

New York Personal Injury Lawyer Commends the Passing of the Zadroga Act

Congress passes the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, and New York personal injury lawyer David Perecman believes it's about time the heroes of 9/11 get some of the compensation they deserve.

NEW YORK, NEW YORK — December 25, 2010 —New York personal injury lawyer David Perecman, firefighters and other 9/11 first responders hail the passing of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act. The Zadroga bill earmarks \$4.3 billion in funding for medical monitoring and treatment programs for people with illnesses related to the collapse of the World Trade Center buildings. The Act also provides economic compensation for anyone who suffers long-term personal injury from exposure to Ground Zero.

New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand called the passing of the Zadroga Act "a Christmas miracle."

"Congress did the right thing for all the living victims of 9/11 by passing the Zadroga Act. When these American heroes rushed to Ground Zero, they thought nothing of the toxins in the air and on the ground that could cause them personal injury. They thought only of the safety, health and lives of others. There is no doubt in my mind that we have an obligation to take care of these heroes. The passing of the Zadroga Act repays some of the tremendous debt of gratitude our country owes them. And these are heroes from all over, including New York," said personal injury lawyer Perecman, who has represented injured and sickened workers for decades.

The economic compensation funds include payment for lost wages from the time of disability, as well as compensation for pain and suffering. Among those suffering from Ground Zero related ailments are hundreds of New York fire fighters, responders, rescue workers, police officers, paramedics, laborers, military personnel, construction workers, clean-up workers, Twin Tower employees, and residents of New York.

Since the Twin Towers fell, a significant number of firemen and policemen who aided in the cleanup have died of ailments and personal injuries that have been connected to Ground Zero toxins, including rare cancers, like mesothelioma. However, because many doctors and others in the medical community still don't recognize the connection between some illnesses and Ground Zero, The Zadroga Act calls for monitoring illnesses and examining their causes through a World Trade Center (WTC) Health Program within the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

The Zadroga Act also reopens the September 11 Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 (VCF) Responders, recovery workers and others who suffered injury, financial loss or death of a loved one due to the 9/11 terrorist attacks may file for compensation from this Fund even if they received health insurance, life insurance, workers compensation or other compensation, including monies from a civil lawsuit.

In addition, 9/11 responders and workers who settled their cases in the World Trade Center Disaster Site Litigation may be eligible for additional benefits or compensation under the Zadroga Act.

President Barack Obama could sign the legislation into law as early as next week.

“Finally thousands of 9/11 heroes who risked their lives and were seriously injured while on the job in New York,” personal injury lawyer Perecman said, “can be assured that they will have the medical attention they desperately need.”

The unanimity of the Senate vote came after lawmakers rejected a \$7.4 billion, 10-year version of the measure due to funding concerns. The bill as it passed is a five-year plan that shortens the amount of time those suffering personal injuries and health problems have to sign up for benefits. The bill also caps lawyers’ fees at 10 percent and prevents double dipping from a recent 9/11 health settlement.

“A bill that weighs in on the side of compassion is worth any cost,” said New York personal injury lawyer Perecman, who will continue to fight for the compensation 9/11 victims rightfully deserve and are entitled to under this law.

The Zadroga Act is named after James Zadroga, the New York City detective who died after complications related to his three weeks of rescue and recovery efforts at the 9/11 site.

It is worth noting that one of the lessons learned after the passing of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act is that it makes sense to speak to a personal injury lawyer and/or go to court. The bill comes after more than 10,000 rescue workers voted last month to settle a class-action lawsuit seeking damages for their health problems. New York personnel or responders who worked at the Ground Zero site and are injured should contact a New York personal injury lawyer at The Perecman Firm. David Perecman has been named to Super Lawyers since 2007 and *New York Magazine's* "The Best Lawyers in America" for four years running.

Sickened and injured individuals including firefighters and medical personnel who would like more information or would like to know if they are eligible for benefits or compensation from the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, please visit www.perecman.com, or call 1 718 WORKERS (967 5377). Our expert New York personal injury lawyers can also assist you with your claim.

About David Perecman and The Perecman Firm, PLLC:

For the past 30 years, the personal injury accident, construction accident, auto accident, and medical malpractice lawyers at The Perceman Firm, PLLC have championed all types of cases concerning personal injury. David Perceman, founder of the Firm, is a Board Director and the past Secretary and Treasurer of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association (NYSTLA) and a chair of its Labor Law Committee. Mr. Perceman's achievements have brought him recognition as an Honoree in the National Law Journal's Hall of Fame, in New York Magazine's "The Best Lawyers in America" and The New York Times Magazine "New York Super Lawyers, Metro Edition" for the years 2007-2010.

<http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2010/12/02/price-freedom>

The Firm has recovered millions of dollars for its clients. Among the more recent victories, Mr. Perceman won a \$15 million verdict* for a construction accident, a \$10 million dollar verdict** for an scaffold accident, and a \$40 million dollar structured settlement for medical malpractice***.

*later settled while on appeal for \$7.940 million

** case settled after the jury verdict in amount of \$ 10,020,000

*** total potential payout

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