

Williams Kherkher Sponsors Annual Light the Night Walk.

Williams Kherkher joined forces with the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society to help in the fight to cure blood cancers by sponsoring the organization's annual Light the Night Walk. This was the firm's second year as an event sponsor and made a Gold Level commitment.

"Light the Night is a great way to extend our commitment to our community, that is to help others," said Stafford H. Burns, Marketing Manager for Williams Kherkher. "Our firm is proud to be involved and we look forward to a day when this event is not necessary because a cure has been found."

Participants at the walks carry illuminated balloons – white for survivors, red for supporters, and gold to remember those who have died – to honor

and commemorate lives touched by diseases such as Leukemia and Lymphoma.

"It is always a grim reminder of the deadly nature of this disease when you look out and see all of the gold balloons that represent those who are no longer with us, but it is also encouraging and uplifting to see a sea of white and red ones too," said Williams Kherkher partner and blood cancer survivor John Boundas. "I am honored that the firm would be a part of such a tremendous event."

"Light The Night Walk gives hope to patients and their families and lets them know they are not alone in their battle against cancer," said Jennifer Tucker, Light the Night Campaign Director. "We are so happy to have Williams Kherkher and its employees engaged and committed to our cause."



LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY | LIGHT THE NIGHT WALK



For more information on The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Light The Night Walk, visit lightthenight.org.

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Depakote affects the children of our community.

By Sejal Brahmabhatt

Time and time again it seems that we read about the chilling side effects that some prescribed drugs have on ordinary people. It becomes even more difficult to read when the victims of these defective drugs are those that we want to protect the most: infants and children.

Depakote is a drug originally approved in 1978 for the treatment of epilepsy. Since then, it has been used to treat seizure disorders, some psychiatric conditions and migraine headaches. It is manufactured by Abbott Laboratories and marketed under the names *Depacon* and *Depakene*. There are also generic versions known as valproate sodium, valproic acid and divalproex sodium.

Studies have shown that women who take *Depakote* while pregnant have a greater chance of having a child born with certain defects such as:

- Neural tube defects such as spina bifida
- Cardiac defects such as aortic stenosis, tetralogy of fallot, ventricular septal defect
- Facial defects such as cleft lip/palate and facial dysmorphism
- Head/neck defects such as hydrocephaly
- Urogenital defects
- Skeletal/limb defects such as foot deformities, abnormal digits and Scoliosis



For more information about *Depakote*, visit our *Depakote* resource site at depakotelawsuitcounsel.com or call our office at 800-220-9341.

We will be happy to talk to you and discuss your potential claim.

Sejal Brahmabhatt is an attorney and has been with Williams Kherkher since 2003. She has worked on dozens of cases involving dangerous pharmaceuticals. Contact Sejal at 713-230-2227 or sbrahmabhatt@williamskherkher.com.

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Early failure, pain and debris lead to hip replacement recall.

By Margret Lecocke

The ability to get around is one that many of us take for granted every day. Mobility is a key to being able to live a free and active lifestyle. A common obstacle, particularly with older Americans, is an injured or degenerated hip. Every year, thousands among us elect to have hip replacement surgery, and most go on to regain the freedom they desire and deserve.

There are, however, some exceptions.

DePuy Orthopedics, a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson, has made headlines lately with the recall of DePuy's ASR Hip Resurfacing and ASR XL Acetabular System.

These ASR hip systems have been implanted in approximately 93,000 patients worldwide since 2003. Of those, approximately 13% of patients have required revision surgery within five years. Patients in some cases have reported that the systems are not only causing pain, infection and mobility issues, but also generate metal debris in the patient's body. This metal debris can create toxic levels of materials such as chromium and cobalt in patients' surrounding bone, tissue and bloodstream.



If you or a loved one has had a DePuy Orthopedics ASR Hip Resurfacing and ASR XL Acetabular System implanted, contact our office today.

“13% of patients have required revision surgery within five years.”



Margret Lecocke handles medical and pharmaceutical cases for Williams Kherkher. Contact Margret at 713-230-2362 or mlecocke@williamskherkher.com

Williams contributes to report on refinery workers.

The Center for Public Integrity, in partnership with ABC News, recently published an investigative report entitled *Fueling Fears*, about the risk faced by oil refinery workers. As part of this extensive report, sub-titled *The Hidden Hazards of U.S. Refineries*, Williams Kherkher managing partner John Eddie Williams was asked to weigh in on the roadblocks that many injured refinery workers encounter when attempting to seek justice from the owners and operators of refineries.



Mr. Williams specifically reacted to a Texas law and court decision that restricts the ability for injured workers to sue the companies that own refineries, offering that these restrictions “grant immunity to people who don't deserve it. The worker gets nothing.”

Williams Kherkher represented 150 victims of a 2005 British Petroleum refinery explosion in Texas City. Reflecting on that case, Mr. Williams added, “when a premises owner such as BP repeatedly ignores safety warnings and has repeated safety violations, they should not receive immunity.”

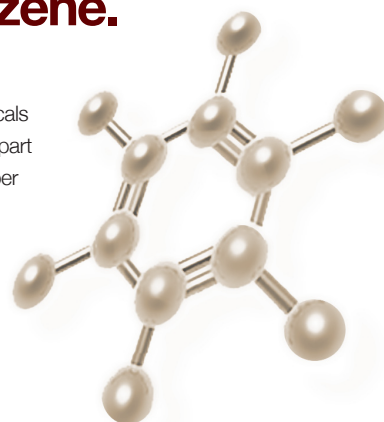
Williams Kherkher is dedicated to ensuring that every member of our community has access to justice for their family.

To view the full *Fueling Fears* report, visit publicintegrity.org/articles/entry/2928/

A CLOSER LOOK: The dangers of Benzene.

By Steve Kherkher

Benzene is among the 20 most widely used chemicals in the United States. It is used mainly as a solvent as part of the process of producing other chemicals. A number of consumer products contain benzene and certain occupations expose workers to the chemical on a daily basis.



Did you know that benzene is a potential cause of certain diseases including forms of cancer?

- Acute myelogenous leukemia (AML)
- Non-Hodgkins lymphoma (NHL)
- Myelodysplasia or myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS)
- Aplastic anemia
- Multiple myeloma

If you or a loved one has one of these diseases, it might be related to benzene exposure. If you would like to learn whether your medical diagnosis might be related to benzene exposure, or if you would like additional information about the diagnosis or treatment of these diseases, please visit our Benzene information page at williamskherkher.com/practice_areas/benzene or contact our office.



Steve Kherkher is a partner and specializes in personal injury and pharmaceutical-related cases.

SPOTLIGHT: AlloDerm

By Candice McNabb

AlloDerm is a type of skin graft primarily used in breast reconstruction following mastectomies and in the treatment of severe burns and lacerations. It has also been used for other procedures including hernia repair.

AlloDerm was originally developed by the company LifeCell and was welcomed by doctors and patients at that time as a safer alternative to synthetic meshes/grfts, thought to reduce risk of infection.

AlloDerm is made from skin cells that are harvested from cadavers, processed, and used as skin grafts. The processing supposedly increases the safety of the product as it uses natural tissue which becomes ‘part’ of the recipient's body and has been touted by the manufacturer to be a permanent fix.

However, side effects have occurred among abdominal hernia patients who have been treated with *AlloDerm*, including most notably, hernia recurrence. Studies now show *AlloDerm* IS NOT a permanent solution when used to repair abdominal and/or inguinal hernias. Because the graft is made from human skin, it contains elastin which stretches. Over time, the forces in these regions of our body exert force upon these patches, stretching the patch, causing the hernia to return in the same area. As a result, the recipient may suffer pain and ultimately a second operation to repair the hernia.



Numerous serious side effects are associated with failed *AlloDerm* hernia patches, including:

- Development of abscesses
- Infection, which can become life-threatening
- Swelling and extreme discomfort
- Recurrence of hernia
- Bruising and contusions



If you or someone you know has been treated with *AlloDerm* and have experienced any of the side effects listed above, visit our *AlloDerm* site at hernia-patchlawsuit.com or call our office today to discuss a potential claim.

Candice McNabb is an attorney who handles medical and pharmaceutical cases for Williams Kherkher. She can be reached at 713-230-2322 or cmcnabb@williamskherkher.com.

Union workers win arbitration cases.

While a war over the rights of workers and the status of unions has raged in states across the country and in the national media over the last few months, Williams Kherkher has continued to represent union members in arbitration cases for wrongful termination.

In each of these recent cases, the companies were unable to establish by a preponderance of the evidence that the employees' terminations were justified and each were reinstated to their previous positions and made whole for their economic and seniority losses.

Two arbitration cases involved members of United Steelworkers (USW) No. 13-227. One case was represented by attorney Margret Lecocke and the other by the duo of Jim Hart, a Williams Kherkher partner, and attorney Candice McNabb.

McNabb also won an arbitration case for a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) No. 66, while Hart later represented a member of USW No. 13-487 in another arbitration victory.

Williams Kherkher is proud to support the rights of workers and is dedicated to bringing justice to those who make up the foundation of our community and our local economy.

DRIVE SAFELY: Tips for your summer vacation.

By Eloy Gaitan

We know that families are beginning to prepare for the time-honored American staple, the summer road trip. However, as the weather starts to heat up, so do the country's highways and interstates. Whether it is a trip just down the road or a trek hundreds of miles away, knowing just a few simple tips can make you and your family's journey a safer and easier one.

Williams Kherkher believes in taking care of our community and we want to make sure you are well prepared for whatever life brings you.

1. GET PLENTY OF REST BEFORE A LONG TRIP

According to the NHTSA, there are 100,000 sleep-related crashes on the nation's roadways every year. Make sure you get a good night's sleep. Pull over and stretch. If sleepiness starts to take over, stop and get a hotel room. Trying to fight fatigue is not worth your or your family's safety.

2. TUNE OUT DISTRACTIONS

Today's modern “creature comforts” easily integrate into our cars – cell phones, GPS systems, mp3 players and screaming kids, just to name a few. The number of accidents caused by distracted drivers is on the rise. Make sure you are focused on your main job when behind the wheel – safe driving. Protect not only those in your car but those around you as well.

3. CHECK YOUR TIRES

Make sure your tires are inflated to the proper pressure. Not only will this help you remain safe, but it's good for gas mileage! Also make sure there are no visible signs of tire wear or damage. While you're at it, check that your spare tire is in good condition, fully inflated and that your tire-changing equipment is in the trunk and working properly. You never know.

4. RESPECT THE BIG RIGS

They are big, take longer to stop and can't always see you. Respect their space.

5. OBEY SPEED LIMITS AND BUCKLE UP!

Pretty basic advice, but something that should not be overlooked.



Eloy Gaitan specializes in personal injury cases. He can be reached at 713-230-2326 or egaitan@williamskherkher.com