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We Never Forget that
Behind Every Case, are
Real People

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Trial Attorneys

May is National Stroke Awareness Month!

In recognition of **National Stroke Awareness Month**, Messa & Associates reminds you that strokes are the fourth leading cause of death in America and a leading cause of adult disability. However, up to eighty percent of strokes are preventable. The best way to help prevent a stroke is to know the risk factors and manage your personal risk.

According to the *National Stroke Association*, a stroke or "brain attack" occurs when a blood clot blocks an artery or a blood vessel breaks, interrupting blood flow to an area of the brain. When either of these things happen, brain cells begin to die and brain damage occurs.

There are two types of risk factors for stroke: controllable and uncontrollable. Controllable risk factors include high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol, tobacco use and smoking, alcohol, obesity, atrial fibrillation and physical inactivity. Uncontrollable risk factors are things such as age, gender, race, and family history. Everyone should know their individual risk factors and talk to a physician about them.

In addition to risk factors, you should also look for warning signs and be aware of actions you can take in the event you or a loved one appears to be suffering from a stroke. Acting **FAST** is extremely important.

Symptoms to look for include: Sudden numbness or weakness of face, arm or leg - especially on one side of the body; Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding; Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes; Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination; and Sudden severe headache with no known cause.

Also, remember to act **FAST**:

Face: Ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face drop?

Arms: Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?

Speech: Ask the person to repeat a simple phrase. Is their speech slurred or strange?

Time: If you observe any of these signs, dial 911 immediately.

You should also try to note the time any symptoms appeared. The FDA has approved a clot-buster medication that may reduce long-term disability for the most common type of stroke if given
(continued on back)

Recent Settlements and Verdicts

Confidential

\$1.5 Million settlement for the family of a Bucks County woman was admitted to the hospital and treated for hypertension and high blood pressure. Doctors failed to properly monitor her blood pressure as it dangerously decreased causing her to suffer a stroke. She suffered significant neurological injuries and other related injuries over the course of the next five years of her life and ultimately died.

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Consumer News: The Recall Report

Kennedy International Inc. is recalling approximately **1.6 million folding step stools** in the United States because the stools can break or collapse unexpectedly when in use, posing a fall hazard to consumers.

The company has received at least 15 reports of the step stools cracking or breaking. Three reported injuries including back injuries and a fractured leg.

The recall includes 9-inch and 13-inch Kennedy International plastic folding step stools. The step stools were sold at Home Goods, Marshalls, TJ Maxx and other retailers nationwide from January 2010 until January 2012 for \$8-12. Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled step stools.

Messa & Associates has handled dozens of cases involving serious injuries and death related to the use of defective products. If you or a loved one has suffered serious injury as a result a recalled product, please contact us at 1-877-MessaLaw or visit us at www.messalaw.com

Joseph L. Messa, Jr. Presents as Part of Pennsylvania Bar Institute CLE Course



Joseph L. Messa, Jr., founding attorney of Messa & Associates, P.C., participated in the "Fundamentals of Personal Injury" CLE course as a faculty member. The course, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Bar Institute (PBI) and the Pennsylvania Bar Association Civil Litigation Section, offered training in skills related to successfully handling a personal injury case.

Mr. Messa discussed the discovery phase of a personal injury lawsuit, highlighting the importance of videotaping depositions. He emphasized using the video clips to make a more significant impact during trials.

Mr. Messa is an AV-rated attorney, listed in the Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers. He is a member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum and was named a Top 100 Trial Lawyer by The National Trial Lawyers. Mr. Messa is also an advocate of the American Board of Trial Advocates. He has been recognized as a Pennsylvania Super Lawyer in 2009, 2010 and 2011 and has successfully litigated multiple serious injury cases to seven- and eight-figure verdicts and settlements in medical malpractice, products liability, fire and burn injury and construction/work injury matters.

Messa & Associates Welcomes Attorney Matthew Y. Rong

Matthew Y. Rong joins Messa & Associates concentrating his practice on serious personal injury litigation primarily working on motor vehicle accidents and premises liability cases.

He earned his juris doctor at Temple University James E. Beasley School of Law in 2010, where he served as Vice President of the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association and his undergraduate degree from Temple University in 2006 earning dual degrees in English and Philosophy. Additionally, he is fluent in Mandarin.



During law school, Mr. Rong received marks for Distinguished Class Performance in Legal Research & Writing, Civil Procedure I, Property, Taxation, Drug Products Liability, and Temple Legal Aid Family Law Clinic. He also received a mark for Outstanding Oral Argument in his Legal Research & Writing class. In addition, Mr. Rong worked at the school's Capital Punishment Litigation Clinic and Family Law Clinic. He has also volunteered at the Christian Legal Clinic of Philadelphia handling expungements and providing a variety of unpaid legal assistance.

Mr. Rong is admitted to practice law in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and the Philadelphia Bar Association as well as a member of the Pennsylvania Association for Justice. In his last position, Mr. Rong worked as an associate at a law firm in Philadelphia where he garnered six-figure settlements for his clients in personal injury cases.

Stroke Awareness Month

within *three hours* of the first symptom. There are also two other types of stroke treatment available that might help reduce the effects of stroke.

Messa & Associates has been involved in numerous stroke cases obtaining fair verdicts and settlements for our 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 on National Stroke Awareness Month or if you or a loved one has suffered a stroke that was not timely diagnosed and/or treated, please contact our medical malpractice attorneys at 1-877-MessaLaw or www.messalaw.com.

"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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For more information, please call 877-MessaLaw or email GHightower@MessaLaw.com