denied. Current recipients of DFA will be phased out between now and December 31, 2017. Recipients will receive a letter notifying them of the termination of the program."

Reaching Out



On July 7, Liner Legal's Andrew November, and attorney Laura Gold from Services for Independent Living, Inc spoke to Baldwin Wallace University speech therapy graduate students. They presented in the class called "Integrations: Policy Analysis and Advocacy." Andrew discussed Deaf advocacy, Social Security Disability and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Increase in Benefits

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY

The trustees who oversee the Social Security benefits program announced that recipients are projected to receive a 2.2% cost-of-living increase next year. This is the biggest raise beneficiaries have seen in the past six years.

This increase means about \$30 extra a month for the average recipient. Last year's increase was only 0.3%. The average monthly assistance for disabled workers is \$1,171 a month. In October, trustees will announce the official cost-of-living increase.

Pursuing a claim for Social Security disability benefits requires determination, patience and perseverance. At Liner Legal we have years of experience providing effective and dedicated legal services to disabled persons. When you work with our law firm you can expect honesty, expertise, responsiveness, convenience, fairness, tenacity and appreciation from us. We look forward to working with you!