



Water is Essential. And So is Representation if It Causes You Harm.

W

ater is a living necessity. And when we turn on our taps for a drink or to bathe ourselves

or our children, we assume it's safe. However, corporations continue to take shortcuts often leading to mistakes to save money, giving little regard to the impact on local families – mothers, dads, children. Or they don't monitor and communicate the dangers. It happens everywhere; but it has also happened right here in the Mid-Ohio Valley – the place we call home. All because of one toxic chemical called C8.

C8 is the name given to perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), a man-made chemical used in manufacturing products that are a part of our daily lives. Some

applications include non-stick cookware, protective finishes on carpets, and water-resistant clothing.

DuPont's West Virginia Washington Works Plant in southwest Parkersburg released C8 into the air and Ohio River from the 1950s until the early 2000s. C8 reached drinking water supplies by seeping into the groundwater and was detected in six water districts near the DuPont plant in 2002.

A class action lawsuit brought by the communities against DuPont resulted in a Settlement Agreement in the Wood County Circuit Court. As part of that settlement, Brookmar Inc., an independent company, was set up and conducted a yearlong survey (August 2005 - July 2006) called the C8 Health Project. The C8 Health Project gathered

information through interviews and questionnaires and collected blood samples from about 69,000 people living near the Washington Works plant in West Virginia.

The settlement also established that a group of public health scientists would assess whether or not there is a probable link between C8 exposure and disease in the community.

It was found that exposure to PFCs like PFOA has been associated with cancer, high cholesterol, abnormal thyroid hormone levels, pregnancy-induced hypertension and preeclampsia, obesity and low birth weight.

Tens of thousands of local residents in the Mid-Ohio Valley were drinking untreated water contaminated at levels

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Letter From Jan

Since our last edition of this newsletter, we have received many questions in two areas in particular: cancer victims who suspect their diagnosis is related to water toxicity resulting from the DuPont's contamination

of our drinking water and also injuries resulting from prescription drug use. These are cases we see all too often.

Both can be difficult to navigate and put you in a David versus Goliath situation.

The first article is about a toxic chemical called C8. There are many uses for C8, included making Teflon™ pots and pans. It wasn't until the year 2000 investigative groups discovered the toxin had been seeping into our rivers from our local DuPont Plant. Since then, C8 has been linked to cancer. Unfortunately, we have clients who



Jan Dils brings her expertise to issues that affect you and millions of other Americans every day. While her knowledge spans the critical areas pertaining to Personal Injury, Veterans' benefits, Social Security disability benefits and related appeals and claims, her practice remains focused on people, making sure you get the right answers and results.

have been impacted. That's why we do the work we do - to protect our citizens from corporations.

The same goes for the serious consequences you or your family may suffer because of prescribed medications. According to the Washington Post, nine out of 10 big pharmaceutical companies spend more on marketing than research. This is a staggering statistic and, the way we see it, manipulation of the public. The world has changed a lot since I started this firm in 1994. The balance of our caseload is ever-changing. But we continue to stay on top of the laws and aggressively represent our clients. If you ever have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to be in touch. A consultation is always free. Call us toll-free at **877.526.3457**.

Sincerely,
Jan Dils

Community Corner

Community outreach is an important part of what we do. Each year our employees participate in several events outside the office. It's important to all of us as a company to give back to the community. In 2017, two employees led the charge. **Bobbie Smith** and **Jolene Reeder** continuously go above and beyond to unselfishly give of their time and motivate others. Because of their hard work and dedication, we recognized them with the inaugural Community Spirit Award this past December. Please join us in congratulating Bobbie and Jolene! It's teammates like them that make us the compassionate firm we always want to be.



Jolene Reeder and Bobbie Smith

BRAIN GAME

A wuzzle is a saying/phrase that is made up of a display of words, in an interesting way. The object is to try to figure out the well-known saying, person, place, or thing that each wuzzle is meant to represent.

TOWthrowEL	
HAND HAND EXPERIENCE	golf
TIDE	CORNE, CORNE,

Answers: 1. Throw in the Towel 2. All Eyes are on You
3. Hands on Experience 4. Miniature Golf 5. High Tide
6. Cutting Corners

Product Liability Claims Involving Pharmaceutical Drugs.



If you have been injured by a pharmaceutical drug you used, you may have a defective product claim. Pharmaceutical-drug-based product liability claims are similar to other defective product claims, but pharmaceutical-related injury claims have a number of special features.

Types of Drug-Related Product Liability Claims

Drug-related product liability claims come in three basic varieties: claims based on defectively manufactured pharmaceutical drugs; pharmaceutical drugs with dangerous side effects (even though properly manufactured); and improperly marketed pharmaceutical drugs. (These parallel the three categories of defective product claims in general).

Defectively Manufactured

Pharmaceutical Drugs: This category of claims involves injuries caused by pharmaceutical drugs that have been improperly manufactured or have somehow become tainted. This may be the result of an error at the manufacturing facility or the pharmacy where the drug was made or bottled, or a problem that occurs during shipping, or an error in labeling – in other words, any situation in which a mistake is made at any point between the factory and the place you receive the drug.

Pharmaceutical Drugs with Dangerous Side Effects: This category of claims

involves pharmaceutical drugs that, although properly manufactured, have side effects that result in injury. These cases sometimes involve drugs that have been on the market for a long time before it is discovered that they increase the risk of a certain type of injury, such as heart attacks. In some cases, the victims may claim that the manufacturer knew of the danger but deliberately concealed it. If the victims can prove this, they will get more money in the form of punitive damages.

Improperly Marketed Pharmaceutical Drugs: The "marketing" of a pharmaceutical drug refers to the warnings,

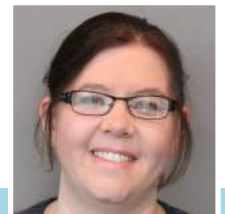
instructions, or recommendations concerning the use of that drug. This category often involves injuries caused by a failure to provide adequate or accurate warnings regarding a dangerous side effect or a failure to provide adequate instructions regarding the safe and appropriate use of the drug. The "bad advice" may have been given by the manufacturer or by a doctor, pharmacist, sales rep, or some other medical provider.

Keep in mind that your defective product lawsuit may include a combination of claims. For example, a claim based on a drug with a dangerous side effect may be coupled with a claim based on the failure to warn of that side effect. Each different type of claim may net a different subset of defendants. At Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, we have experience and expertise identifying and pursuing the defendants liable in each individual case. Common medications have included Xarelto, Invokana, PPIs, TRT and Risperdal. If you are (or have) taken this medication, please do not be alarmed unless you've experienced injury, or you believe any of these drugs may have been a complicating factor in a loved one's death. Of course, if you have questions or concerns, do not hesitate to give us a toll-free call at 877.526.3457.

Sources: www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/product-liability-claims-pharmaceutical-drugs-30314.html

Grilled Chicken Tacos with Strawberry Salsa

Cinco De Mayo meets peak strawberry season with this delightfully fresh spring recipe from VA Leads and Intake Specialist, **Amanda Hartline**.



INGREDIENTS:

1 1/2 lb. skinless, boneless chicken-breast halves
1 tsp. chili powder
1 tsp. canola oil
12 fajita-size flour tortillas
Olive oil cooking spray

8 oz. strawberries
2 medium tomatoes
1 medium avocado
1 small shallot
2 limes
1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese
2 cups Cilantro leaves

DIRECTIONS: Prepare outdoor grill for covered direct grilling on medium. Rub chicken with chili powder, oil, and 1/4 teaspoon of salt. Grill chicken, covered, 12 to 15 minutes or until cooked through (165°), turning over once halfway through. Transfer cooked chicken to cutting board. Let stand 5 minutes. Meanwhile, spray tortillas with cooking spray. Grill 1 to 2 minutes or until grill marks appear, turning over once halfway through. Transfer to plate. While chicken rests, in medium bowl, stir together strawberries, tomatoes, avocado, shallot, and 1/8 teaspoon salt. Squeeze juice of half of 1 lime into mixture, stirring to combine. Thinly slice chicken and serve in tortillas topped with strawberry salsa, feta, and cilantro. Garnish with remaining limes, cut into wedges.



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that are dangerous and unacceptable. And you don't need to live near the West Virginia plant to be exposed to C8, which is one of the reasons the trials over this unregulated chemical have implications for all of us.

DuPont and the seven other companies that made or used the chemical have all stopped doing so as of 2015. And the EPA now requires testing for the contaminant.

Sadly, it is too late to fully remove C8 from all the bodies of water and human bloodstreams it now pollutes. As far as scientists can determine, C8 never breaks down and is expected to remain on the planet well after humans are gone from it.

There is some good news about C8: DuPont and the seven other companies that made or used the chemical have all stopped doing so as of 2015. And the EPA now requires testing for the contaminant. However, for those exposed and stricken with cancer, it's too late.

At Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, we have seen and advocated for many people who have been affected by C8, specifically resulting in Kidney Cancer, Testicular Cancer and Ulcerative Colitis. If you believe you or a loved one



was a victim due to the carelessness of the DuPont Plant, please call us at 877.526.3457 for a free consultation. We're here for you. And we don't take NO for an answer.