

Messa & Associates

TRIAL ATTORNEYS WITH A REPUTATION FOR RESULTS



We Never Forget that
Behind Every Case, are
Real People

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Consumer News: WATCH NAMES ITS TOP 10 DANGEROUS TOYS OF 2012

World Against Toys Causing Harm Inc. (WATCH) released its list of the ten most dangerous toys. The consumer safety group warns parents that these toys may pose a risk of injuries to their children. Injuries to children can include strangulation, lacerations and falls resulting in emergency rooms visits and other forms of urgent care.

Here is a complete list of WATCH's Top Ten Dangerous Toys for 2012:

- **Magnetic Fishing Game manufactured by Kole Imports**
Hazard: The plastic fishing pole uses common twine to attach a small, magnetic lure. The brightly-colored plastic lure, whether detached or connected to the approximately 9"-long cord, poses a serious potential choking hazard for oral-age children.
- **Toy R Us Bongo Ball**
Hazard: There is a potential for impact and other serious injuries with this inflatable ball that children can get inside and "Bounce, Spin, Roll, Tumble," according to its packaging.
- **Dart Zone Quick Fire 12 Dart Gun by Prime Time Toys, Ltd**
Hazard: The darts can be shot with enough force to potentially cause an eye injury.

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Recent Settlements and Verdicts

\$5 Million settlement in a premises liability case against an apartment complex and real estate management company.

The Plaintiff suffered a traumatic brain injury at the age of 41 when she slipped and fell on stairs leading from the parking lot to her apartment. On the Saturday of her injury, the Plaintiff was acting as companion to a mentally challenged young man. The stairs were defective, allowing water from a snowfall to accumulate and refreeze. There was inadequate snow removal from a previous snow, and the handrail did not extend to the bottom of the concrete stairwell.

The Plaintiff suffered a subdural hematoma. She remains with residual weakness, a seizure disorder, and some cognitive deficits. Her injuries have left her with some weakness in her left hand, and word finding difficulty. Through her hard work at rehabilitation, the Plaintiff recovered the ability to work on a limited, part-time basis, although she still lives with family members. She continues to receive medical treatment.

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Shari Larson Shares Her Experience on Panel for Pennsylvania Hospital's Nursing Conference



Legal nurse consultant, Shari Larson, of Messa & Associates, P.C., served as a panelist at Pennsylvania Hospital's 9th Annual Nursing Conference. Ms. Larson discussed her role as a legal nurse consultant at the firm and answered questions along with other panel members,

Channel 6 Health reporter Ali Gorman.

About 150 nurses attended the conference where Ms. Larson spoke about being a liaison between the medical and legal fields by assisting attorneys with the review of medical records in personal injury and medical malpractice cases.

Ms. Larson has a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing and Legal Nurse Consultant and Paralegal Certificates from Widener University. She is a licensed R.N. in PA, VA and DE with experience in obstetrics and critical care.

Eric H. Weitz and Christine Giordano Present as Part of Pennsylvania Bar Institute CLE Course



Eric H. Weitz and Christine Giordano spoke at the "What Pennsylvania Lawyers Need to Know About New Jersey Personal Injury Practice" CLE course.

Attorneys Weitz and Giordano described the procedural differences between Pennsylvania and New Jersey law. The course was designed to assist other attorneys who have little or no experience practicing in New Jersey with their understanding of NJ trial courts.

Mr. Weitz represents individuals who have suffered traumatic brain injuries and other catastrophic injuries arising from medical negligence, automobile and trucking accidents, construction accidents, and defective premises. Ms. Giordano concentrates her practice on catastrophic injury cases with emphasis on medical malpractice, product liability and other complex personal injury cases.

WATCH's Top Ten Dangerous Toys for 2012 (continued)

- **FuzionNextsport's Spinner Shark 4-Wheel Kneeboard**
Hazard: There is a potential for impact injuries while riding the kneeboard.
- **Explore & Learn Helicopter by V Tech**
Hazard: The toy is intended for babies as young as 12 months old, therefore crib and playpen injuries are possible. The industry standard requires the string on any playpen and crib toys to be less than 12 inches in length, but this is sold as a "pull toy" so the cord is not subject to those requirements and measures at approximately 24 inches making it a strangulation and entanglement risk.
- **Hasbro N-Force Vendetta Double Sword**
Hazard: The double sword's 4.5 feet long blade has the potential to cause facial or other impact injuries.
- **Water Balloon Launcher by Water Sports, LLC**
Hazard: Promotions for the water balloon launcher say the product can shoot water balloons at speeds up to 75 mph. Users can suffer from severe injury or facial damage, according to its manufacturers. Balloons are also known by the toy industry to pose a significant risk of choking.
- **Power Rangers Super Samurai Shogun Helmet by Bandai**
Hazard: The helmet includes an attachable "crown" with pointed, rigid plastic tips as long as approximately 9" and with the potential for impact and puncture wound injuries.
- **P'Kolino Playful Xylophone**
Hazard: The toy's drumstick is not connected to the xylophone and may pose a choking risk to smack children.
- **The Avengers Gamma Green Smash Fists by Hasbro**
Hazard: These oversized fists could cause blunt impact injuries.

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