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

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## MESSA & ASSOCIATES SETTLES CONSTRUCTION ACCIDENT CASE

**\$1.375 Million** settlement for a man involved in a construction accident, which resulted in multiple serious injuries. The Plaintiff was performing field work including site surveys to supply a propane tank and run gas pipe at an Earthgro facility. In order to complete the job, the Plaintiff needed to be elevated in a man cage attached to a fork lift.

As he worked, the Plaintiff noticed that the work cage was pulling away from the wall. At that time, he shouted to the operator of the forklift to ask why he was pulling away. The operator of the lift then slammed on the brakes making the cage shake violently causing the

Plaintiff's left side to hit the left rail of the work cage. At the same time the operator hit the brakes, he hit the lever to lower the cage and slammed the cage to the ground.

As a result of the Defendants' negligence, Plaintiff suffered permanent injuries to his legs and back, including a herniated disc that required fusion surgery.

## Philadelphia Bar Foundation Sends its Thanks!

Wendy Beetlestone, Esquire, President of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation extended the organization's appreciation for a contribution made by Messa & Associates in support of their *Raising the Bar* campaign.

"It is through the commitment of you and others like you that our grantees are able to do what they do best— provide legal services to those who need them but would otherwise be unable to afford them," Ms. Beetlestone said in a letter to Mr. Messa.



**PHILADELPHIA BAR FOUNDATION**  
Promoting Equal Access to Justice

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## HEALTH ALERT: FDA Warns Pregnant Women of Topamax Risk

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has revealed new data that suggests the drug Topamax (topiramate) and its generic versions can increase the risk for the birth defects cleft lip and cleft palate in babies born to women who use the medication during pregnancy.

Topamax, marketed by Johnson & Johnson, is approved to treat certain types of seizures in people who have epilepsy. However, the FDA states patients should be warned about the potential hazard to the fetus if a woman becomes pregnant while using the drug.

The FDA raised the drug's pregnancy category to D, which means there is evidence the drug can harm a human fetus, but there are situations where the drug's benefits to the mother could outweigh its risks. They did not place the drug in category X, which means the drug should never be used by women who are or may become pregnant.

The attorneys at Messa & Associates are experienced at handling cases involving birth injuries. Our extremely skilled team of attorneys and medical experts are dedicated to ensuring your family receives proper compensation to care for the child in the future. For more information, visit our blog at [www.messalaw.com/blog](http://www.messalaw.com/blog) or contact us at 1-877-MessaLaw.

## MARCH IS BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

According to the Brain Injury Association of America, 1.7 million people sustain a traumatic brain injury each year. The leading causes of traumatic brain injury are: falls (35.2%); motor vehicle-traffic crashes (17.3%); struck by/against events (16.5%); and assaults (10%).

A healthy brain coordinates the body's systems, such as breathing, heart rate, body temperature, thought processing, body movements, and the senses, such as vision, hearing, taste, smell, and touch. All parts of the brain need to function in order for the brain to work well. When brain injury occurs, it can cause difficulty carrying the messages that tell the brain what to do. This can affect the way a person thinks, acts, feels, and moves the body. It can also change the internal functions of the body, such as regulating body temperature; blood pressure; bowel and bladder control. These changes can be temporary or permanent. Even "minor" or "mild" injuries to the brain can significantly disrupt the brain's ability to function.

Messa & Associates has been involved in numerous traumatic brain injury cases obtaining fair verdicts and settlements for clients. Our attorneys will fight to ensure clients get the compensation they deserve for injury, trauma, loss, suffering and any ongoing needs that may result. For more information or to discuss a brain injury case, please contact us at 1-877-MessaLaw.

*"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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