

Our mission is to help families cope with their loss by compassionately caring for their legal needs.

We attentively persist to achieve the best possible outcome for our clients and provide unparalleled level of service.

We accomplish this by fostering a confident client focused work environment of motivated employees where cooperation thrives and innovation is rewarded.

## PARTNER HUNTER J. SHKOLNIK SELECTED TO LEADERSHIP ROLES IN TALCUM POWDER AND INVOKANA LIABILITY LITIGATIONS



**WE ARE PROUD** to announce that Partner Hunter J. Shkolnik has been named as a Plaintiffs' Executive Committee Member in the *Johnson & Johnson Talcum Powder Products Marketing, Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation* (Case Number: 3:16-md-02738-FLW-LHG) by United States District Judge Freda L. Wolfson of the United States District Court of New Jersey.

The class action alleges that Johnson & Johnson (J&J) hid its knowledge that its talc-based hygiene products had the potential to cause ovarian cancer.

Shkolnik says, "People put their trust in a company who claims to provide safe family products and many of them are paying the ultimate price. My firm and I are ready to fight for the justice the victims and their families deserve."

**SHKOLNIK HAS ALSO BEEN NAMED** as a Plaintiffs' Executive Committee Member in *In Re: Invokana (Canagliflozin) Products Liability Litigation* (MDL No. 2750) by United States District Judge Brian R. Martinotti of the United States District Court of New Jersey.

In 2015 the FDA strengthened its warning based on additional serious safety concerns and added a new Warning and Precaution label. The litigation alleges that the use of Invokana can lead to an increased risk of kidney failure and heart attacks.

"I welcome the opportunity to work with the members of this Executive Committee," says Hunter. "People believe that they are taking a drug to treat one disease and end up having to deal with a whole new set up serious health issues. My firm and I believe that those responsible for our client's suffering should be held accountable and we are ready to take on that fight."

## PLAINTIFFS' STEERING COMMITTEE: ABILIFY PRODUCTS LIABILITY ACTION



**CONGRATULATIONS** Napoli Shkolnik partner Jennifer R. Liakos for being appointed on the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in the *In Re Abilify (Aripiprazole) Products Liability Litigation* (Case No. 3:16-md02734) by Chief United States District Judge M. Casey Rodgers.

This is a case where folks being treated for mental illness have been subjected to a very harmful, and often very costly, unanticipated side effect of a medication that was known to the company.

"This Abilify litigation presents Napoli Shkolnik with an amazing opportunity to work with a very capable group of lawyers representing clients who have been seriously wronged," says Ms. Liakos.



## NAPOLI SHKOLNIK PLLC FILES LAWSUIT AGAINST HELICOPTER MANUFACTURER FOR DEFECTIVE PARTS



**NAPOLI SHKOLNIK PLLC**, on behalf of its clients, filed suit against AgustaWestland Philadelphia Corp. in the United States District Court for the Southern District of California. AgustaWestland is the North American distributor of Agusta A1091A and A109A MK II helicopters. These helicopters were identified last year by the FAA as being defective.

According to the complaint, AgustaWestland deceived purchasers by knowingly failing to disclose this defect when the helicopters were first sold and, even after the FAA's warning, failed to do anything to compensate owners in any way. The complaint alleges claims under California consumer fraud and warranty laws, as well as common law fraud claims. Napoli Shkolnik will be filing additional lawsuits on behalf of owners in other states.

## LAW360 PUBLISHES YEAR-END REPORT: RECOGNIZES NAPOLI SHKOLNIK PLLC LITIGATION AS ONE OF THE TOP PRODUCT LIABILITY CASES OF 2016

**Law360 reviews the most significant product liability ruling of the past year.**

**LAW360 HAS ASSEMBLED** a list of the top Product Liability Cases of 2016 in their Year-End Report and has named *Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. v. Superior Court* to it.

In this case, the plaintiffs are represented by Napoli Shkolnik PLLC partners Marie Napoli, Hunter J. Shkolnik, Shayna E. Sacks, Jennifer R. Liakos and Of Counsel Paul J. Napoli. The Napoli Shkolnik team argued that given the company's contacts in California, including its marketing and distribution and research and development facilities, the state courts have specific personal jurisdiction over non-resident's claims.

The California Supreme Court agreed and gave the

greenlight for almost 600 non-Californians, who filed their suit in the state, to proceed with their litigation against Bristol-Myers Squibb. It was the first time the state high court weighed in on the U.S. Supreme Court's 2014 decision in *Daimler AG v. Bauman*, which said general jurisdiction exists where a company is "at home."

Bristol-Myers Squibb is being sued by California residents and non-residents for its popular blood thinning drug Plavix.

"It is always rewarding to successfully represent our clients and with this ruling, we are proud to be part of a case that will have a positive impact on future pharmaceutical litigations," says Hunter.

The case is *Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. v. S.C.*, California Supreme Court, No. S221038.



## WHEN EVERYDAY HEROES GET HURT, THEY CALL NAPOLI SHKOLNIK PLLC.

WATCH THE VIDEO



### IN THE NEWS

#### TOXIC LANDFILL IN WHEATFIELD, NEW YORK

Napoli Shkolnik PLLC, along with local counsel, has filed notices of claim against the Town of Wheatfield on behalf of local families.

Liver Cancer Patient, Wheatfield Resident, Napoli Shkolnik Client Interviewed by local affiliate.

Client Brett Grawe says they are “in disbelief” that both the town and state environmental conservation agencies have been telling the community that there is no risk to the neighborhood from the landfill.

When speaking with TWC News Buffalo, Partner Louise Caro shared, “Our environmental consultant was shocked actually at how much contamination and how much of the VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds) are in people’s homes.”

When interviewed by The Buffalo News, Paul J. Napoli pointed out that, “All these chemicals that the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) knows are present at the site are chemicals that government agencies universally agree cause cancer.”



**Hunter J. Shkolnik** on CNN's PrimeTime Justice with Ashleigh Banfield discussing a specific elder abuse incident.



**Hunter J. Shkolnik** providing his legal insight on a dangerous driver, high on heroin, swerving all over the road.



*PrimeTime Justice* invites **Hunter J. Shkolnik** back to comment on a recent Walmart Shooting: *Felony Murder?*

**Napoli Shkolnik PLLC continues to be proud to support the community through various educational organizations, cultural initiatives and awareness programs.**



## KEEPING YOU INFORMED



### THE PRESCRIPTION OPIOID DRUG EPIDEMIC

#### RECENTLY NAPOLI SHKOLNIK PLLC

filed a wrongful death lawsuit in the Circuit of the City of St. Louis on behalf of a mother of three who tragically overdosed after taking prescription opioid pain medications.

Unfortunately, millions of Americans battle addiction to prescription opioid medications. And the wrongful death litigations involve individuals from all walks of life and of all ages.

The lawsuits claim it is possible that the deaths were preventable. The hospitals, clinics and pharmacies involved in the prescription and distribution of these extremely addictive substances should recognize the signs of addiction. It has even been alleged that the health care providers were made aware of an existing addiction and continued to prescribe the pain medication.

If you suffer from prescription opioid addiction or have lost a loved one as the result of addiction, we encourage you to review your legal options with a Napoli Shkolnik attorney.



### ZOSTAVAX VACCINE

This single-injection vaccine is an expensive shot administered against shingles.

This vaccine prescription is only effective in about 50% of patients. A possible side effect includes chicken pox and shingles, the very same disease it is supposed to prevent.

If you have been diagnosed with the painful skin rash, shingles, after taking Zostavax, we strongly encourage you to contact Napoli Shkolnik PLLC for a free, confidential consultation.



### HONDA'S VEHICLES IRRESISTIBLE TO RODENTS

Honda and several other automakers are trying to save money and be more environmentally responsible by using soy-based coatings on fuel lines, electrical wiring, and other key components of their cars.

The damage caused by rodents chewing through these components is costly and the car owner has to foot the bill even though the automaker should cover the damage under the warranty.

Please contact our Commercial Litigation department for a free, no-obligation consultation.

### SIGN UP

Receive weekly legal updates from Napoli Shkolnik.

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