

## THE LEGAL OUTLOOK

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“Winter is an etching, spring a watercolor, summer an oil painting, and autumn a mosaic of them all.”

Stanley Horowitz

### Messa & Associates Sponsors Festival in South Philly, Brings Music, Food, Fun to Local Community

Messa & Associates, P.C. extended its long history of charitable giving into South Philadelphia last Sunday as the firm sponsored the 3rd annual *Yo South Philly Phestival*, which took place in the Holy Spirit Church Yard in South Philly’s Packer Park neighborhood. Admission and parking were both free and the event included food, music, games, and other family friendly entertainment.

Danny Vanore, leader of Philadelphia band *The Business*, who organized the South Philly music festival for the third year in a row, was looking for sponsorships from local businesses to help cover costs. Joe Messa, founder of Messa & Associates, P.C., jumped on board immediately as a title sponsor, excited about spreading word of the celebration of South Philly food, music, and culture.

When asked about why he was so quick to put his name on the event, Messa said, *“Supporting the community sometimes means supporting community initiatives and I am more than happy to back this initiative 100%. With so many efforts these days to tear communities apart and pit people against each other, it’s more important than ever for people to come together. I am proud to be a member of this community and I want to do anything and everything I can to support its members.”*

Messa also managed to spread his spirit of goodwill throughout the firm. A number of MessaLaw attorney/staff volunteers were present at the event to greet guests and hand out prizes, some of which included Philly sports tickets!

Last month, Messa and a number of law firm volunteers worked the 4th annual Back to School Bash – a community initiative he co-hosts with the Philadelphia Boys & Girls Clubs to donate back packs and school supplies to children in need in different areas of Philadelphia. In addition to this yearly initiative, Messa makes regular donations to the Salvation Army, Philabundance, Toys for Tots, and a number of other local groups trying to make life better for those in need.

2016

# SEPTEMBER SEPSIS

SAY SEPSIS  
SAVE LIVES

SEPSISAWARENESSMONTH.ORG

Sepsis, sometimes referred to as a blood infection, kills and disables millions each year and requires early detection & treatment.

A 2010 study published in the *Archives of Internal Medicine* found that Sepsis that resulted from hospital-acquired infections alone killed an average of 48,000 a year and cost an additional \$8.1 Million dollars to treat. A year after these alarming results were published, the Sepsis Alliance, which utilizes the entire year to spread Sepsis awareness among healthcare workers and the public, began promoting September as Sepsis Awareness Month.

Because Sepsis requires early detection to properly treat, the alliance utilizes the phrase, 'Suspect Sepsis. Save Lives.' to encourage healthcare workers and the public to suspect Sepsis when they see any of the early warning signs, including fever, Hypothermia, above-average heart rate, fast respiratory rate, altered mental status (confusion/coma, edema (swelling), and high blood glucose without diabetes.

The risk of death associated with Sepsis increases every hour that passes without treatment, but when acted upon quickly, Sepsis is easily treatable with antibiotics and fluids.

For more information on detection, treatment, and Sepsis Awareness community events, visit

[sepsis.org/](http://sepsis.org/)  
[sepsisawarenessmonth](http://sepsisawarenessmonth.org)

## MESSA & ASSOCIATES EXPANDS LAW PRACTICE INTO NORTHEASTERN PA

Messa & Associates is expanding its practice to include offices that will better serve clients in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The new office, located at 309 Wyoming Ave in Pittston, PA, will provide more convenient legal services to a broad and growing client base. The new location will be a full service law office, offering space for consultations, depositions, mediations, and distributions.

Joseph L. Messa, Jr., founding partner of Messa & Associates, said: "We are excited to more conveniently service current and new clients in Northeastern PA, bringing the benefits of a Philadelphia law firm to fight for their rights. In my book, business growth means helping more people, and I am excited about the opportunity to do that in Northeastern PA."

The addition of an office in Northeastern PA adds to a number of additional satellite offices throughout Pennsylvania and New Jersey including Conshohocken, Downingtown, and Germantown in PA, and Cherry Hill, Collingswood, Linwood, and Roselle in NJ.

Messa & Associates has successfully obtained dozens of multimillion-dollar medical malpractice and products liability recoveries, including \$120 Million settlement in orthopedic bone screw litigation; \$35 Million in a single vehicle commercial truck product liability case for a man who was paralyzed; \$18 Million medical malpractice settlement for a Marine who underwent quadruple amputation after a missed diagnosis; \$12.9 Million medical malpractice settlement for complications leading to brain damage that arose from a physician's failure to diagnosis H1N1; \$12.2 Million for a truck driver whose spine was severely damaged due to an infection; \$8 Million products liability settlement for the family of a young girl who was killed in a fire caused by defective products; and a \$6.1 Million premises liability settlement for a child who lost her eye at daycare.

Attorneys at the new office can be reached by calling 570-883-8000.

## SETTLEMENTS & VERDICTS



**Irene M. McLafferty** reached a **\$2.6 Million Settlement** with defendants on behalf of the wife and minor children of a 45 year-old man who died after Emergency Room staff misread an EKG, leading to a missed diagnosis of cardiac arrhythmia.

**Joseph L. Messa, Jr.** reached a **\$2.25 Million Settlement** with defendants on behalf of the wife and daughters of a 59 year-old man who died after Emergency Room staff failed to evaluate, diagnose, and timely treat a cerebellar stroke.



# BREAKING IT DOWN:

## WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

■ By Megan M. Kwak

A few years ago, when I was just starting my legal career, I stumbled upon an article written by another plaintiff's personal injury lawyer. The article dealt with the emotional and physical stresses often associated with this profes-

sion, which can unfortunately lead to many dangerous outcomes and is likely why "attorney" nearly always appears near the top of the list of jobs with the highest rates of alcohol and/or substance abuse, as well as careers with highest rates of suicide. Not exactly the winning endorsement you want to read as you are just about to start your legal career. Buried

deep in the paragraphs of this article, however, were these two lines: "Plaintiff's lawyers willingly consume sadness. We are in the business of worst possible days." Wow, I thought. Isn't that the truth? At the time, these two sentences struck me, and they have remained with me ever since.

Flash forward four years and I am frequently reminded of these lines when I meet new clients. As I sit across the table from individuals and families, often having just met them minutes ago, they recount

the reason why they are here and why they are in need of a lawyer. We regularly meet under circumstances which at best can be described as trying, and at worst, can be described as a terrible, horrific, nightmare scenario that you would not wish on your worst enemy. They have either suffered



serious, debilitating injuries themselves, or they have recently lost someone, like a mother, father, or child, or sometimes, worse still, they have lost multiple people close to them. They don't always know why this happened, or what went wrong. They just have a feeling something isn't right. Tears are often shed, but their stories stay with me long after they leave our office. In these moments, I remind myself of why we do what we do, and why I choose to willingly consume sadness.

I choose to willingly consume sadness because I am encouraged by the fact that the law provides (or should provide) a remedy to alleviate at least some of that sadness. Of course, when my non-lawyer friends ask me what it is like to be a lawyer, I don't immediately say, "I wake up every day to willingly consume sadness." Instead, I tell them that it can't be described easily because we wear many hats. In practicing law, we're investigators, listeners, consolers, advisers, advocates, and hopefully, at the end of the day, problem solvers. The law is but a tool used to do all of that.

The work that we do here at MessaLaw directly impacts the lives of our clients, and knowing that I have the opportunity to help make our clients' lives a little better than when we first meet, motivates me to keep doing it again and again. The team of lawyers and staff here shares that same philosophy, and that is why we work so hard on behalf of our clients. That is why we willingly consume sadness.



Megan M. Kwak is a catastrophic injury attorney, representing clients in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. She focuses much of her practice on medical negligence and drug product liability.

# AROUND THE OFFICE



Messa & Associates welcomes new secretary, Kim Machinski, to the team! Kim will be working for attorneys Tom Sweeney and Ray Arreola. We welcome you with open arms and wish you the best of luck, Kim!



We have MANY friends to say Happy Birthday to this month! Wishing the Happiest of Birthdays to Gina Iezzi (9/2), Joseph Kerr (9/4), Shari Larson (9/9), Elaine Hopkins (9/212), Megan Kwak (9/25), and Roseann Gomez (9/26).



Messa & Associates welcomes new attorney, Ashley DiLiberto to the team! Ashley is a recent graduate of Delaware Law School at Widener University and comes to us with a wealth of experience in law and politics. We're so happy to have you, Ashley!

## *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  
P: 908-300-3900

# Messa & Associates

TRIAL ATTORNEYS WITH A REPUTATION FOR RESULTS