



**MESSA & ASSOCIATES, P.C.**  
Attorneys at Law

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

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**Recent Verdicts and Settlements**

Messa & Associates obtained a **\$2.9 million** settlement for a products liability action. The case involves a 3-year-old girl who was burned by an electric potpourri pot.

The Defendants were aware that the pot was defective and continued to market and sell it although it had caused injuries to others young children.

The child suffered partial thickness burns on her right arm, right breast and shoulder.

**J&J Could Pay \$1 Billion**

Federal prosecutors want Johnson & Johnson Inc. to set aside \$1 billion to settle claims that the company marketed its antipsychotic drug Risperdal for unapproved uses.

According to reports, the unit that sells the drug, Ortho-McNeil-Janssen Pharmaceuticals, has already "recorded a reserve for a potential settlement of the penalties under the Food Drug and Cosmetic Act."

Probes over Risperdal began in 2004 for sales and marketing practices between 1997 and 2002.

**Maclaren Stroller Recall Reannounced Due to Additional Injuries**

Maclaren USA, Inc. has reannounced their November 2009 stroller recall because there have been additional injuries, including amputations and lacerations. The recall affects almost one million Maclaren single and double umbrella strollers that were sold before November 2009.

The strollers were sold at juvenile product and mass merchandise retailers nationwide from 1999 through November 2009 for between \$100 and \$360. There is a hinge mechanism on the stroller that poses a fingertip amputation and laceration hazard to the child when the consumer is unfolding/opening the stroller.

A total of 149 injuries have been reported to Maclaren, with 37 of them occurring after the recall in November 2009. Since that time, there have been five additional fingertip amputations, 16 additional lacerations and 16 additional fingertip entrapments/bruising.

Messa & Associates is experienced in handling cases involving injuries to children as a result of products with manufacturing and design defects. In addition to their research and knowledge, our attorneys work with highly regarded experts to prepare every case. If your child has been seriously injured by one of the recalled Maclaren strollers, please contact us at 1-877-MessaLaw.

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## Hip Manufacturers Ordered to Study Implants

The Food and Drug Administration has ordered all producers of metal-on-metal artificial hips to study their implants, which have been linked to high early failure rates and severe health effects in some patients. Makers of the device must conduct studies of patients who received the hips to determine if the implants are shedding high levels of metallic debris. Some patients have encountered that problem, including soft tissue damage that has disabled them.

Metal-on-metal hips, in which the ball-and-socket components are made from metals like cobalt and chromium, accounted until relatively recently for about one-third of the estimated 250,000 hip replacement procedures performed annually in the United States. However, over the last two years, the use of the implants has fallen off in part due to reports that they were prone to early failure and that some patients had developed serious health problems related to particles of metallic debris that are shed by the devices as they wear.

Approximately 20 manufacturers including the DePuy division of Johnson & Johnson, Zimmer, Stryker, Biomet and Wright Medical are required to study their products.

Each manufacturer may determine how to conduct its individual studies, but under the agency rule, has 30 days to file a proposed plan with the FDA. The companies must collect information from patients who received the devices, including taking blood samples to determine the levels of metallic ion in their systems. They are also being asked to determine how frequently the devices are failing.

The attorneys at Messa & Associates are experienced at handling cases involving pharmaceutical and medical device injuries. Our extremely skilled team of attorneys and medical experts has successfully pursued litigation and obtained verdicts and settlements for victims of medical device injuries. If you or a loved one has suffered serious injuries as a result of an artificial hip replacement, please contact us at 1-877-MessaLaw.

**Messa & Associates wishes you and your family a Happy Memorial Day!**

## MAY IS MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS MONTH

In observance of Motorcycle Awareness Month, Messa & Associates encourages motorcyclists and other drivers to use extra caution on the roads.

Here are some safety tips for motorcycle riders:

- Use appropriate protective gear, including a helmet, gloves and proper footwear
- Do not follow cars or other motorcycles too closely
- Obey all traffic laws as you would in any other motor vehicle
- Give the bike a quick check to make sure it is functioning properly before riding it
- Never weave in and out of traffic— this makes it difficult for drivers to see you

For more information about motorcycle safety, or if you have been injured and would like to speak with one of our experienced attorneys about a motorcycle accident, 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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