

# INSIGHTS

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1994

## LEAD POISONING: ARE YOUR CHILDREN IN DANGER?

### LEAD POISONING IS THE NUMBER ONE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH THREAT TO CHILDREN.

Lead Poisoning is caused by swallowing or breathing a minute amount of lead. Results of recent research have caused the federal government to redefine lead poisoning, its devastating effects and the health risks to children and adults.

Anyone can be poisoned by lead but it is most dangerous for children under six years of age and pregnant women. To know if you might be in danger of exposure to lead, ask yourself the following questions:

*Q. Does Your Apartment or House Have Peeling Paint or Cracked Plaster?*

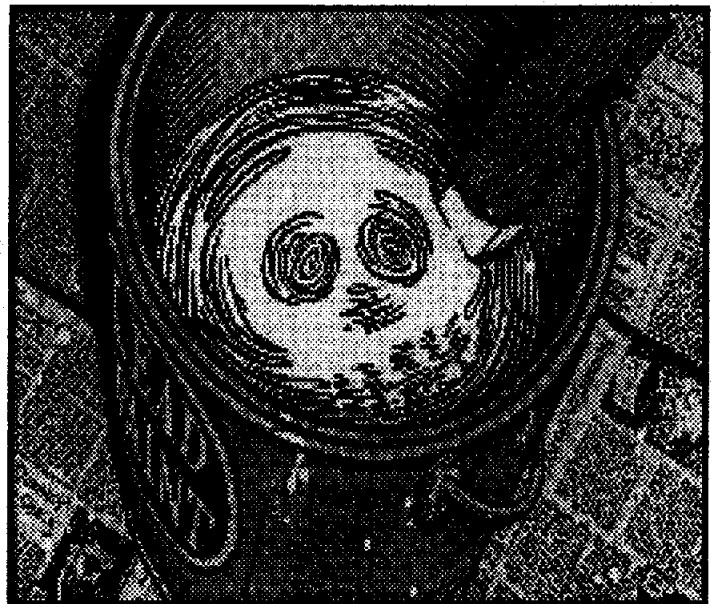
If it does it may mean that at one time lead paint was used in your building. Lead is a poison which harms children. If there is lead in your home your children can be poisoned from eating the chips from the peeling paint and by breathing in the dust on the floor that they are playing on. If your home or apartment has peeling paint, cracked walls or chipped plaster (pay particular attention to door, moldings and window frames), and you have children, have their blood tested immediately.

*Q. What can you do to prevent your child from getting lead poisoning?*

**All children should be tested at least once a year even if their home does not have peeling paint.** What if their babysitters's house has lead paint, or their relative's house has lead paint? Because low-level poisoning does not present identifiable symptoms it is very important that children be tested routinely.

*Q. What else can a parent do to protect their children from lead poisoning?*

Lead poisoning has been linked to poor diet. Children without enough iron or calcium are more likely to absorb lead. Dark leafy greens like spinach and romaine lettuce are good sources of iron. Milk and cheese are good sources of calcium. You can ask your pediatrician about children's vitamins.



*Q. What are the effects of lead poisoning?*

Preventing lead poisoning is important because lead at low levels robs kids of skills like reading, writing, concentration and abstract thinking; the type of skills that are required for academic success and employment success. It has been proven that children with high lead levels score lower in I.Q. tests.

If your child is diagnosed with lead poisoning SANDERS, SANDERS & BLOCK can help. We are successfully representing other victims of lead poisoning. Call us and we will explain your rights to you!

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## SANDERS, SANDERS & BLOCK WELCOMES ITS NEW ASSOCIATES



Sanders, Sanders & Block welcomes Carolyn Burns, Esq. as an associate with the firm. Ms. Burns is an honors graduate of St. Johns University and was admitted in January, 1985. She has worked as an attorney for both plaintiffs and defendants throughout her career.

Ms. Burns specialties lie in processing claims for and against drivers, home owners, business entities and corporations. Although Ms. Burns has tried many cases to verdict, she values the benefits that fair and just settlements bring to clients.

In addition to her distinguished legal career, Ms. Burns has also been active in informing the community about the threatened rights of medical malpractice and accident victims due to the large public relations campaigns of major insurance companies; campaigns which have attempted to paint attorneys and clients as litigious villains out to defraud the general public. She has spoken to parent-teacher associations, and other community groups warning them of the ever increasing encroachment upon their rights to pursue fair and just compensation in our courts.



Sanders, Sanders & Block welcomes Howard Eison to our firm. Howard is a 1974 honors graduate of New York Law School and was admitted to the Bar for the State of New York in March, 1975.

Following his admission to practice law in both the State and Federal Courts of New York, he has held several positions with plaintiff and defense personal injury firms. Mr. Eison's expertise has been in representing personal injury clients in medical malpractice, products liability, and catastrophic tort injury cases.

Before joining the firm, Mr Eison had been associated with the law firm Fuchberg & Fuchberg, and thereafter with one of its former senior litigation partners, Edwin N. Weidman, Esq. As an associate of Mr. Weidman, Mr. Eison was involved in processing and taking to trial on numerous major tort litigation matters. Mr. Eison has attained several six figure verdicts after fighting through heavily contested trials.



Sanders, Sanders & Block is also proud to announce that Meryl Sanders Viener has joined the firm. Meryl is literally "one of the family." Her parents, Phyllis and Stanley Sanders, are partners at the firm and her husband, Joseph Viener, is also an associate working for the firm.

Meryl is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis. She then attended Brooklyn Law School where she was a Deans Merit Scholar. She obtained her Juris Doctor in Law and was admitted to practice law in the State of

New York in 1993.

Throughout law school and upon graduating Meryl was an associate for Edwin Weidman, one of the country's most accomplished trial lawyers. Meryl has processed complex personal injury, medical malpractice, and lead poisoning cases. She was a part of several six and seven figure verdicts and settlements for traumatically injured clients.

## Breast Implant

Several major manufacturers of silicone on how they will fund what may possibly be t

The tentative agreement considers a s broad outline of how the money will be dis indicated that the fund would not only pay f treatment as well. Details of how payments still be worked out.

Women will be required to register if Alternatively, women will have to file a forma they wish to pursue other legal remedies in t will be set by U.S. District Judge Sam Poin

A woman who wishes to pursue legal rem caused by the effects of a silicone breast in Statute of limitation should be aware of a Rev result. This statute allows a woman to bring the Statute of Limitations as long as the actio date of the act. The Revival Statute went in

There are many factors to be considere settlement or opt out and pursue a cause of before making such a decision. Please call Esq. to discuss your rights.

An estimated one to two mill implants. If you have breast implant your life?

- Joint Pain
- Dermatological problems, r
- Chronic fatigue
- Hard or misshapen breast
- Change in size of breast
- Lupus, or positive ANA test
- Night sweats
- Unexplained weight gain
- Burning and/or stinging in b
- Hair loss
- Memory loss or confusion
- Gastro-intestinal symptoms
- Metal taste in mouth
- Swelling of the joints, lymph

If you have had implants and are cur symptoms, call us and we can advi

# litigation Update

Most implants reached a tentative agreement largest product liability settlement in history. A settlement worth about \$4.75 billion dollars. A settlement was announced last fall. That outline covers personal injuries but also for removal of implants and how the settlement will be apportioned among manufacturers must

They want to participate in the settlement. The notice that they are opting out in the event that the Courts. The time allowed for either decision is 30 days. In the case of J. R. of Birmingham, Alabama.

Statutes in the Courts for personal injuries or death of a claimant whose claim is barred by the applicable statute of limitations. A bill passed specifically to alleviate this problem for causes of action despite the expiration of the statute of limitations commenced within one year of the effective date of the bill on July 21, 1993.

Before deciding whether to take part in the litigation in court. Legal advice should be sought from either Eva Leone, Esq. or Stanley J. Sanders,

U.S. women have had breast cancer. The following symptoms control

swelling, or itching

without diagnosis of lupus

fast

swelling, or arms

if you are suffering from any of the above symptoms, you should consult with your attorney.

## SOCIAL SECURITY: WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE DENIED DISABILITY BENEFITS

**Request a Reconsideration.** Many disabled people become disheartened after they receive a disability benefits denial notice and do not pursue their applications. This is often a mistake. Nationally, about two-thirds of all applicants are denied benefits initially. But many of these people ultimately receive benefits.

Therefore, if you are disabled but you have been denied benefits, you should contact your Social Security office and file for Reconsideration within 60 days of the day you received your Denial Notice.

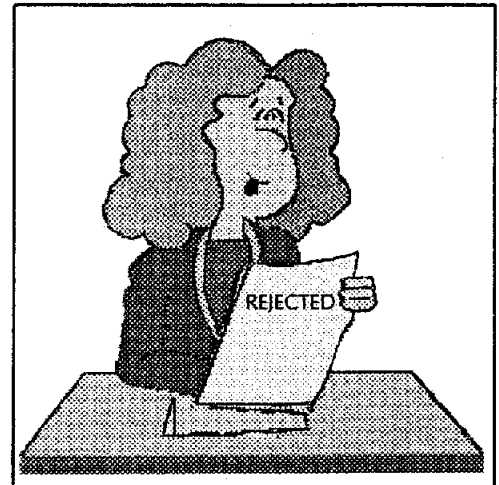
### Will I Be Approved Upon Reconsideration?

Probably not, but do not be discouraged. Only about fifteen percent of all Reconsiderations result in awards benefits. If you are denied at this point, you should within 60 days request a Hearing.

The Hearing is the crucial step of the appeal process, where you will have the best chance of winning. Slightly more than half of all Hearings result in the claimant receiving benefits.

A Hearing is conducted by the Office of Hearings and Appeals of the Social Security Administration. This is not the same agency which denied your Initial Application and your Reconsideration.

You have the rights to have an attorney represent you in your Social Security case. Statistics have shown that people represented by attorneys have been successful more often than people without attorney representation. If you have any questions regarding your rights, or if someone you know needs assistance, call us and we can help.



## ARBITRATION OR MEDIATION: IS THERE A DIFFERENCE?

Arbitration or Mediation are often useful in our fight to insure that injured victims receive adequate and fair compensation for their injuries.

An Arbitration is a mini-trial held before an arbitrator who is often a retired judge experienced in personal injury cases. The major advantages are that an Arbitration is quicker and less expensive than a trial. We can often get the Insurance Company to agree that no matter what the decision is the claimant will receive at least some minimum amount. The major disadvantages are that the arbitrator's decision is binding

and there can be no Appeal.

A Mediation is different from an Arbitration in that it is not a trial and it is not binding. It is an attempt to reach a just settlement with the Insurance Company with the help of an impartial mediator, again usually a retired Judge. If the case is not settled nothing is lost, we can still proceed to trial.

Whether it is an Arbitration-Mediation or Jury trial, you need an experienced Trial Attorney representing your interests. That is why Sanders, Sanders & Block maintains a team of experienced Trial Lawyers.

## INSIGHTS ON THE LAW

**INSIGHTS** is published for clients and friends of the law firm of Sanders, Sanders & Block, P.C. Information contained in this publication is not intended to fully interpret current law, and should not be viewed as a substitute for legal consultation in that laws change from time to time and may be affected by specific circumstances. We welcome questions or comments regarding any information contained within these pages.

### IN CASE OF INJURY

When your friends, family members, or fellow workers get injured, they may need an attorney. We've helped thousands of people obtain compensation for their injuries.

Our toll free telephone number is 1-800-526-6670. Please give it to someone who might need our services.

We are pleased to announce that ANN BLOCK ESQ., formerly an associate of the firm of GASSMAN FISHER & FASS has opened her new office at 100 Herricks Road, Mineola, NY. Ann Block is a member of the Family Law Section of the New York State Bar and practices exclusively in the area of Domestic Relations and Family Law.

Matrimonial Law is constantly evolving and anyone contemplating a divorce or custody proceeding must be aware of their rights and obligations prior to commencing litigation proceedings. Ann is an attorney familiar with recent developments and sensitized to the trauma experienced by both parents and children can provide the proper guidance during this traumatic period.

We wish her much success with her new firm.

## SANDERS, SANDERS & BLOCK



*A history of helping people*

# *Sanders, Sanders & Block, P.C.*

*Attorneys at Law*

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**MOVING ....**

If you are planning on moving or have already moved, please notify us so that we can continue to keep in touch with you.