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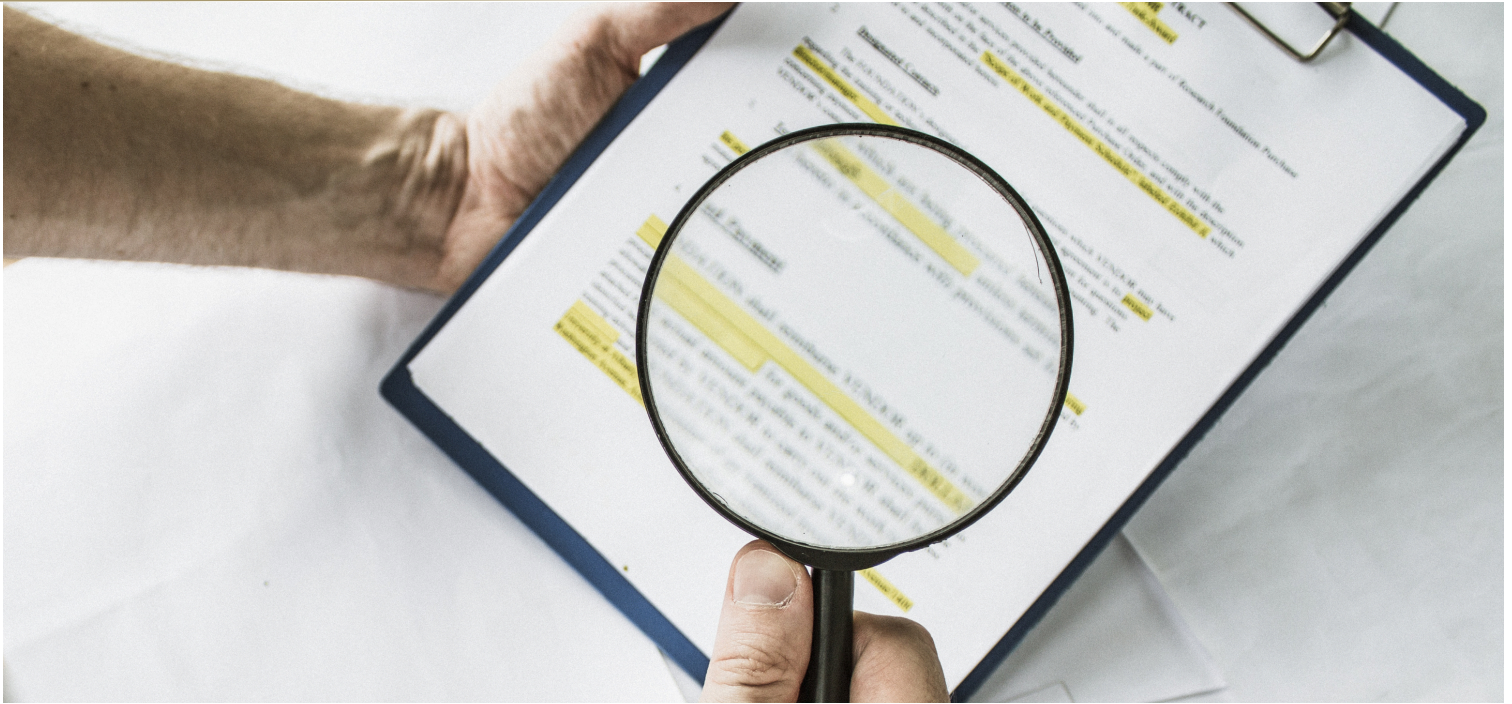
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MESSA & ASSOCIATES CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

We are proud to announce the firm has been helping obtain justice for the injured people for 25 years. What started as two attorneys and two staff members has grown to 18 attorneys and over 30 staff members further strengthening our practice and ability to fight for those who need it most. We are endlessly grateful to our clients and our referral counsel we have worked with over the years.



We pride ourselves on our reputation, our relationship with our clients, responsiveness to their individual needs, and our resources. The relationships we forged have greatly contributed to our success. Each person here is an important piece to our everchanging puzzle and I couldn't do what I do without them. Thank you to those who have been part of the Messa & Associates journey. We look forward to fighting for our clients for many years to come.



E-Bikes – The Unexpected Danger

By: Richard J. Heleniak, Esq.

Electric-powered bikes and scooters, though annoying to some, have become quite popular, particularly in urban settings. Relatively cheap, personal transportation, which can be parked and stored almost anywhere, E-Bikes and E-Scooters are being used by professionals returning to the office post-pandemic, food and package delivery workers, and kids going nowhere and everywhere all at the same time.

But the recent history of these micro-mobility vehicles in New York City serves as a caution and warning to not only owners of E-Bikes and E-Scooters but also to those who live in buildings in which the vehicles are parked or stored – Fire!

The New York Fire Department determined that two recent deadly fires, one which destroyed a three-story house, killing one person and injuring ten, and the other which started in the basement of a day-care center and injured eighteen children, were caused by the lithium-ion batteries which power the e-bikes.

Lithium-ion batteries power many of the tools and devices that we handle daily, including cell phones and computers. The problem seems to be, however, that much bigger lithium batteries required by micro-mobility vehicles are subject to significant wear and tear as well as damage from exposure to the elements, which can lead to battery fires. The problem is compounded by the specific chemical reaction used in these batteries, which can create a very volatile, self-heating state that creates high levels of energy, which can spread from one malfunctioning battery to other batteries nearby, such as when multiple bikes are parked in designated storage areas or charging rooms.

Experts have concluded that the fire danger is largely created by off-market, refurbished, damaged, or improperly charged batteries. Unfortunately, there are no regulations or standards for the off-market or refurbished battery industries, whose products are often sold online at prices well below those of the original equipment manufacturers. Experts recommend the use of the manufacturer's original cords and chargers, as it may be very difficult to determine whether the off-market or refurbished battery matches your E-Bikes' specifications and safety requirements.

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About the Author:

Richard J. Heleniak is a Partner at Messa & Associates. He is an AV-rated attorney (highest rating available), listed in the Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers. Mr. Heleniak represents injured persons and their families in complex personal injury cases involving medical malpractice, nursing home malpractice, defective products, construction workplace injuries, and civil rights violations.

Settlements and Verdicts

- \$23 Million Recovery in a birth injury case resulting in cerebral palsy
- \$30.55 Million Settlement in a dram shop case where two people died in a crash caused by a drunk driver

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