

Jackson & MacNichol

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Information From Jackson & MacNichol Attorneys At Law

Toll Free: 1-800-JACKSON (1-800-522-5766)

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Wishing
you and yours a
happy and healthy
2020!

*From our family to yours,
Jackson & MacNichol*



DEFECTIVE EARPLUGS a pain in Vet's ears



Hundreds of U.S. veterans are suing 3M, the company that made the Combat Arms earplugs that were in use from 2003 – 2015. The earplugs had a bad seal, which allowed dangerously loud sounds to slip into a soldier's ear without the wearer knowing. The failure resulted in hearing loss, tinnitus and loss of balance.

In 2018, 3M agreed to pay \$9.1 million to resolve allegations that it knowingly sold the dual-ended Combat Arms Earplugs, Version 2 (CAEv2) to the United States military without disclosing defects that hampered the effectiveness of the hearing protection device. The settlement with the U.S. Justice Department made things right between the company and the government, but individual veterans who were harmed are also pursuing justice.

Since February 2019, 100 lawsuits have been filed in the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas — Waco Division. Considering the widespread harm these defective ear plugs have caused, this could be just the beginning. Documents in these suits allege that 3M knew about the defect in 2000 due to their own testing, but falsified certification stating that the testing complied with military standards.

If you or a loved one served between 2003 and 2015 and suffered hearing loss after wearing Combat Arms earplugs, contact our office for a free consultation.

New England
Social Security Disability and Personal Injury Law

Nationwide
Veterans Disability Law



XARELTO UPDATE

The popular blood thinner Xarelto, manufactured by Bayer AG and distributed in the U.S. by Janssen Pharmaceuticals, a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson, has been causing some much-deserved legal trouble for the past few years. Side effects of the drug, such as internal bleeding, wound infection issues, strokes, and hemorrhages, that were not warned against became major problems, causing at least 370 patient deaths. Xarelto is now the focus of about 25,000 lawsuits.

Xarelto is a blood thinner that has several uses, including reducing the risk of stroke in patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation; treating deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism, and reducing the recurrence of these conditions; and preventing blood clots in patients following knee or hip surgery. Xarelto can cause severe, uncontrolled internal bleeding which causes patients a number of problems and can lead to death.

In 2015, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration received a total of 10,674 reports involving patients on Xarelto, including 1,121 patient deaths and 4,508 injuries requiring hospitalization. This showed that Xarelto was responsible for the largest number of reported cases of serious injury among regularly monitored drugs in that year.

With the lawsuits mounting, Bayer and Janssen agreed to settle a multi-district litigation suit for \$775 million. This does not mean it's too late to get justice if you or a loved one was harmed by this drug. Any patient who experienced discolored urine, uncontrolled bleeding, bleeding gums not related to periodontal disease, red stools, stroke, bleeding event, heavier than normal menstruation, coughing up blood clots, or vomiting blood after taking Xarelto should contact our office for a free consultation.

Jackson & MacNichol **COMMUNITY CONNECTION**

A referral is the greatest professional compliment we can receive. If you have a friend, neighbor, or family member who is in need of legal representation with the VA, please consider referring them to our firm. We will do our best to provide the highest possible level of service and deliver winning results.

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WWW.VETERANSBENEFITS.COM

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Jackson & MacNichol
238 Western Ave.
South Portland, ME 04106

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The information included in this newsletter is not intended as a substitute for professional legal advice. For your specific situation, please call the appropriate legal professional.

SSA & VA: how they relate

The interrelation of benefits from the Social Security Administration (SSA) and your veterans disability compensation can be confusing. The SSA provides several benefits, which interact with your veterans compensation in different ways. One of these benefits, supplemental security income (SSI) is a needs based program, so it is affected by veterans benefits compensation. Needs based benefits such as Supplemental Security Income or even VA's own non-service connected pension, are reduced by any income you receive, which includes a veteran's service connected disability compensation. SSI is a program aimed at helping people with limited income who are disabled, blind, or over the age of 64. This means that in addition to showing that you are disabled, blind, or of minimum age, you will also need to demonstrate financial need.

Other benefits such as social security disability insurance (SSDI) and social security retirement are not affected by your veterans disability compensation. Your social security retirement and your social security disability insurance (SSDI) are paid to you because throughout your life you have contributed towards the Social Security fund by paying FICA taxes. Your veterans disability compensation will neither affect your eligibility for these programs, nor the amount of benefits you receive.

Disabled veterans sometimes find themselves fighting on two fronts: one against the Veterans Administration, and the other against the Social Security Administration. Contact our office if you have been denied benefits from either administration.

238 Western Ave., South Portland, ME 04106
Toll Free: 1-800-JACKSON (1-800-522-5766) • www.VeteransBenefits.com