

SETTLEMENT OF \$1,000,000.00:
Slip and Fall

In the case of *Nicole Majette, et al, v. New London Housing Authority, et al* , the parties settled for \$1,000,000 at mediation with Judge Antonio C. Robaina one week before trial..

On June 8, 2003, plaintiff Nichole Majette, a single mother of five, was severely and permanently injured at the Thames River Apartments, a low-income apartment complex owned and operated by the defendant Housing Authority. The plaintiff was a resident of the complex who slipped and fell in a puddle of urine while on her way to work at 7:30 a.m. For years, criminals and drug addicts had been loitering in the hallways of this low income complex. Numerous complaints of urination and defecation in the hallways by trespassers had been made to the police and the building had fallen into a state of disrepair. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development had cited the New London Housing Authority for its many many violations at this facility. The plaintiff and her co-tenants testified they often found puddles of urine in the hallways when going to work in the morning.

The plaintiff was diagnosed with a non-displaced fracture of her right dominant arm at the hospital emergency room. Two weeks later, as her pain was intolerable, an emergency right forearm anterior and posterior compartment fasciotomies with extended carpal tunnel releases to relieve the increasing pressure in her right forearm and elbow. Thereafter, she underwent surgery for scar reduction as her surgical wounds were quite extensive.

Despite these surgeries, the following months brought the plaintiff more pain and hospital visits. She underwent more surgery due to the instability and continual break down of her fasciotomy scars, and a fourth surgery to clean and disinfect the surgical wound. The plaintiff also underwent extensive pain management therapy, counseling and psychological treatment. According to doctors, as a result of the fall on June 8, she received an 80% to 90% permanent impairment rating for loss of use for her right upper extremity and suffered severe reflex sympathetic dystrophy. In addition, she received 15%

impairment of her cervical, thoracic, lumbar and right lower extremity due to the spread of reflex sympathetic dystrophy to her body.

This lawsuit was commenced in July of 2004, as a class action on behalf of all the tenants of this apartment complex stemming from the squalid conditions that existed for years at the Thames River Apartments and included allegations that due to these conditions the plaintiff, as lead plaintiff in the class action suit, had suffered severe and permanent injuries. The class action suit sought a court order directing the New London Housing Authority to provide safe alternative housing for all the tenants of the Thames River Apartments and also sought compensation for Ms. Majette due to her injuries. In 2007, The class action was separated by Judge Robert Beach from the personal injury claims of Ms. Majette and the class action seeking adequate housing for all the Thames River Apartment tenants has been certified as a class action and is to proceed in court as an independent lawsuit. One week before trial of the personal injury lawsuit of Ms. Majette, the parties agreed to settle that case for the liability insurance policy limit of \$1,000,000 after a mediation with Judge Robaina. The Reardon Law Firm, P.C. has continued to represent pro bono all of the tenants of the complex in the class action lawsuit seeking safe alternative housing for them, substituting another tenant as lead plaintiff, as Ms. Majette moved to New York to live with her mother.

Submitted by Robert I. Reardon, Jr., Esq. of The Reardon Law Firm, P.C., of New London, Connecticut.