



## **STATEMENT TO THE PRESS**

**MARCH 24, 2008**

Brent Coon & Associates, one of the largest plaintiff-only law practices in the country, has been consulted by a number of Las Vegas area law firms, unions and residents to assist in the investigation and prosecution of the tragic blood contamination cases in Nevada. We have already met with a large number of individuals diagnosed with blood contamination as a result of poor hygiene practices at the facilities under investigation by the FBI and health authorities. It includes patients from all walks of life, including those with ties to the medical community and city health officials. It also affects spouses, family members, friends and neighbors.

Our firm has served as lead counsel on a number of cases involving national health and safety issues, ranging from asbestos and other industrial carcinogens, to the BP Texas City Explosion, to defective medical devices and pharmaceutical products (most recently our \$30 million dollar verdict last week in the hormone therapy litigation). We have extensive experience in handling mass torts and in working with state and federal law enforcement and investigative agencies to assist in the prosecution of the civil infractions and the resulting criminal matters as well. Managing attorneys and associates from several of our offices around the country with extensive experience in these matters have already formed the core of our legal team.

What the clinics and staff involved to date in this matter did was unconscionable and, in our opinion, criminal. Contamination from reutilization of syringes and vials is well known in the medical community. There have been numerous prior reported instances of similar conduct causing outbreaks of infectious disease from such practices, destroying the lives of innocent patients. Tragically, none of the victims in this case are likely to achieve full justice due to the law in Nevada, which caps their non-economic damages at one of the lowest rates in the nation. We serve in an executive capacity with several task forces opposed to caps in medical malpractice litigation. The insurance industry has been quick to blame attorneys for the rising costs of medical coverage, in spite of the fact that the overwhelming evidence from nonpartisan organizations consistently show that less than one percent of medical costs are associated to malpractice issues. Nonetheless, medical corporations insurance companies, and a very small number of incompetent medical doctors constantly berate the right of abused patients to access our court system for justice. The Nevada legislature has made a mockery of justice by applying a paltry cap of \$350,000 dollars to patient claims and provides no additional recourse against doctors who deliberately put lives at risk to make an extra dollar or two.

Dr. Dipak Desai, a principal in many of the facilities involved here, was a major financial supporter, and fervent backer of this particular legislation. Obviously medical malpractice insurance rates had not precluded him from affording a multi-million dollar mansion in an exclusive Las Vegas neighborhood. We will be working proactively with support groups, victims' rights organizations, labor organizations and progressive legislators to overturn these laws which only serve to protect bad medicine. Dr. Desai is a shining example of corporate greed, shameless profiteering and all that is wrong with our nation's healthcare delivery system.

As with other major litigation, we have already created websites to provide updated information on case developments. This includes links to investigating agencies, archives of press articles, and background information on the facilities and doctors involved. Our sites will also provide copies of the litigation documents, depositions and other discovery as it takes place. It is an important part of our firm mission statement to make all things discovered in civil litigation available to the public and media. An example can be found at [www.texascityexplosion.com](http://www.texascityexplosion.com). We believe that the public not only has a right to know, but actually has a need to know the truth as can best be established by the writings, actions and misconduct of wrongdoers that affect our clients' rights.

For more information on this matter, and for future case updates, please reference the following websites:

[www.hepatitisexposure.com](http://www.hepatitisexposure.com)

[www.hepatitismetings.com](http://www.hepatitismetings.com)

[www.bcoonlaw.com](http://www.bcoonlaw.com)

For further information, contact:

Brent W. Coon  
Brent Coon & Associates  
3550 Fannin  
Beaumont, TX 77701

Or email him personally at [brent@bcoonlaw.com](mailto:brent@bcoonlaw.com).