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**We Never Forget that
Behind Every Case,
are Real People**

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**MESSA & ASSOCIATES ATTORNEYS SELECTED AS
2011 PENNSYLVANIA SUPER LAWYERS**



JOSEPH L. MESSA, JR., RICHARD J. HELENIK, IRENE M. MCLAFFERTY AND LEE D. ROSENFELD WERE NAMED 2011 PENNSYLVANIA *SUPER LAWYERS*. THOMAS N. SWEENEY WAS SELECTED AS A PENNSYLVANIA *RISEING STAR* FOR 2011.

Federal Officials File Injunction Against Wipes Producer

The U.S. Dept. of Justice's Office of Consumer Protection Litigation and the U.S. District Court Eastern District of Wisconsin have filed a permanent injunction to prevent the Wisconsin firms who made and distributed medical products potentially tainted with life-threatening bacteria from manufacturing and distributing other products. Once signed by a judge, H&P Industries Inc. and the Triad Group of Hartland, Wisc. will be unable to "manufacture or distribute drugs or any medical devices until they have established acceptable quality assurance" in conformity with the Current Good Manufacturing Practice. (continued on back)

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FDA Orders New Warning Labels Placed on Zocor

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has asked that a new warning label be placed on the popular statin Zocor (simvastatin) due to an increased risk of muscle damage when taken in its highest dose, 80 milligrams a day. Statins are used to lower cholesterol. The agency is also recommending that the 80-milligram dose of the drug not be prescribed to new patients and given only to those who have not had any muscle problems over 12 months of taking Zocor.

Two trials of the drug demonstrated that the 80-milligram dose is associated with an increased risk of skeletal muscle injury known as myopathy compared to lower doses of simvastatin or other statins, even at high doses. This risk is higher during the 12 months of treatment, in patients taking certain medications that interact with simvastatin, and those with certain genetic predispositions to simvastatin-related muscle injury.

In the rare, but most severe form of myopathy, known as rhabdomyolysis, a protein released from the breakdown of muscle fibers can damage the kidneys, sometimes leading to kidney failure and even death. According to the FDA, more than 2 million people in the United States were prescribed a product containing 80 milligrams of simvastatin last year. In addition to being sold as a single medication, simvastatin is combined with ezetimibe and sold as Vytorin and also combined with niacin and sold as Simcor.

Tainted Wipes (continued from first page)

Contaminated products from the firms have been blamed in lawsuits in six states for serious infections and the death of a 2-year-old child.

In April, the FDA requested U.S. Marshals seize more than \$6 million worth of H&P Industries Inc. products to prevent the firm from distributing products that may have been tainted with two dangerous bacteria which can cause deadly infections. Shortly before that, the FDA asked the company to cease all production and distribution.

The firm halted operations on April 18 following a January recall of all lots of alcohol prep products and, later, povidone iodine products because of potential contamination. The company also recalled lubricating jelly commonly used in medical exams and procedures because samples were tainted.

Recent Verdicts and Settlements

Confidential

\$1,050,000 settlement for a man who was hit by a paratransit bus making a sudden illegal left-hand turn while he was driving his motorcycle. His motorcycle "T-boned" the driver's side door of the paratransit bus and he was thrown from his motorcycle and run over by another driver. The driver of the paratransit bus had previously been cited and disciplined for numerous other driving violations, many of which were for major breaches of safety protocol including four motor vehicle accidents. The Plaintiff suffered significant severe and permanent injuries including multiple fractures.

"We know you want and *deserve* the best when it comes to representation. At Messa & Associates, we strive for nothing short of perfection."

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