

Messa & Associates

TRIAL ATTORNEYS WITH A REPUTATION FOR RESULTS

We Never Forget that
Behind Every Case, are
Real People

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Thomas N. Sweeney Appointed to Pennsylvania Association for Justice Board of Governors



Thomas N. Sweeney has been appointed to the Board of Governors for the Pennsylvania Association for Justice. Mr. Sweeney will serve a one-year term on the Board of Governors, working with Officers and fellow Governors to establish official guidelines for the Pennsylvania Association for Justice and uphold standards and objectives of the Association.

Mr. Sweeney received his juris doctorate, *cum laude*, from Seton Hall University School of Law and his undergraduate degree from Georgetown University. He is also an active member of the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association and the American Association for Justice. He served as co-trial counsel on a Philadelphia County case that resulted in an \$85 million jury verdict against Trigen-Philadelphia Energy Corporation on behalf of a University of Pennsylvania medical student who fell through an open manhole in Center City Philadelphia and fractured his back. The verdict is the largest premises liability verdict in Pennsylvania history.

The Pennsylvania Association for Justice promotes a fair and effective justice system. The organization seeks to ensure that those who have been injured by the misconduct or negligence of others can obtain justice in Pennsylvania's courtrooms.

Messa & Associates Files Second Lawsuit Against Johnson & Johnson for Tainted Tylenol Deaths

Last month, Messa & Associates filed another case against Johnson & Johnson, its subsidiary companies and key executives on behalf of the family of a two-week-old infant who died after ingested recalled Infant's Tylenol.

Tracen Sherfey's mother, Stacy, gave him a dose of Infant's Tylenol as recommended by Tracen's doctor. She gave Tracen a second dose the next morning; and a third dose of the Infant's Tylenol later in the day. Following the third dose, Tracen began vomiting blood. The child, who had no underlying liver disease before taking the drug, died two days later of fulminant liver failure on February 19, 2009. The Tylenol had been manufactured by McNeil, a subsidiary of J&J located in Fort Washington, Pennsylvania.

The company has a long history of quality control problems dating back to at least 2004, and admitted to a "stealth" recall of defective Motrin and Tylenol products, including Children's and Infant's Tylenol. The Food and Drug Administration had criticized Johnson & Johnson and McNeil for manufacturing deficiencies at their Fort Washington McNeil plant in the four years prior to Tracen's death. The plant was closed permanently in April 2010.

The firm filed a lawsuit against against Johnson & Johnson, McNeil and other executives earlier this year on behalf of River Moore, a toddler who died after taking tainted Children's Tylenol. In both cases, the children had no history of liver problems and both began vomiting blood after their mothers gave them appropriate doses of Tylenol. They each developed liver failure and then died

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Patient Safety Alert: Study Links Reuse of Medication Vials to Staph Infections

Findings of a study published in a recent issue of the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* have concluded that 10 patients were infected with life-threatening *Staphylococcus aureus* (commonly known as staph infection) via repeated use of single-use medication vials.

Medication intended for single use and inappropriately used multiple times can cause serious injuries and outbreaks. Patients are put at risk for infections that may have serious or even deadly effects.

The attorneys at Messa & Associates are experienced at handling cases involving serious infections developed as a result of treatment at a hospital or medical clinic. If you or a loved one has suffered personal injuries as a result of a medical error risking patient safety, contact us at 1-877-MessaLaw.

Consumer News: The Recall Report

Cancer Treatment Drugs Recalled By Manufacturer

Hospira has recalled 19 lots of injectable carboplatin, cytarabine, paclitaxel, and methotrexate because of a glass vial defect. There are visible particles embedded in the glass located at the neck of the vials. The recalled drugs are used to treat several kinds of cancer. Methotrexate is also used to treat psoriasis and rheumatoid arthritis.

According to the company, there is a potential that the product could come into contact with the embedded particles and the particles may become dislodged into the solution. In the event in which particulate matter is injected into a patient, a patient could be at risk for injury that requires medical treatment.

Signs and symptoms of an injury resulting from the recalled medication might include bleeding, bruising, inflammation, itching, rash, chest pain, and respiratory symptoms.

Customers who have received medication from recalled lots should immediately discontinue use of the product.

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

Tylenol Lawsuit (continued)

from that liver failure.

At least 40 products manufactured at McNeil plants have been recalled in recent years, including the largest recall of children and infant medicine in history.

Tylenol contains the active ingredient acetaminophen which has the potential to cause liver damage and even death when taken in large doses. Acetaminophen causes three times as many cases of liver failure as all other drugs combined, and is the most common cause of acute liver failure in the United States.

The pharmaceutical and drug product injury attorneys at Messa & Associates are available to handle cases involving serious injuries and death related to the use of Tylenol. We have handled dozens of cases involving drugs and drug product injuries and obtained verdicts and settlements for victims suffering from these injuries. If you or a loved one has used Tylenol or any other acetaminophen product and suffered serious illness or death, please contact us at 1-877-MessaLaw or visit us at www.messalaw.com.

Recent Settlements and Verdicts

\$1.9 Million Settlement for a Motor Vehicle/ Alcohol Related Death Case in Philadelphia County

\$1.9 Million settlement for the family of an underage man killed in a motor vehicle accident after he and he friends were served at a bar, and then left intoxicated. Isaiah was a passenger in his friend's car. His friend was also intoxicated and lost control of the car while travelling at a high rate of speed in an attempt to evade police officers who were trying to pull the vehicle over. The car hit a tree and Isaiah was killed.

"We know you want and *deserve* the best when it comes to representation.
At Messa & Associates, It's Always Been About Our Clients."

