


Jackson & MacNichol

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Information From Jackson & MacNichol Attorneys At Law

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January 2022



May all that is beautiful,
meaningful, and brings you joy
be yours this
HOLIDAY SEASON
and throughout the coming year.

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

Nationwide
Veterans Disability Law and Personal Injury Law

AMERICA WILL FACE LONG-TERM DISABILITY AS A RESULT OF COVID

Despite the fact that millions of Americans have opted to get vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus, we are still not in the clear. Many survivors of the initial virus are still suffering from long-term effects. Unlike the common flu, the coronavirus can cause a baffling array of symptoms long after the acute illness has been treated, leaving some patients unable to resume their daily activities. As we continue to learn more about the “long-haul” course of COVID-19, policy makers need to brace for a looming tsunami of disability, including how it will affect disability insurance programs and worker’s compensation.

Staggering Statistics

At least 34 million people in the United States have already contracted COVID-19. Moreover, recent studies have found that more than one-fourth of patients are experiencing prolonged symptoms of COVID. Common symptoms of long COVID include respiratory issues, fatigue, loss of smell and taste, cardiac, renal, and gastrointestinal problems, and “brain fog.” These debilitating health complications have made it nearly impossible for many people to return to work, even months after their initial infection.

These statistics raise some critical questions, including:

- ▶ How many “long haulers” will never be able to return to their jobs?
- ▶ How many patients will require short-term disability payments?
- ▶ How many will become dependent on disability programs?
- ▶ How will this affect worker’s compensation and disability programs in the long run?

But there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

What Needs to Be Done

In order to sufficiently prepare for a post-pandemic disability flood, policy planners and makers must:

- ▶ Conduct thorough research to deeply understand disability caused by long COVID
- ▶ Establish more clinics to care for “long haulers”
- ▶ Conduct a national consensus on criteria for qualifying for worker’s compensation and disability insurance

As we continue to research and understand this brand-new virus, we must also make preparations for the long-term effects of COVID-19.



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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.

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.VETERANSBENEFITS.COM

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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.



This beautifully restored “woody” was recently spotted in Venice, FL. It appears to be a '39 Ford but if any reader has a better fix on the correct make and year, please let us know.



Our office is open & actively working with clients. We are focused on taking all necessary precautions to keep visitors to our office, as well as our staff, safe.