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Messa & Associates

TRIAL ATTORNEYS WITH A REPUTATION FOR RESULTS

We Never Forget that Behind Every Case, are Real People

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Messa & Associates Files Lawsuit In Paulsboro Train Derailment

Messa & Associates is representing the family of a 77-year-old woman who died as a result of exposure to toxic chemicals from the East Jefferson Street Bridge collapse and train derailment filed a lawsuit against Conrail, CSX Corporation and Norfolk Southern Corporation.

The East Jefferson Street Bridge collapsed on the morning of November 30, 2012 causing four train tankers loaded with tens of thousands of gallons of hazardous substances to plunge into the creek and spill their contents into the environment. A short time later, Wessie Hardy was outside attending to her daily chores when a thick toxic fog of the chemical vinyl chloride monomer enveloped her. Wessie Hardy resided just blocks away from the site of the spill and the vinyl chloride spread throughout her Paulsboro neighborhood. A short time later, Wessie began experiencing difficulty breathing, developed chest pains, and had burning and irritated eyes. She was taken to Underwood Memorial Hospital where she died on December 3, 2012 as a result of her exposure to vinyl chloride monomer.

The case was filed by Joseph L. Messa, Jr. and Thomas N. Sweeney.

Richard J. Heleniak Named to 2013 New Jersey *Super Lawyers* List

Messa & Associates, P.C. is pleased to announce that Richard J. Heleniak has been selected to the 2013 New Jersey *Super Lawyers* list. Mr. Heleniak has more than 30 years of experience in handling complex personal injury matters, including medical malpractice and products liability cases. He is a member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum, Pennsylvania Bar Association, Pennsylvania Association for Justice, American Association for Justice, Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association and Association of Trial Lawyers of America (NJ).

This is Mr. Heleniak's first selection to the New Jersey *Super Lawyers* list. He has been named to the Pennsylvania *Super Lawyers* list six times. Each year, no more than five percent of the attorneys in the state are selected by *Super Lawyers* to receive this honor.

Super Lawyers, a Thomson Reuters business, is a rating service of outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement.

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FDA Issues a Warning About Antibiotic Known As "Z-Pack"

The Food and Drug Administration is warning patients that azithromycin (sold as Zithromax or Zmax), also commonly called Z-Pack could cause them to experience abnormal changes in the heart's electrical activity that may result in a fatal heart rhythm.

Zithromax, an antibiotic, is typically used for treatment of bacterial infections such as bronchitis, pneumonia, or ear infections. Patients who are the greatest risk for abnormal and potentially dangerous heart rhythms are those who already have known risk factors such as existing QT interval prolongation, low blood levels of potassium or magnesium, a slower than normal heart rate, or those who use certain drugs to treat abnormal heart rhythms, or arrhythmias.

Patients taking a Z-Pack are encouraged to talk with their physician regarding any individual risks associated with the use of azithromycin. The FDA had advised that health care professionals consider the patient's risk of fatal heart rhythms when considering treatment options, especially in for patients who have a known risk of "cardiovascular events."

Results from a study released in May 2012 suggested there would be 47 extra heart-related deaths per 1 million courses of treatment with Zithromax, compared with another antibiotic, amoxicillin. In many cases, Zithromax is the preferred treatment by patients because the treatment course is only five days, half the time for amoxicillin and other antibiotics.

Consumer News: The Recall Report

Takeda Pharmaceutical and Affymax are recalling all lots of Omontys after the Food and Drug Administration received 19 reports of anaphylaxis, a severe allergic reaction. According to the FDA, three of the cases have resulted in patient deaths. Patients have required prompt medical attention or hospitalization on other instances.

Omontys, also known as peginesatide, treats anemia in patients undergoing kidney dialysis. Affymax and Takeda said that roughly 25,000 patients have been treated with Omontys since its approval last March. Prior to the approval of Omontys, Amgen's Epogen had been the only drug used to treat anemia in dialysis clinics since 1989.

According to Takeda and Affymax, adverse reactions to Omontys usually occurred within 30 minutes of a patient receiving their first dose by intravenous administration. The FDA and the drug's manufacturers recommend that patients discontinue use of Omontys; even those who have already taken more than one dose.

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

Recent Settlements and Verdicts

Confidential

$500,000 settlement in Philadelphia County for a woman who was injured after a metal plate that was affixed to the door struck her in the head. The metal plate was improperly installed, and fell on the woman as she walked through the door. She suffered multiple neurological injuries affecting her cognitive abilities as well as other injuries to her neck and cervical spine.

"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 ghightower@MessaLaw.com