

THE LEGAL OUTLOOK

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MESSA & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Welcome to the second issue of *The Legal Outlook*. A lot has happened this month and we are excited to share it. We would like to encourage our clients, community, and associates to share their thoughts and ideas with us. Please provide insight as to how we may improve our practice, better serve our clients, and become more involved with our community. We have recently updated our website, and invite you to visit us at www.Messalaw.com. We are always looking for new ways to develop our practice, so please send us any thoughts and ideas to Denielle@Messalaw.com.



Recent Settlements and Verdicts

Messa & Associates, P.C. recently settled a \$ 6.5 million dollar lawsuit for the family of a woman who was injured during a surgery to treat a prior stroke. During the procedure, her doctor performed an unnecessary and un-consented procedure, punctured a main artery, and caused a massive bleed in her brain, resulting in irreversible brain damage. After the surgery, she spent the next two-and-a-half years in a vegetative state until her death on November 22, 2007.

Joseph L. Messa Jr. Esq. argued that the doctors were negligent in failing to perform a thorough diagnostic preoperative evaluation and work-up of the patient prior to her initial surgery. Mr. Messa also claimed that the doctors failed to obtain appropriate, informed consent from the patient before performing the procedure. The doctors did not educate her on additional optional procedures and failed to discuss other treatment options, in place of the left carotid endarterectomy. This lack of knowledge denied her the opportunity to make an informed decision as to her operative procedure. The defendant surgeon admittedly stated that he had only performed this type of procedure once before.

Messa & Associates, P.C. Welcomes Thomas N. Sweeney, Esq.

Messa & Associates, P.C. is pleased to announce the addition of Thomas N. Sweeney, Esq. to its team. Mr. Sweeney has practiced in both state and federal courts, as well as represented clients before the American Arbitration Association. His practice focuses on complex personal injury cases including toxic tort, medical malpractice, premises liability, products liability, and other catastrophic injury cases.

Graduating cum laude from Seton Hall University School of Law, Mr. Sweeney was honored by selection into the 2006, 2007, and 2008 editions of Pennsylvania Super Lawyers Rising Stars. Only the top 25% of attorneys younger than 40 years of age are honored by this selection. He is also a member of the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers

Association, the American Association for Justice, the Pennsylvania Association for Justice, and a past President of the Georgetown Club of Philadelphia.

Mr. Sweeney has had many successes, including a notable verdict in February 2008. He served as co-trial counsel against Trigen-Philadelphia Energy Corporation on behalf of a University of Pennsylvania medical student who fractured his back after falling through an open manhole. The case, which resulted in an \$85 million dollar verdict, is the largest premises liability verdict in Pennsylvania history. He was also instrumental in securing a multi-million dollar settlement in a confidential toxic tort case, as well as a seven figure

settlement in a catastrophic automobile accident in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.



Tip of the Month

Messa & Associates, P.C. is currently pursuing a case involving a family of seven who perished in a house fire due to faulty smoke detectors. Below are tips to help protect your family and prevent a house fire:

1. Make sure all detectors have a back up power source, i.e. batteries, or alternative electricity.
2. Make sure the smoke detector you chose has been recommended by the United States Fire Administration (USFA).
3. Change batteries twice a year-start and end of daylight savings times is an easy way to remember.
4. Purchase a device that detects both smoke and carbon monoxide.
5. Replace all smoke detectors after 10 years.
6. Make sure all smoke detectors are placed in multiple places around the house, such as bedrooms, hallways, bathrooms and kitchens.
7. Be sure to purchase photoelectric smoke detectors, in place of ionization. Photoelectric detectors are able to detect slow-smoldering fires, the most common of household fires. Ionization only detect flash fires, not smoke.

If you or someone you know has been injured by a similar product defect, please contact our law office at 1.866.403.4LAW

Representation Highlights

Messa & Associates, P.C. is making a claim for the tragic death of a 2 year-old little girl, due to negligence by her day care center. The little girl was found unresponsive and stuck between a plastic playground structure and a tricycle, after her teachers failed to properly supervise her while playing. She suffered from severe brain damage, and was eventually removed from life support. If you or someone you know has been injured at a daycare center, school, or playground, please contact Messa & Associates immediately to meet with a representative.

*For more information please contact Messa & Associates, P.C. toll free at 1.866-403.4LAW or visit www.Messalaw.com