

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - MAY 2010



TIPS OF THE MONTH

- **Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, etc.:** We have been following an alarming trend in our cases that involves the insurance company (or its lawyers) following our clients through these various social network sites. We have even seen circumstances where an insurance company investigator assumes a fictitious name and tries to befriend a client in an effort to gain as much private knowledge as possible. This is a very rapidly developing area of the law. At this point, we caution all clients to be very careful of what they publish or depict on these sites. Insurance companies will usually try to use anything that portrays our client in a negative light. Please be careful.
- **Avandia Cases:** For well over a decade we have been handling cases involving unsafe drug products. Fen-Phen and Vioxx are some examples. Currently we have been taking a number of cases involving Avandia. This drug was widely prescribed to individuals with diabetes. The drug has been proven to cause heart attacks and congestive heart failure. If you – or a friend or loved one – has taken Avandia and has had any heart problems, please give us a call as soon as possible.

RECENT CASES OF NOTE

- **\$9 million settlement:** Just before the conclusion of a very lengthy trial in Niagara County Supreme Court, insurance companies for Modern Disposal paid our client \$9 million for causing an accident which caused her to need spinal surgery. During the surgery, a rare complication occurred and she suffered a stroke. She will no longer be able to work and will require long-term care. This case demonstrates the well-settled principle that one who causes an accident and need for medical treatment is responsible if complications arise during that treatment. The reasoning is that the injured person would not have needed treatment had the negligence not occurred.
- **\$1.7 million settlement:** On the eve of his trial in Erie County Supreme Court, our client accepted a \$1.7 million settlement from insurance companies for Ryan Homes. Our client was an HVAC installer who fell from the top of a staircase while carrying materials and equipment. A pretrial ruling by the Judge found Ryan responsible for the happening of the accident because proper safety railings were never installed. This case is one of many examples of a violation of the New York's Labor Law which provides special protection for certain types of construction workers. Our client sustained significant and permanent injuries to his back and wrist. He was unable to return to work.



Contact us today!

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