

## SOKOLOVE/CO-COUNSEL

## 2022 Significant Verdicts & Settlements

SETTLEMENT	CASE TYPE	CO-COUNSEL FIRM
\$105,000,000	Mesothelioma and Other Asbestos-Related Diseases	Simmons Hanly Conroy and other co-counsel firms
\$30,000,000	Mass Torts	Multiple Co-counsel firms
\$10,500,000	Birth Injury	Goldberg & Schulkin Law Offices - Chicago, IL
\$7,000,000	Birth Injury	Gershon, Willoughby & Getz, LLC - Baltimore, MD
\$5,900,000	Birth Injury	Duffy & Duffy, Esqs Uniondale, NY
\$3,750,000	Birth Injury	Donahue & Horrow, LLP - El Segundo, CA
\$3,000,000	Birth Injury	Prochaska Howell & Prochaska, LLC - Wichita, KS
\$2,000,000	Birth Injury	Donahue & Horrow, LLP - El Segundo, CA
\$2,000,000	General Liability	Iannella & Mummolo - Boston, MA
\$1,550,000	Birth Injury	Garau Germano, P.C Indianapolis, IN
\$1,500,000	Birth Injury	Nurenberg, Paris, Heller & McCarthy Co., LPA - Cleveland, OH

# Join the Sokolove Law Birth Injury and Nursing Home Campaigns

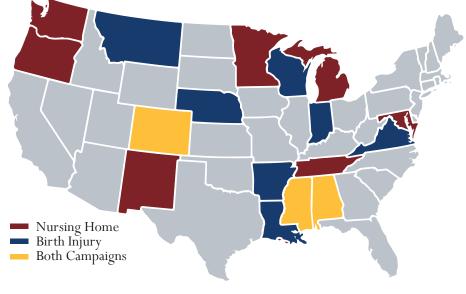
Leverage the power of our multimillion-dollar national television, social and web marketing campaigns to efficiently drive exponential growth in your Birth Injury or Nursing Home practice. Co-counsel firms gain access to our proven experience and significant buying power, enjoying exclusivity for all claims generated for their geographic area(s) and unparalleled ROI.

We have a limited number of states still available. Participation in these campaigns is on a state-by-state basis with our contributing co-counsel firms receiving leads generated for their state.

#### Call us or email us today to learn more about these and our other campaigns.

Christina Kritharas (ckritharas@sokolovelaw.com) 617-467-6904

Bill Rivell (brivell@sokolovelaw.com) 617-467-6906



Nursing Home Campaign -Available states include:

- Alabama
- Colorado
- Maryland/DC
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- New Mexico
- Oregon
- Tennessee



- Birth Injury Campaign -Available states include: • Alabama
  - Arkansas
  - Colorado
  - Indiana
  - Louisiana
  - Mississippi
  - Montana
  - Nebraska
  - Virginia
  - Wisconsin

# SOKOLOVE SUCCE

# Mass Tort Watch: Keeping Up With Philips **CPAP** and Infant Formula Litigation

hough it's not over yet, it looks like 2022 will go down as another eventful year in mass tort litigation. Despite lingering challenges associated with the pandemic, the plaintiffs' bar has kept its shoulder to the wheel in an effort to advance pending litigation. Lawyers involved in the 3M earplug litigation, for instance, completed a series of sixteen bellwether trials that began in 2021. Those efforts culminated with a \$77.5M verdict in May in favor of a military veteran who alleged hearing damage from use of the earplugs.

Further progress was also made in the historic opioid litigation. In August, lawyers representing the city and county of San Francisco notched a win in a bench trial that began in the Spring, when a California federal judge found Walgreens liable for the opioid epidemic ravaging the Bay Area. A week later, three major pharmacy defendants were ordered to pay more than \$650 million to two Ohio counties in the damages phase of an opioid bellwether that took place last year.

Early bellwether trials are also on the horizon in other pending multidistrict litigation, including cases against Juul Labs over its role in the youth vaping epidemic. Meanwhile, several newer mass torts continued to gain momentum in the first half of 2022, garnering increased interest and attention among the public and plaintiffs' lawyers alike. This includes litigation stemming from last year's massive recall of Philips' breathing machines, as well as a growing number of infant injury cases related to several popular brands of baby formula.

The CPAP litigation began last summer following Philips Respironics' June 2021 recall of certain Continuous Positive



Philips DreamStation CPAP machine

Airway Pressure (CPAP), Bi-Level Positive Airway Pressure (Bi-Level PAP) devices and mechanical ventilators due to potential health risks associated with the degradation of polyester-based polyurethane (PE-PUR) sound abatement foam used in the machines. Debris from the foam and/or the off-gassing of harmful chemicals released into the device's air pathway may be inhaled or swallowed by the user, posing a risk of serious, life-threatening injury.

The recall impacted millions of machines, including the popular DreamStation models, which many sleep apnea patients depend upon to prevent breathing interruptions during sleep. The recall left patients scrambling for answers and alternatives. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has received more than 21,000 Medical Device Reports (MDRs), including 124 reports of death associated with foam breakdown or suspected foam breakdown. Cancer, pneumonia, asthma and other respiratory problems, are among the reported injuries.

Lawsuits alleging these and other injuries and death linked to use of the recalled machines, as well as consumer class actions, have been piling up. Last October, the CPAP lawsuits were





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coordinated into an MDL in the Western District of Pennsylvania before U.S. District Judge Joy Flowers Conti, who appointed plaintiffs' leadership in February of this year.

Because the litigation is still in its infancy, it may be too early to predict what unique challenges lay ahead or which injuries will make the strongest cases. However, "establishing what type of injuries are "signature injuries" is unique in every litigation and the general causation work that is being done now and will continue to be done for the foreseeable future will establish which injuries are directly linked to the defective foam," said Trent Miracle, shareholder at Simmons Hanly Conroy, in Alton, Illinois.

As the CPAP cases continue to gain steam, so too does litigation against makers of cow's milk-based infant formula sold under the popular brand names Similac and Enfamil. A growing number of lawsuits against Abbott Laboratories and Mead Johnson allege that the products carry an increased risk of causing necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), a potentially life-threatening intestinal disease affecting premature infants. The cases, which allege severe illness and death, were consolidated into a federal MDL in the Northern District of Illinois in April 2022. U.S. District Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer, who is overseeing this MDL, designated a team of twenty-six lawyers who will assume plaintiffs' leadership roles in the burgeoning litigation.

Separately, lawsuits related to Abbott's February 2022 voluntary recall of

Continued on page 3





Although the law firm of Martin Baughman has been in existence for only a couple of years, the firm's founders Ben Martin and Laura Baughman have decades of combined experience helping victims of negligence and corporate greed. The two joined forces in 2019 after serving as trial counsel in a bellwether trial against Cook Medical in the national IVC filter MDL.

As partners, the pair continued to take on IVC filter manufacturers. Over the past few years their trial successes have included multiple jury verdicts exceeding two million dollars, including a record \$3 million-dollar verdict in a bellwether IVC filter case filed in the Cook MDL in Indianapolis, a \$2.6 million-dollar verdict in Dallas, and a \$3.3 million-dollar verdict in Wisconsin.

In addition to IVC filter cases, the firm's mass tort practice is also focused on representing victims of transvaginal mesh, surgical staplers, CPAP machines, Elmiron, Paraquat and other Dangerous Products, as well as Wrongful Death, Catastrophic Injury, Medical Malpractice and Hospital Liability cases.

Martin and Baughman along with their team of 14 lawyers are frequently sought after for speaking engagements



Martin Baughman's founders, Laura Baughman and Ben Martin

and by publications. They have received numerous awards and accolades including: Texas Super Lawyer, Best Lawyers in America, D Magazine's Best Lawyers in Dallas, The National Law Journal Finalist Elite Law Firms, Top 25 Mass Tort Trial Lawyers, Texas Rising Star, and Best Lawyer in Dallas Under 40.

Sokolove Law has worked with Ben Martin, and more recently Martin Baughman, for nearly a decade on numerous projects. Through its marketing campaigns, Sokolove has assisted in generating hundreds of viable mass tort as well as medical malpractice cases.

"Working with Ben, Laura and their team is an honor," says Sokolove CEO Mike Skoler. "Not only are they great lawyers and leaders in their areas of litigation, they are compassionate and treat each and every client with respect. We look forward to many more years of continued success with their firm."

#### Campaign Highlight



On August 10, 2022, President Joe Biden made history by signing the bipartisan PACT Act into law. The new legislation expands federal health care services to veterans with illnesses related to toxins they inhaled or ingested during their time of service. This includes veterans exposed to contaminated water at U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.

From 1953 to 1987, the drinking water at the United States Marine Corps (USMC) Base Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, North Carolina may have been contaminated. During that time, nearly a million civilian workers, military service members, and their families were potentially exposed to dangerous chemicals that can cause cancer and other serious health issues.

In anticipation of the PACT Act, Sokolove Law launched a fully integrated marketing campaign targeting



individuals who were potentially exposed to the toxic water at Camp Lejeune. We have utilized a wide variety of mediums that have already generated nearly 13,000 qualified leads and more than 5,000 signed cases. Our co-counsel firms are among the leaders in this litigation. If you have a Camp Lejeune case you'd like to refer, please contact us.

# Mass Tort Watch

#### Continued from page 1

certain Similac, Alimentum and EleCare powdered infant formulas manufactured in its Sturgis, Michigan plant, were also sent to the Northern District of Illinois for pretrial coordination. The recall, which followed several reports of bacterial infections in infants who had consumed the products, was implicated in a nationwide shortage that left many families struggling to find baby formula on store shelves. The lawsuits include both personal injury and economic loss claims. U.S. District Judge Matthew Kennelly will oversee this MDL.

These aren't the only areas of litigation attracting the attention of the plaintiffs' bar. There is also a significant amount of interest in several newly created MDLs including litigation over failed

# Join Our Most Popular Campaigns

#### CPAP

Our CPAP campaign has seen heavy volume over the past months. Around 5.9 million U.S. adults have been diagnosed with obstructive sleep apnea and the recall from June 2021 affects 3 to 4 million machines, 80% of which are CPAP devices.

#### Truvada®

Since May 2018, numerous TDF drug users have filed lawsuits seeking financial compensation for injuries, including kidney and bone damage, they allege are linked to use of these HIV medications.

#### Paraquat

In June 2021, the U.S. Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation sent all federally filed paraquat lawsuits to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois for pretrial coordination. There are over 1,900 actions currently pending in the MDL; this is likely to increase as more people learn about the potential link between Paraquat and Parkinson's disease.

## Take Advantage of Us

... Or more specifically, our vast network of co-counsel firms. If you have a case that you need to refer out and don't know where to turn, contact Sokolove Law for your one-stop shopping. We work with over 400 firms nationwide, and chances are, we can put you in



Exactech® orthopedic implants; cases linking prenatal use of acetaminophen products to autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in children; and novel litigation seeking to hold Meta Platforms and others responsible for exploiting underage users of platforms like Facebook and Instagram, causing adolescent social media addiction and related harms.

#### Infant NEC

There are more than 100 lawsuits filed against Abbott Labs and Mead Johnson claiming cows' milk formula caused Necrotizing Enterocolitis and death in premature infants. In April 2022, all federally filed NEC infant formula lawsuits were consolidated into the Northern District of Illinois for pre-trial proceedings.

#### **Exactech**<sup>®</sup>

Medical device manufacturer Exactech® has recalled certain knee, hip and ankle implants due to the potential for premature wear of the polyethylene components, resulting in device loosening, tissue damage, bone loss, and other injuries that may force many patients to undergo revision surgery.

For many years, our multichannel campaigns have been successful at generating quality cases for our co-counsel as well as over \$420 million in attorney fees related to pharmaceutical cases and over \$100 million from medical device cases.

# Call us or email us today to learn more about these and our other campaigns.

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touch with the right firm to associate with on your case. Whether it's a pharmaceutical, defective device, or mesothelioma case, we have relationships with the top litigation firms in the country to ensure that your client gets the best representation.

#### Call us at 1-800-305-4009

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