

## THE LEGAL OUTLOOK

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# HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

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“Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.”

**WILLIAM ARTHUR  
WARD**

### Messa & Associates, P.C. Voted by U.S. News and World Report as one of America’s Best Law Firms in 2018



Messa & Associates, P.C. is proud to announce that the firm has been named by **U.S. News and World Report** as one of the nation’s Best Law Firms in 2018 for their notable and distinctive performance in the areas of Personal Injury and Products Liability litigation.

Messa & Associates’ ratings were based on a collection of client and lawyer evaluations as well as additional peer reviews. Clients were asked to provide information related to firm responsiveness, firm civility, cost effectiveness, and understanding of needs. They were also asked to comment on whether or not they would refer the firm to other clients. Lawyers and peers were asked to state whether or not they’d refer important cases and whether or not they consider the firm a worthy competitor.

In order for a firm to be considered in a practice area, it is required that at least one of its attorneys be voted by peers into the *Best Lawyers in America*®, a distinction awarded to Joseph L. Messa, Jr., Managing Partner of Messa & Associates, in August of this year.

“We are really proud of the work we do here,” said Messa. “It’s an honor to receive this kind of recognition, especially when it’s based on the reviews of not only clients, but peers as well.”

## SETTLEMENTS & VERDICTS



Attorney Angelo Theodosopoulos recently secured a **\$1.5 million premises liability settlement** for our client, 74 y/o Marianne McCool, against Chapel Manor of Genesis Healthcare, a Philadelphia nursing home where Ms. McCool provided contracted services to residents. Ms. McCool sustained severe and lasting injuries to her right hip and femoral region after she slipped on a patch of ice on Chapel Manor property, requiring multiple surgeries and permanent injury to her hip.

# BE SAFE THIS THANKSGIVING!

Thanksgiving will be here in no time, kicking off the holiday season with food, family, and fun! Why not be as safe as possible to ensure a happy and healthy holiday? Keep in mind these tips from the American Red Cross to make sure your family is safe this Thanksgiving.

### TRAVEL SAFETY

- Check weather before hitting the road and plan to travel AROUND dangerous storms.
- Wear seatbelts!
- No cell phones while behind the wheel.
- Observe rules of the road—speed limit, work zone rules, safe distance between vehicles, to name a few.
- Make frequent stops during a long drive.
- Turn your headlights on at dusk or

while using your wipers.

### COOKING SAFETY

- Cooks should avoid wearing loose clothing or dangling sleeves.
- Never leave the stove unattended.
- Check food regularly.
- Keep children and pets occupied and out of the kitchen.
- Keep any flammable items away from open flame on the stove.
- Have a fire extinguisher in the kitchen and readily available.
- Clean cooking surfaces to protect from grease buildup.
- Check the kitchen before going to bed to make sure nothing has been left on.



## FORD EXPLORERS LEAKING CARBON MONOXIDE, POISONING VEHICLE OCCUPANTS



Earlier this year, Ford finally responded to claims that their 2011-2017 Ford Explorers were leaking carbon monoxide into the SUV's cabin, poisoning vehicle occupants. Their response did not acknowledge the dangerous defect, but merely offered free repairs for consumers' "peace of mind." Now, after increased pressure, Ford is sending letters to vehicle owners about free repairs. On November 15th, the company began alerting over one million customers to the free repairs offered for the potentially deadly defect. The automaker continues to stall any recall of the SUVs.

CBS investigative reporters spoke with Steve Simmons, who just purchased a 2015 Ford Explorer just a few weeks earlier. He made the dealer buy back the vehicle after he got sick behind the wheel. His symptoms included nausea, headaches, dizziness, and blurred vision. A blood test by his doctor revealed that he was suffering from Carbon Monoxide poisoning.

"What would have happened to me and my wife?" Simmons asked. "We would have been asleep, off the road, doing at least 70 or 75 miles an hour while we were doing it." He said he could have been killed. In response to the experience, Simmons launched **FordExplorerNightmare.com** in hopes of rallying support for a recall.

"What's it going to take before decisive action is taken? Now I know it's a lot of money for Ford, but I mean, you know, put a value on human life," Simmons said.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has yet to comment on the timeline for its own investigation, but agrees that, "This action by Ford does not bring closure to the issue." The agency urges consumers who receive the letter from Ford to call their dealer.

# The Ten Worst Toys of 2017

According to Boston non-profit group, WATCH (World Against Toys Causing Harm)

Every year before holiday shopping kicks into gear, Boston non-profit group WATCH (World Against Toys Causing Harm) releases their list of the ten worst toys of the year. The toys and toy-related items that make the list each year are often subjects of Consumer Product Safety Commission recalls, in violation of one or more federal standards for toys, or contain parts that pose serious threats to children.

The following ten items made WATCH's 2017 list:

## 10. BRIANNA BABYDOLL by Melissa & Doug

These dolls are marketed to children as young as 18 months but contain removable parts that pose serious choking hazards.



## 9. JETTS HEEL WHEELS by Razor USA

These mini-roller skate like devices that attach to the back of a child's shoes include sparklers that spark while moving, posing burn hazards to skin and clothing.



## 8. THE OVAL XYLOPHONE by Plan Toys Inc.

The wooden instrument is marketed to children as young as 12 months old but contains no warnings about the 9.5 inch long stick that can potentially block a child's airway.



## 7. SKACKERS SLACKLINE by Brand 44

This outdoor tight-rope is marketed for all ages, but warns of severe injury: "strangulation hazard, especially for children."



## 6. NERF ZOMBIE STRIKE DREDBOLT CROSSBOW by Hasbro and Nerf.com

This crossbow toy can cause eye and facial injuries and WATCH believes that the toy is not suitable for small children.



## 5. SPIDER MAN SPIDER DRONE by Marvel & Skyrocket Toys

The drone is marketed to young children who can be injured by the rapidly moving blades that propel the drone into the air. The toy warns users to keep moving parts away from fingers, hair, eyes, & other body parts.



## 4. HAND FIDGET SPINNERS by Kipp Brothers

These fidget spinners come with small parts that can easily become loose or detach completely, posing choking hazards.



## 3. WONDER WOMAN SWORD by Mattel

WATCH warns consumers that this stiff plastic sword can cause facial damage or other significant injuries to children.



## 2. PULL ALONG PONY by Tolo Toys Limited

WATCH claims that this product violates federal law requiring strings on play-pen and crib toys be less than 12 inches long. The pull along toy's cord is 19 inches long.



## 1. ITTY BITTYS BABY PLUSH STACKING TOY by Hallmark

The CPSC issued a recall on this product in August 2017 because of small, detachable hats and bows that pose choking hazards, however, WATCH was able to purchase the item online AFTER the recall.



# AROUND THE OFFICE



Congratulations to our Paralegal Manager, Cathy Steffa, who celebrates the birth of her granddaughter, Collette Catherine Karabin. Collette is born to Cathy's daughter Christine and son-in-law, Nick. Congratulations to the happy, growing family.



More congratulations to Nurse Consultant Meg Lashendock on the birth of her third grandchild, Madison Olivia Piccini. Baby Madison was born to Meg's daughter Mary Kate and son-in-law, Jay. Madison has two older sisters, Kiley and Audrey, both under 3 years old! Congrats to all!



We wish the happiest of birthdays to our November babies at MessaLaw, paralegal, Elisa Cha, secretary Kim Machinski, and attorney Ramon Arreola. Hope you have the best day!

Happy Birthday!

## MAIN LOCATIONS

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

CHERRY HILL  
2091 Springdale Rd. , Ste. 2  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003  
P: 856-810-9500

## SATELLITE LOCATIONS

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

PITTSTON  
309 Wyoming Ave  
Pittston, PA 18643  
P: 570-883-0800

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  
P: 908-300-3900

COLLINGSWOOD  
475 White Horse Pike  
Collingswood, NJ 08107  
P: 877-637-7252

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