

# GLOBAL INDOOR HEALTH NETWORK

"WORKING TOGETHER FOR HEALTHY INDOOR ENVIRONMENTS"

<http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com>

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GIHN is participating in [Nevada's Big Give](#) program. This is a one-day, on-line event (on November 17) to help raise funds for Nevada charities.

## New Research Papers

Dr. Jack Thrasher provided copies of the following research papers:

**Serum Vitamin C and Other Biomarkers Differ by Genotype of Phase 2 Enzyme Genes GSTM1 and GSTT11-3** by Gladys Block, et al

**High Environmental Relative Moldiness Index During Infancy as a Predictor of Asthma at 7 Years of Age** by Tina Reponen, PhD, et al

## Therapy Hope for Asbestos Disease

The Associate Professor at the University of Western Australia is researching a way to boost an individual's immune system to tackle the fatal asbestos disease mesothelioma.

"This is an old dream of immunologists that's been around for perhaps 20-30 years, that you should be able to hype up your body's own defences and use them as part of the armament against cancer," Beilharz told ABC Gippsland's Mornings Program.

The 'triple therapy' method has been tested on mice and is showing positive results.

It involves manipulating the immune system in three different ways, after research found single and double treatment methods had not completely eradicated cancerous tumours.

"We're beating it now, which is why I feel like I finally have something to say and can talk to people who are obviously desperate for some sort of improvement in the treatment regime," Beilharz said.

He shared his research with Gippsland asbestos disease sufferers and their families in the Latrobe Valley today.

To date, malignant mesothelioma has been incurable and the only option for victims has been an attempt to reduce the level of suffering.

Beilharz said clinical trials of the triple therapy on humans are the next step in the process.

Having grown up in the Latrobe Valley, he is driven by the knowledge that many workers in the former State Electricity Commission Victoria were exposed to asbestos during the construction of power stations and early electricity generation.

[Therapy Hope for Asbestos Disease](#)

See *Mold forces Police Chief to Retire* on page 2

## Kensington Police Chief: Mold in Town Hall Forced Him to Retire

Citing concerns about health, Police Chief Wayne Sheehan announced his retirement Oct. 1.

Sheehan, 44, said he has "respiratory issues" as a result of mold within the Kensington Town Hall. The Police Department is located in the basement of Town Hall.

Sheehan declined to get specific about his health issues. "I retired because it's not safe for me to continue working," he said.

Sheehan's retirement was announced following a non-public session at the Oct. 3 Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Sheehan said his workers' compensation case was settled after a long process of determining that in fact his health issues were related to the mold at Town Hall.

He said he first started experiencing breathing difficulties in 2006, and in 2009 he expressed his concern to the Board of Selectmen about the conditions in the building.

Board of Selectmen Chairman Russell Perry said mold has been a persistent problem at Town Hall for at least two years.

Employees within the building complained about health issues from the mold in 2009 and were moved into temporary trailers while the building went through environmental remediation.

Perry said employees were moved back into the building after they thought the issue was resolved but then it resurfaced again in December 2010. The employees have been in the temporary trailers ever since.

Perry said a number of employees complained of various symptoms as a result of the mold including general irritation and respiratory issues.

[Kensington Police Chief: Mold in Town Hall Forced Him to Retire](#)



*The Ouimette family are among more than 100 people whose lives have yet to return to normal five months after major flooding hit southern Quebec.*

## Family Lives in Garage for Months after Flooding

A couple and their two children, forced to move into the garage of their flood-damaged home, are fearing the winter like never before.

The Ouimette family won't have running water once the pipes freeze. They're among more than 100 people whose lives have yet to return to normal five months after major flooding hit southern Quebec.

Mould and other contaminants chased Dominic Ouimette and his family into the 16-by-27-ft garage in August and they're still awaiting compensation money. Their home will eventually have to be demolished.

"I've overcome trials in my life, but I wouldn't wish this on my worst enemy," said Ouimette, a father of two children, aged two and five.

"With winter approaching, we'll have to find another solution in two or three weeks."

They stayed with relatives before returning to settle in the garage, leading to awkward questions from the young ones.

"Since we've come here, my boy has wondered when he will get his room back and I have no answer," said Ouimette, who accuses authorities of dragging their feet on compensation.

[Family Lives in Garage Months after Floods](#)

See *Councillor Cortell Being Deposed* on page 3

## Is Councillor Cortell Being Deposed to Stifle His First Amendment Rights?

In last week's Chelsea Record, we published a story about a condo unit on Admiral's Hill which is vacant and with its owner suffering health issues because of an alleged toxic mold issue related to water infiltration into the unit that apparently was not addressed by the management company running the building.

In any case, the alleged contamination of the unit with toxic mold has caused a lawsuit to be filed against Admiral's Flagship Condominium and its manager Lundgren Management Group, Inc., and Construction Design Limited, by the owner of the condo unit.

As we noted last week, by all appearances, this may turn into a landmark case for the court, which has allowed the suit to stand despite the fact the suit was filed after the statute of limitations had run out.

Enter Admiral's Hill Councilman Attorney Dan Cortell, who addressed the condo owner's health plight with comments made to the Record last week.

"You can't read the facts of the case as written, be a condo owner like me and not be disturbed by a timetable where it appears the management company had four or more years and numerous chances to fix or to mitigate a problem with unsuccessful efforts being characterized by the court as either untimely or inappropriate," Cortell told the Record.

He stepped up to the plate more as a councilor than as a condo owner – although he is both – in order to make others aware of the potential dangers of toxic mold contamination.

In fact, the Admiral's Flagship possible toxic contamination issue has been public record for longer than four years with Lawyer's Weekly writing and publishing stories about this very case in its newspaper and disseminating them worldwide on its website.

The case is also part of the public record in Superior Court, was already tried and failed in the Appeals Court and now has been re-entered for trial by Attorney Edmund Allcock and his colleagues.



Admiral's Hill condo

## Is Councillor Cortell Being Deposed to Stifle His First Amendment Rights? (continued)

We are not sure there is a correlation between the comments made about the situation by Councillor Cortell last week and the fact he has been subpoenaed by the Admiral's Flagship Condominium Trust by their attorney, Mr. Allcock.

We must assume there is.

We would like to assume this action was taken against Councillor Cortell for all the right reasons.

**However, on its face, it appears that Councillor Cortell is being called in to be deposed more as an effort to stifle his First Amendment rights to express himself freely rather than to contribute something of a scientific nature about the possible toxic mold problems in a condo unit or the condo unit's owner's health problems.**

Perhaps this is the case. Perhaps not.

Bottom line, the money being spent and the energy as well to depose Councillor Cortell will do nothing to advance the needs of Admiral's Flagship condo owners who are facing a potentially sizable lawsuit from a condo owner who has vacated her unit, which is allegedly contaminated with toxic mold.

Councillor Cortell's admonition that everything may not be right for many of constituents on Admiral's Hill will survive the court's test.

[On Councillor Cortell's Comments](#)

See *Member Profile: Nancy Swan* on page 4

## Member Profile: Nancy Swan

On October 3, 2011, Nancy Swan was interviewed by Lisa Kratz Thomas and Frank Ferrante on *Courage to Change* about her memoir, *Toxic Justice*. Mrs. Swan's true story began in 1985, when as a teacher, she and at least two dozen students were seriously and permanently injured after three days of exposure to spray-on-foam insulation and sealant applied during the school day at what is now Long Beach Middle School in Mississippi.

With the help of the mother of one of the injured students, Mrs. Swan rounded up the injured students and found legal representation. *Toxic Justice* is a shocking true-crime and legal thriller about the culture of corruption that led to Nancy Swan's injury and plagued her case with murder, conspiracy and crime in a dangerous pursuit of justice.

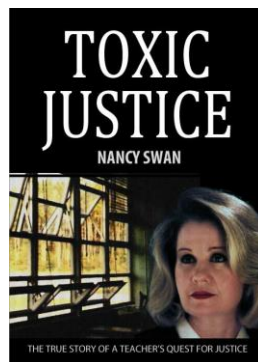
While writing the unabridged version of *Toxic Justice*, Nancy served as a mentor to families and individuals with chemical or environmental injuries. She also wrote articles for newspapers and provided information on toxic injuries to the media. Her training and experience as a public speaker led to requests for interviews on radio, television, print magazines, newspapers and online publications. After four years of writing, *Toxic Justice* reached a surprising but inspiring conclusion in 2007.

In response to numerous requests, Nancy founded and directs **Children's Environmental Protection Alliance (Children's EPA)** and serves as host for Children's EPA Community Forums. The mission of Children's EPA is to provide members, organizations and the public with information, research reports, and news, and to initiate and share action opportunities to protect the world's children from environmental and chemical hazards.

Nancy plans to complete the revision of *Toxic Justice* this Fall. She writes, "In the more than twenty-five years since the story of *Toxic Justice* began, nothing has changed to protect children and adults from environmental and chemical hazards--nothing except the name of its next victim."

[Nancy Swan's website](#)

[Children's EPA website](#)



Nancy Swan's book  
"Toxic Justice"



Children's Environmental  
Protection Alliance

(Children's EPA)

## U.S. Chamber Hypocrisy on Lawsuit Abuse

The American Association for Justice has released a scathing report on the hypocrisy of US Chamber of Commerce and its members regarding tort reform, access to civil justice, and lawsuit abuse. The AAJ report is entitled, *Do As I Say, Not As I Sue: Exposing the Lawsuit-Happy Hypocrites of U.S. Chamber's Institute for Legal Reform*.

As the report details, the US Chamber's Institute for Legal Reform (ILR) is a wholly owned subsidiary of the US Chamber of Commerce with the sole mission of restricting the ability of individuals harmed by negligent corporations to access the civil justice system. These corporate giants claim they are hindered by too many lawsuits from injured persons, yet these same corporations have no hesitation in using the courthouse themselves.

**The AAJ identified the top 10 ILR hypocrites, which includes FedEx, Caterpillar, State Farm, Koch Industries, Abbott Labs and Johnson & Johnson.**

We all need to make sure these giant corporations do not encroach on our fundamental constitutional right to civil justice. We don't want a country where there is one rule for corporate giants, but a separate rule for regular people.

Click [here](#) to read the article

Click [here](#) to read the new AAJ report

See *Children Poisoned by Pesticides* on page 5



## Ohio School Children Poisoned by Pesticides

Forty-seven students from Edgewood Middle School in St. Clair Township, Ohio, reportedly fell ill after the school's hired pest control company sprayed the herbicide Momentum, which contains the toxic ingredients 2,4-D, triclopyr and clopyralid, on nearby playing fields to treat for clover and other weeds. The incident and others like it demonstrate the need for a comprehensive national policy to protect children from harmful and unnecessary exposure to toxic chemicals. Six students were taken to nearby hospitals and twenty-one students total were treated for symptoms, including headaches, breathing difficulties, nausea and dizziness.

Children are especially sensitive and vulnerable to pesticides because of their rapid development and behavior patterns. Adverse health effects, such as nausea, dizziness, respiratory problems, headaches, rashes, and mental disorientation, may appear even if a pesticide is applied according to label directions, which may have been the case in this situation. Pesticide exposure can have long-term adverse effects, including damage to a child's neurological, respiratory, immune, and endocrine system and increased asthma symptoms.

**Studies show that children living in households where pesticides are used suffer elevated rates of leukemia, brain cancer, and soft tissue sarcoma.**

An odor was first detected by a student in a classroom where a few other students reportedly complained of headaches and coughing around 10:30 a.m. Tuesday October 11. The initial evacuation of the room was around 11 a.m., said John Thomas, a spokesman for the school district to the Dayton Daily News. Eventually, the odor filled the entire building which forced the evacuation of the entire school. Parents were advised to take affected students home, wash their clothes, have them shower and spend the rest of the day breathing fresh air.

**Numerous scientific studies find that pesticides typically used in schools are linked to chronic health effects such as cancer, asthma, neurological and immune system diseases, reproductive problems, and developmental and learning disabilities.**

[Students Poisoned by Pesticides Sprayed on Playing Field Outside of Classroom](#)

### Harmful Chemicals versus Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

*Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in schools has proven to be an effective and economical method of pest management that can prevent pest problems and eliminate the use of hazardous pesticides in school buildings and on school grounds.*

## Nebraska Nuns Sue Contractor after Mold Outbreak

A Christian sisterhood that spent \$15 million to renovate their Nebraska monastery says the contractor they hired overcharged them and performed shoddy ventilation work that spawned a mold outbreak.

Missionary Benedictine Sisters Inc. in Norfolk filed a lawsuit in federal court in Lincoln this week against the Appleton, Wis.-based Hoffman, LLC.

According to the lawsuit, Hoffman agreed in their 2007 contract to complete the design, engineering and construction work by May 2010. The sisters moved out to make way for the renovations, but when they came back in 2009, they noticed problems with the ventilation. The system failed to dehumidify the air, which spawned "significant amounts" of mold throughout the monastery.

Consultants who examined the work also concluded that the heating, ventilation and cooling system installed was designed for much larger and differently shaped buildings, the sisters contend. In summer 2009, residents noticed other problems: defective flooring, insulation, bathroom vents, water heaters and other faulty work.

The case was filed in Madison County District Court in March, but moved to federal court on Wednesday because two states were involved and the damages sought are greater than \$250,000.

[Nebraska Nuns Sue Contractor After Mold Outbreak](#)

## Toxic Chemicals Need to be Removed from Schools and Daycare Centers

More than 13,000 public health professionals across the country gathered in Washington, DC this week at the American Public Health Association's (APHA) annual public meeting where a major policy resolution, Reducing PVC in Facilities with Vulnerable Populations, was passed.

**The policy resolution, "urges local, state and federal governments and decision-makers to consider phasing out the use and purchase of flexible PVC in building materials, consumer products, and office suppliers in schools, daycare centers, medical care facilities, nursing homes, public housing, facilities for special needs and the disabled, and other facilities with vulnerable populations when cost-effective alternatives are available."**

**PVC is a plastic commonly found in building materials like flooring, carpeting, and roofing, as well as products that schools, hospitals and other institutions purchase such as computers, cell phones, backpacks, lunchboxes, 3-ring binders, IV bags, and other medical devices.** Chemicals such as phthalates, which are added to make PVC soft and flexible, are released from these PVC products and pose avoidable public health risks.

A 2011 study found PVC is the most widely used hazardous plastic in the world. Congress has enacted legislation banning phthalates in children's PVC toys, but they are widespread in other PVC products in schools, hospitals, and other facilities with vulnerable populations.

The policy was enacted by the APHA in light of the widespread hazards flexible PVC poses to children and other vulnerable populations through the release of hazardous chemicals such as phthalates, dioxin, and vinyl chloride.

[Toxic Chemicals Need to be Removed from Schools and Daycare Centers](#)

**Next Newsletter: Friday, November 18, 2011**



*Iowa flood victims get help*

## Iowa Flood Victims Get Help

Volunteers from across Iowa pulled on protective suits Saturday in an effort to help residents affected by the Missouri River flood get back into their homes.

One Mills County, Iowa, family displaced by the flood received help moving back into its home. Other volunteers donned hazardous-materials gear to tackle moldy houses in Percival, Iowa.

The months-long flood has left areas near the Missouri River caked in mud and covered in mold. Water has slowly receded, and many residents have just recently returned to their homes to estimate damages.

Organizers said workers cleaned gutters and washed windows at an elderly couple's home that sustained slight water damage.

Volunteers also began gutting two homes that had mold and mildew.

[Iowa Flood Victims Get Help](#)

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## Quick Links

**Website:** <http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com>

**Members:**  
<http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com/members.html>

**Health Effects:**  
[http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com/health\\_effects.html](http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com/health_effects.html)

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**Working Together for Healthy Indoor Environments**