

Messa & Associates

ATTORNEYS WITH A REPUTATION FOR RESULTS

The Legal Outlook

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Consumer News:

RECALL REPORT

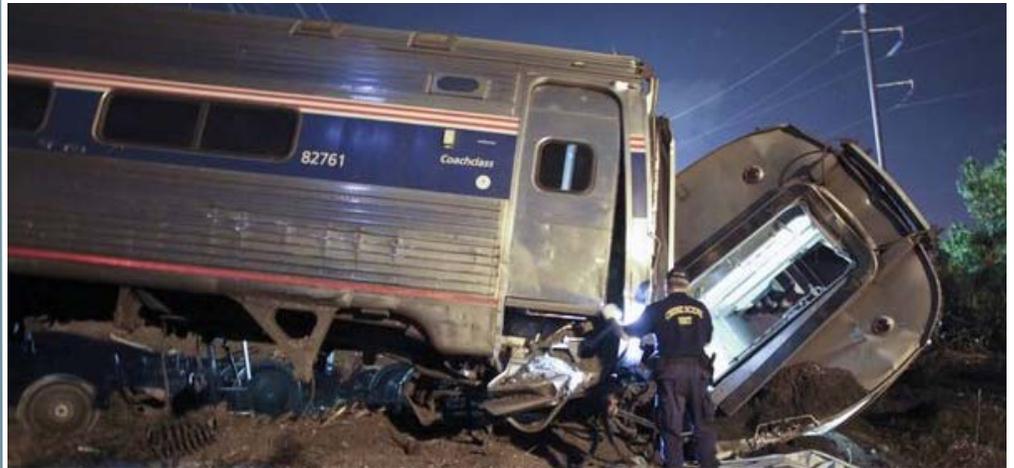


IKEA Mattress Recall Expanded, Includes Safety Gate

IKEA's January crib mattress recall has been expanded to include approx. 170k SULTAN crib mattresses in the US and Canada. In addition, IKEA is also recalling nearly 75k PATRULL KLÄMMA and PATRULL SMIDIG pressure mounted safety gates due to falling and tripping hazards.

Consumers can bring the products to the store or call **(888) 966-4532** for full refunds.

MESSA & ASSOCIATES FILES LAWSUIT ON BEHALF OF CATASTROPHICALLY INJURED AMTRAK VICTIM



Messa & Associates has filed a lawsuit in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas on behalf of 35-year-old Trevor Beddoe and his wife, Eunju. Mr. Beddoe suffered catastrophic and disabling injuries as a result of last week's fatal Amtrak derailment, including a traumatic brain injury, fractured shoulder requiring surgery, fractured clavicle, five fractured ribs, lung trauma/lung contusions, and other internal injuries, abrasions, contusions, and orthopedic injuries.

The claim includes counts of negligence and recklessness against the National Passenger Railroad Corporation (Amtrak) and against the engineer of Amtrak Train 188, Brandon Bostian, who operated the train at more than double the posted speed limit at a sharp curve at Frankford Junction in the Port Richmond section of Philadelphia. The complaint also includes a loss of consortium count against all defendants on behalf of Mrs. Eunju Beddoe.

Plaintiff is represented by Joseph L. Messa, Jr. and Thomas N. Sweeney. Plaintiff is seeking punitive and compensatory damages.

Joseph L. Messa, Jr. is an AV-rated attorney, listed in the Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers. He is a member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum and was named a Top 100 Trial Lawyer by The National Trial Lawyers. Tom Sweeney is a member of both the Pennsylvania and New Jersey Bars and is also admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court. Messa and Sweeney are also currently representing victims of the New Jersey Conrail derailment of 2013.

JUSTICE WILL NOT BE SERVED UNTIL THOSE WHO ARE UNAFFECTED
ARE AS OUTRAGED AS THOSE WHO ARE.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

BREAKING IT DOWN

2015: AN ELECTION YEAR PENNSYLVANIANS CANNOT AFFORD TO IGNORE

■ By Megan M. Kwak

The month of May brings with it a host of exciting things, including spring flowers, warmer temperatures, and the official kick off to summer over the Memorial Day weekend. While your thoughts might be racing to long weekends at the beach, especially after the cold and miserable winter we just endured, the month of May also has another important but often overlooked event: primary election season.

Primary elections are traditionally plagued by low voter turnout despite the flutter of campaign advertisements, yard signs, and the dozens of pamphlets left on your car window (Hey- at least it's not a parking ticket!). Sadly, the 2015 primary election was no different with early reports indicating voter turnout below 25 percent.

Don't let the numbers fool you! Voters in this year's primary election participated in a historic election. Casting aside my biases as an admitted political junkie who thinks every election matters, this year's primary election season was particularly notable because of the unprecedented number of open seats on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court—the most ever in more than 300 years!

On Tuesday, Pennsylvanians narrowed the field of contenders from twelve candidates (six Democrats and six Republicans) to six candidates (three Democrats and three Republicans). Pennsylvania judicial elections are unique in that:

1. Pennsylvanians elect their judges

(unlike some states, like New Jersey, where judges are appointed); and

2. Pennsylvania is a closed primary state, meaning that Pennsylvanians may vote in a party's primary only if they are registered members of the Democratic or Republican party.

Advancing to November's general election are the following candidates: Superior Court Judges David Wecht (D), Christine Donohue (D), Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge Kevin Dougherty (D), Superior Court Judge Judith Olson (R), Adams County Common Pleas Judge Michael George (R), and Commonwealth Court Judge Anne Covey (R).

Some political commentators attribute low voter turnout to the fact that 2015 is an "off-year election," a term of art used to describe elections held in odd-numbered years which typically do not include races for federal offices or gubernatorial races. But while the 2015 election cycle may not garner the same attention that the 2016 election will (or already has), 2015 is by no means an election to ignore.

With three of the seven seats on Pennsylvania's highest court up for grabs, Pennsylvanians are all but assured a complete change in the makeup of the court.

Further compounding the importance of this year's election is the fact that the newly elected Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justices, who will serve a 10 year term, will undoubtedly preside over cases in-

volving the major, hot-button issues of our time, including public education, voter ID laws, Marcellus Shale, Gerrymandering, and the list goes on and on. In fact, it is hard to think of issues that won't be significantly affected by this year's election. Voters have a real opportunity to select candidates who will completely reshape Pennsylvania's legal landscape for years to come. Combined with a post-*Citizens United* era of unlimited campaign spending, the stakes are high - really high!

If you didn't vote in Tuesday's primary election for whatever reason, do yourself (and your fellow Pennsylvanians) a favor and remember to vote this November. This year's general election will be held on November 3, 2015. That means you have 5 months to educate yourself about the candidates and issues. Also, take the time now to register to vote if you aren't already registered. You must be registered to vote 30 days before the next election in order to participate. Don't let that deadline slip away from you! You can find out how to register to vote along with much more information at www.votespa.com.

While all elections matter, this one is especially important. Just because 2015 is an "off-year" election, doesn't mean you are entitled to take the year off from voting. Don't sit this one out!



Megan M. Kwak
(mkwak@messalaw.com) is a personal injury and medical malpractice attorney, representing catastrophically injured clients in PA and NJ.

Settlements and Verdicts

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Joseph L. Messa, Jr. earned a **\$1 Million Settlement** on behalf of the Estate of a 24-year-old man who died as a result of a failure to diagnose and treat a pneumococcal infection (pneumonia) in the Emergency Department of a New Jersey hospital. Lab reports and a Chest X-ray all supported a Pneumonia diagnosis, but the patient was sent home without antibiotics to treat his pulmonary infection. Two days later, the patient returned to the Emergency Department suffering from sepsis and multi-organ failure. Shortly thereafter, the young man passed away.

AROUND THE OFFICE



Messa & Associates is currently hosting a legal nurse consultant internship program through Wilmington University. Shari Larson oversees the program here at the office and has been mentoring intern Meghann Watkins, BSN, RN, CCRN, who is studying for her MSN in Legal Nurse Consulting. Good Luck, Meghann!



We wish Happy, Happy Birthdays to Legal Nurse Consultant Meg Knysh and *of-counsel* attorney Claudine Q. Homolash! Hope you both enjoyed your special day!



Paralegal Manager, Cathy Steffa, has cause to celebrate this month! Not only is she welcoming to the world newest grand-daughter Sutton Rose, born to son Joey and his wife Laurie, she also celebrates Kwame's graduation from Clarion University! Congratulations on all of the wonderful news, Cathy!

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

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TRIAL ATTORNEYS WITH A REPUTATION FOR RESULTS

EDITORS

ANGELA LEONE | aleone@messalaw.com

MEGAN KWAK | mkwak@messalaw.com

CONTRIBUTORS

ANGELA LEONE | aleone@messalaw.com