

The Legal Outlook

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Consumer News:

RECALL REPORT



BeBeLove Baby Walkers

The Facts:

Recalled Style Numbers:

358, 368

The walkers failed to meet federal safety standards. Specifically, style number 358 can fit through a standard doorway and is not designed to stop at the edge of a step as required by the federal safety standard. In addition, style number 368 contains leg openings that allow the child to slip down until the child's head can become entrapped at the neck. Babies using these walkers can be seriously injured or killed.

BebeLove toll-free at (888) 464-1218 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. PT Monday through Friday or online at www.bebeloveusa.com and click on "Recall Contact" for more information.

Messa & Associates Client Shares His Story with CBS3 News Health Reporter



Messa & Associates client Chris Mohrmann and his wife, Christina, sat down with CBS3 health reporter Stephanie Stahl for a special report about a devastating infection that led to the amputation of all four of Chris' limbs. His arms and legs were amputated in an effort to save his life. Chris and Christina talked with

Stephanie about their dramatic experience and how it has changed their lives.

In June 2010, Chris went to the emergency room at Virtua Berlin Hospital where he remained for 12 hours without receiving treatment. At the time, he was vomiting and experiencing muscle cramps. His other symptoms included a rapid heartbeat, breathing fast, and low blood pressure.

Initially doctors told Christina he was dehydrated, but she later learned that he had a sepsis infection. Despite his symptoms, doctors failed to recognize and treat the infection quickly enough and it spread throughout his body causing a large amount of tissue damage.

As Chris lay in a medically induced coma, his wife was left to decide what to do next. Doctors told her that she either had to allow them to amputate Chris' limbs or he would die. She opted for amputation and both of his arms below the elbow as well as the lower part of both legs were surgically removed.

Almost four years later, 35-year-old Chris is still learning how to adapt to the significant changes that have been made to his life. He is unable to work and receives disability to help support himself and his family.

Messa & Associates has filed a lawsuit against Virtua Berlin Hospital on Chris' behalf for failing to timely diagnose and treat the sepsis infection. He is being represented by Joseph L. Messa, Jr.

The story aired on the 11pm news broadcast on Monday, February 10th. If you missed it, check out our website or visit our Facebook page to watch Chris' story.

JUSTICE IS THE SET AND COMMON PURPOSE
WHICH GIVES EVERY MAN HIS DUE.

MARCUS TULLIUS CICERO

MEET THE ATTORNEYS

Thomas N. Sweeney



Q: You used to be an English teacher. When did law school become part of the plan?

A: When I realized I couldn't get my 6th grade class to line up without chaos ensuing. This happened pretty much every day. I realized that there was no lining up in law school. So it was the place for me.

Q: What is your favorite thing to do outside of work?

A: Hang out with my wife and two daughters, three of the funniest people I know. (My wife would say watching Georgetown basketball. She may be right).

Q: Which do you prefer—heat wave or polar vortex?

A: Is this a trick question? Does anyone like the cold?

Q: What is one of the biggest challenges you face as an attorney?

A: Corporations who hurt our clients and then have no qualms trying to deprive them of justice.

Q: What is your proudest moment as an attorney?

A: There are two. Getting a kid who was in adult jail freed from prison and recovering for a family who lost seven relatives in a fire.

Q: What celebrity Twitter Feed do you find most entertaining? Why?

A: @fauxpelini. It is a parody account run by Lee Rosenfeld's buddy from law school. He is the cynical alter ego of the head coach of the Nebraska football team, Bo Pelini. Outrageously funny. It has literally had me in tears at times. More college football fans follow Fake Bo Pelini than the real Bo Pelini. So that qualifies him as a celebrity in my book.

Q: What's your NCAA Final Four prediction?

A: Kansas, Arizona, Florida, Syracuse. It kills me to say the last one but it will make Eric Weitz happy.

Q: If you weren't an attorney today, do you think you'd still be teaching English?

A: Absolutely, if I could have figured out how to get my kids to stay in line without beating each other up.

INJURED IN THE SNOW? WHAT YOU SHOULD DO NEXT!

Massive snowfall has hit Philadelphia and the surrounding areas this winter. Unfortunately in this weather, accidents and injuries are inevitable. Here's a quick guide of what to do when you're not sure what to do next.

Motor Vehicle Accidents

- * Call the police and make sure they complete a police report
- * Get insurance and contact information of all parties, including any witnesses.
- * If possible, take pictures of the accident scene and your vehicle.*
- * Seek medical attention immediately for any injuries.
- * Report the accident to your insurance company.
- * Write down as many details as you can remember about the accident as soon as possible so you don't forget them as times passes.
- * Call Messa & Associates for help.

Slip and Fall

- * Notify the owner of the property that you were injured.
- * If applicable, have them complete an injury report.
- * Take a picture of where you fell, if possible.
- * Seek medical attention for any injuries.
- * Call Messa & Associates for assistance.

Messa & Associates specializes in handling personal injury matters. Our attorneys have obtained verdicts and settlements for many weather related cases, including a \$954,000 jury verdict for a man who slipped and fell on ice on the sidewalk at a Newtown Square, Pennsylvania condominium. If you or a loved has been injured in this winter weather, please contact us at 1-877-MessaLaw.

***Caution: If conditions are unsafe and you feel you could be hurt by oncoming traffic or otherwise, do not risk your safety for pictures or other evidence.**

February is Black History Month



In celebration of Black History Month, Messa & Associates recognizes Macon Bolling Allen, the first African American attorney in the United States of America.

Macon Bolling Allen was born in 1816 in Indiana and grew up a free man. He learned how to read and write on his own and eventually earned a job as a school teacher. In the early 1840's, Allen moved to Maine to study law and served as a law clerk to local attorney and abolitionist, General Samuel Fessenden. He passed the bar exam in Maine in 1844 and become the first African American licensed to practice law in the United States.

Due to racial prejudice, Allen could not find work in Maine. He moved to Boston, Massachusetts in 1845 and passed the bar exam there, making him the first African American to be admitted to the bar in Massachusetts. In 1847, he opened the first black law firm alongside attorney, Robert Morris. Again, due to racial prejudices, the firm did not garner much success, so Allen sought out to become a justice of the peace to supplement his scarce income. After passing a rigorous exam, he was elected in 1848 and became the first African American to hold a judicial position in the US, all while not being considered a US citizen under the country's current Constitution.

His career eventually led him to South Carolina where he was appointed an Inferior Court Judge in Charleston and later elected to Probate Judge in Charleston County, South Carolina. Allen made a final move to Washington, DC in 1873 to serve as an attorney for the Land and Improvement Association.

Allen died in 1894 leaving behind a wife, Hannah, and five sons.

BREAKING IT DOWN

UNDERSTANDING CLOSED HEAD TRAUMA AND ITS POTENTIAL FOR FAR REACHING CONSEQUENCES

■ By Irene M. McLafferty

Millions of people every year in the U.S will suffer trauma to the head. Resulting injuries may be immediately obvious and others may not emerge until days or weeks following an injury. Understanding the potential symptoms and consequences of head injury is essential to maximizing the ability to recover.

The Brain and mechanism of Traumatic Brain Injury

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) can occur when an external force impacts the brain. Injuries may result not just from a direct blow or impact to the head or brain but can also occur when the brain moves back and forth and impacts the sides of the skull. Additional injury may result from the brain's response to injury such as swelling and increased blood flow which can create increasing pressure within the cranium. Because of the mechanism of a brain injury, signs and symptoms of TBI may not appear until days or weeks following surgery. Accordingly, it is important to know what to look for when a loved one sustains trauma to the head.

Signs and Symptoms of Injury

Although traumatic brain injury can be mild and not cause significant long term disability, all severities of brain injury, including mild injury, has the potential to cause permanent, and long-lasting disability to the injured person. In mild and moderate traumatic brain injury, MRI and CAT scan results are often normal but cognitive problems such as headaches, attention deficits, sensitivity to sound and light, difficulty thinking, mood swings, and memory problems may result. These injuries, unfortunately, are frequently overlooked and can have a devastating effect on the injured person and his or her family.

Injury to the brain can result in physical, social, emotional, behavior and cognitive deficits. A mild concussion, for example, can cause physical symptoms such as headache, nausea and vomiting but can also result in mood disruption, and difficulty concentrating, remembering or sleeping. In other cases, physical manifestations of TBI may include fever, fracture, difficulty eating, speech disruption, vision problems, fatigue, hearing deficits and

sensory disturbance. Social, emotional and behavioral effects of TBI include frustration, improper mood response, anxiety, agitation, depression and inability to control emotions and impulses. Cognitive effects may include lack of attention, memory loss, inability to concentrate, communication problems and learning disabilities. Frequently, the signs and symptoms are inter-related. For example, a TBI individual who has difficulty sleeping may find it difficult to concentrate and another with speech problems may become frustrated and depressed.

Despite signs and symptoms, brain injury is too frequently misdiagnosed and misunderstood. In all cases of head trauma and potential brain injury, prompt and individualized medical care from qualified health care providers is essential.

Irene M. McLafferty, (imclafferty@messalaw.com) is a senior medical malpractice and catastrophic injury attorney at Messa & Associates, representing clients throughout Pennsylvania and New Jersey. She has been named to the PA Superlawyers list for 4 consecutive years.



Settlements and Verdicts

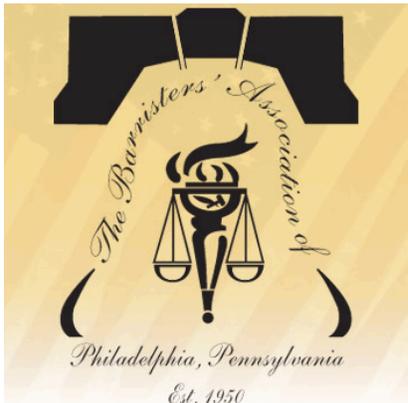
Confidential seven-figure settlement for the family of a man who died after surgery at a University Hospital. He was approved as a kidney donor and cleared for surgery under the Transplant Program guidelines and by its physicians to donate a kidney to his sister.

After discharge, the kidney donor displayed symptoms of a developing deep vein thrombosis or blood clot in his leg. The patient contacted both the hospital and doctors from The Transplant team, who did not examine him or make any recommendations for diagnosis, follow-up or treatment. As he was preparing to go to his first post-op checkup with the transplant surgeon, the 41-year-old married teacher and father collapsed and died. The autopsy determined that his death was caused by a pulmonary embolism, a blood clot which had formed in his leg then broke off and travelled to his lungs.

The settlement obtained by Messa & Associates will assure that this man's young family will be supported financially to compensate for the loss of their husband and father.

Richard J. Heleniak represented the family on behalf of Messa & Associates.

AROUND THE OFFICE



Messa & Associates attorneys and staff attended The Barristers' Association of Philadelphia's Martin Luther King, Jr. Annual Memorial Breakfast on Monday, January 21, 2014 at Loews Hotel. The breakfast honors the legacy of Dr. King and recognizes attorneys and judges who have been leaders in the Philadelphia legal community and have made significant contributions to the city.



A big CONGRATULATIONS! to Messa & Associates Receptionist, Lisa Lopez, on her engagement to her partner of 20 years, Jannis Ortiz Montessinos! Jannis popped the question on February 15th and Lisa said yes! Wishing you two the best of luck as you prepare to spend the rest of your lives together.



Messa & Associates welcomes legal secretary, Dana Silverman, to the team! Dana comes to us with over 20 years of experience in both plaintiff and defense litigation firms. Dana lives in Blue Bell with her husband and her 16 year old son. In her free time, she enjoys knitting and tennis.

MAIN LOCATIONS

PHILADELPHIA

123 S 22nd St
Philadelphia, PA 19103
P: 215-568-3500

CHERRY HILL

2091 Springdale Rd.
Suite 2
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003
P: 856-810-9918

SATELLITE LOCATIONS

COLLINGSWOOD

475 White Horse Pike
Collingswood, NJ 08107
P: 856-833-0600

GERMANTOWN

6000-6002 Germantown Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19144
P: 215-844-1614

CONSHOHOCKEN

923 Fayette St.
Conshohocken, PA 19246
P: 215-940-7700

LINWOOD

605 New Road
Linwood, NJ 08221
P: 609-601-1644

ROSELLE

520 West First Ave
Roselle, NJ 07203
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