

**B**ringing medical personnel in-house isn't something every top medical malpractice and personal injury law firm does, but having such expertise on tap is part of Eichen Crutchlow Zaslow & McElroy's winning strategy.

Eichen Crutchlow Zaslow & McElroy is one of New Jersey's premier personal injury firms and is ranked a Tier 1 2016 firm for medical malpractice law and mass tort litigation class actions by *U.S. News - Best Lawyers* "Best Law Firms." The plaintiff firm, which also focuses on consumer fraud and wrongful death litigation, has offices in Edison, Red Bank, and Toms River, New Jersey.

"Medical malpractice is a real specialty," says founding partner Barry R. Eichen, "Lawyer of the Year" honoree for mass tort litigation and class actions in Woodbridge in 2016. Having a doctor and nurse on staff at the firm enables the attorneys to knowledgeable and effectively advocate for their clients in complex medical disputes from the very start, he notes.

One recent case illustrates the far-reaching complications a medical mistake can cause. Eichen Crutchlow Zaslow & McElroy's William O. Crutchlow secured a \$1.01 million jury verdict for a man in his late 50s who suffered a potentially life-threatening bowel injury during routine laparoscopic gall bladder removal surgery. The injury, undetected at the time of the surgery, caused a massive infection after allowing bacteria-filled intestinal content to leak into the client's abdominal cavity. The client required emergency surgery, and suffered lung failure and acute respiratory distress

syndrome, which ultimately led to brain damage. The client is now disabled, with permanent damage to the muscles in his abdominal wall, recurrent incisional abdominal hernias, short-term memory deficits, and cognitive deficits.

"We put a lot of time and effort behind the cases we believe in. We tend to do very well," says Crutchlow, a partner selected to *Best Lawyers* for medical malpractice law and personal injury litigation.

"We recognize the enormous responsibility of representing patients and their families," adds partner Daryl L. Zaslow, selected to *Best Lawyers* for medical malpractice since 2011. He has successfully litigated numerous wrongful birth cases.

Zaslow recently obtained a \$4.65 million settlement on behalf of a 7-year-old boy with Down syndrome and his parents. The parents retained the firm to sue the mother's obstetrician for deviating from the accepted standards of care in his interpretation of a second-trimester ultrasound. Zaslow argued the ultrasound showed the presence of two "soft markers" for Down syndrome and failed to inform his clients so they could make an informed decision whether to pursue an invasive amniocentesis.

The number of injuries and deaths due to medical malpractice are on the rise. People are starting to realize this and are looking for top legal representation to help them hold the medical care providers accountable for their mistakes. "That's where we come in," Eichen observes. "That's smart—that's actually a good thing."



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