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SETTLEMENTS™

**PERSONAL
INJURY
LITIGATORS** 2015

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INJURY LEADERS**

NY'S TOP 25 VERDICTS & SETTLEMENTS
WHO WON THE BIG ONES?

BASED ON DATA FROM

 **VERDICTSEARCH**

An **ALM** Publication

PRESENTED BY

New York Law Journal

SHAEVITZ, SHAEVITZ & KOTZAMANIS

**PERSONAL
INJURY
LITIGATORS**



From left: Dimitri Kotzamanis, Eric Shaevit, Oliver Shaevit, Mark Shaevit

When Oliver Shaevit first opened his office for the representation of accident victims in 1956, he could not foresee the long and successful path he was about to embark upon. During his 59 years of practice, he has been joined along the way by his sons, Mark and Eric. Two years ago, Dimitri Kotzamanis joined the firm as a partner. Over the years, the firm has represented thousands of clients, and has obtained numerous multimillion-dollar jury verdicts and settlements.

As with most aspects of modern life, the practice of law has become a very specialized and complex endeavor. This is especially true in the handling and prosecution of personal injury cases, where an attorney must possess a breadth of knowledge, not only in the law, but an understanding of medicine, psychology, engineering, and technology. Shaevit, Shaevit & Kotzamanis is dedicated to providing the most knowledgeable, sophisticated, and effective legal representation to its clients.

The staff at Shaevit, Shaevit & Kotzamanis takes a personal interest in the firm's clients and attempts to relate the legal procedures to them in a clear and concise manner. With the understanding that litigation can be a stressful and complicated process, the staff sees to it that all clients are kept informed and understand what the firm is trying to accomplish on their behalf. "Clients aren't just statistics," says Oliver Shaevit. "They are real people with special needs resulting from their injuries, and we do our best to make sure they are justly compensated."

When an injury occurs, the firm takes immediate action and conducts a comprehensive investigation to ensure that all evidence is unearthed, and preserved. Shaevit, Shaevit & Kotzamanis knows that the effects of a serious injury can extend far beyond the physical aspect, and assists each client to solve many of their day-to-day problems, such as being reimbursed for their lost wages, and making sure that their medical and hospital bills are paid promptly, whenever possible.

Shaevit, Shaevit & Kotzamanis has prosecuted many memorable cases, such as representing victims who were maimed, blinded, or killed as a result of the leakage of poisonous gas from Union Carbide's pesticide plant in Bhopal, India; representing the families of the children who died in a fire at Great Adventure amusement park in New Jersey; and representing a number of victims of 9/11.

Dimitri Kotzamanis, in fact, was selected by his peers for inclusion in Super Lawyers, recognizing him as one of the top 5% of personal injury trial attorneys in the New York metropolitan area. He consistently obtains some of the largest settlements and verdicts in New York and has been featured, on numerous occasions, in the *New York Law Journal* and *New York Jury Verdict Reporter*.

All in all, the attorneys and support staff at Shaevit, Shaevit & Kotzamanis are always ready to deliver compassionate and effective representation to seriously injured accident victims. True to its family foundations, the entire staff stands solidly behind the firm's motto: "We're Family— And That's How We'll Treat You."

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LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL S. LAMONSOFF



Stasia Grossman

NEW YORK'S
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2015



Stasia Grossman

When asked to identify the most rewarding part of handling plaintiffs' personal injury cases, Michael S. Lamonsoff doesn't hesitate to answer: "Winning," he says. "I love to win, and my clients love me for it."

In just over two decades, Mr. Lamonsoff has built one of New York's largest law firms for personal injury, medical malpractice, and police and prosecutorial abuse cases, almost entirely through word of mouth. His reputation as a leading personal injury trial lawyer is fueled, in part, by a track record that includes some of the largest personal injury verdicts and settlements in New York history.

"The growth we've experienced over the years is unprecedented," Mr. Lamonsoff says. "Our focus remains on winning while building a trusting relationship with our clients. We are proud to say that the vast majority of clients that come to our firm are referred by former and current clients."

The Law Offices of Michael S. Lamonsoff has successfully litigated a considerable amount of high-profile matters. Among its landmark cases, Mr. Lamonsoff's firm represented many of the families who lost loved ones in the 2001 American Airlines Flight 587 disaster, which was one of the deadliest plane crashes on U.S. soil. His firm also represents many of the victims of the 2013 Metro-North train disasters in Connecticut and the Bronx; the 2015 train crash in Halifax, North Carolina; the 2014 gas explosion in East Harlem; and the 2012 police shootings at the Empire State Building.

While the vast majority of cases settle, Mr. Lamonsoff believes in preparing every case for trial. "Our philosophy is that the highest settlements are awarded when the defendant is afraid of the consequences of a trial against a highly prepared law firm. We are that law firm."

Indeed, the firm's reputation for being trial-ready has been integral to its record verdicts and settlements. In 2014, Mr. Lamonsoff's firm secured a \$4.75 million settlement two days before trial on behalf of a man who served 18 years in prison for a

murder he did not commit; this result stands as the highest figure in state history for a wrongful conviction. Also last year, Mr. Lamonsoff's firm obtained one of the highest verdicts in the state—a \$5.5 million award—for a construction worker who suffered spinal injuries when a wood bracing collapsed while he was exiting a trench; and in another case involving an injured construction worker, the firm attained a \$4.75 million settlement just before jury selection.

With these results and the firm's many other million- and multimillion-dollar recoveries, Mr. Lamonsoff has attained the status of an authority in his field, and he is often called upon by local, national, and international news outlets to provide commentary on the high-profile cases he litigates as well as commentary on important, trending legal topics. His peers, meanwhile, have named him to Super Lawyers and inducted him into the prestigious Million Dollar and Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forums. And as a leader in the legal community, he has served on the New York State Trial Lawyers' Association's Board of Directors and is currently the highest-rated New York City personal injury attorney on the internet's premier lawyer ranking service, Avvo.

Mr. Lamonsoff says, "When I founded this firm back in 1995, I wanted to create not just the biggest law firm concentrating in personal injury, but the most successful, professional and aggressive firm. My team has been instilled with an unyielding 'no-holds-barred' attitude toward litigation and fighting for our clients."

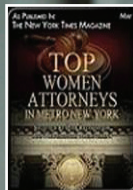
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OGEN & SEDAGHATI, P.C.

The team of Natalie Sedaghati and Eitan Ogen have an impressive proven record of multiple 7-figure and 6-figure verdicts and settlements, many for non-surgical, “soft tissue” disputed cases with problematic liability scenarios. Once again, they have had several of their cases honored in this year’s NYLJ’s Top Verdicts publication. Both partners were reselected as Super Lawyers—a designation awarded to only the top 5% of attorneys in New York—and are Members of the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum. Additionally, Natalie Sedaghati was one (1) of only nine (9) female attorneys selected as a Super Lawyer in New York in the practice area of Personal Injury. They have also been featured in a special advertising section in NY Magazine, Newsweek’s Top Leaders in Personal Injury, as well as Fox 5 News, UPN 9 News, the Montel Williams Show, NY Times, NY Daily News and NY Post for their very successful and unprecedented litigation in high profile cases



NOTEWORTHY CASES

\$4.25 Million Settlement for disc herniations with surgery. Defendants argued no tow, no ambulance, and no ER, claimant returned to work, and surgery was not related to the accident as the claimed injuries were pre-existing.

\$2.76 Million Settlement for 63 year old man for neck and back injuries, which Defendants argued were degenerative. Low impact/minor property damage accident.

\$2.5 Million Jury Verdict against MTA/NYC Transit, for a shoulder impingement (no tear) with arthroscopic surgery resulting from MVA, and disputed disc bulge. Defendant’s doctors testified that there was nothing wrong. Amount suggested to Jury was \$1 million. MTA’s initial offer was \$2,500. Top offer was \$125,000. 2nd highest verdict for a motor vehicle/case in 2011 Top NY Verdicts.

\$2.45 Million Settlement for low-speed, minimal impact, disputed liability MVA. Client had nearly identical degenerative MRI findings prior to the accident. Defendants’ doctors disputed any causality and necessity of any surgery or treatment, as client had returned to work after MVA, she had minimal and sporadic therapy and she had resolved. Zurich previously had maintained a no-pay position.

\$1.6 Million Jury Verdict for pedestrian involved in MVA with taxi. Defendants argued that plaintiff was responsible for the accident in running into the side of the taxi. The Jury awarded 100% liability against the Defendants. Plaintiff alleged a disc bulge and a shoulder tear. Defendants’ doctors argued that the MRIs showed no injuries and that plaintiff had soft tissue injuries which had fully resolved. American Transit’s offer before trial was \$40,000.

\$1.5 Million Settlement involving a rental car company in a one car accident, with only a minimum \$25,000 policy. Many attorneys would have settled for the \$25,000. We successfully pursued the rental car company, who denied they were liable to pay anything additional, due to Graves Amendment.

\$1.375 Million Jury Verdict for unemployed man in a soft-tissue MVA, knee arthroscopy case with no property damage, no ER, no lost wages, minimal treatment. Defendants’ doctors testified that plaintiff’s examination and MRIs were normal with degeneration. Client had a prior injury and surgery to same body part. Allstate maintained no-pay position.

\$1.3 Million Settlement, full policy tender, for 50 year old undocumented housekeeper in minimal impact MVA (\$638 property damage), no injuries reported at scene, no hospital, waited 1 month to see a doctor (while continuing to work), large gaps in treatment, MRI showed bulging disc. USAA’s offer was \$7,500, then \$50,000 after surgery (which was several years after the accident), arguing that surgery was unnecessary and related.

\$1 Million Settlement full policy limits, plus full “Medical-Payment” policy tender, for a disputed liability case involving a burned hand. hospital records showed inconsistency in client’s version of how the accident occurred. Client was working full time with no restrictions and defense liability doctor said that she had made a good recovery and didn’t need future care.

\$1 Million Settlement Policy limit obtained in Queens County settlement for 2 immigrants, where Defendants argued that all injuries were degenerative and resolved.

\$877,000 Jury Verdict 2 vehicle accident contested case with no complaints of pain at the scene, no ER. First doctor 1 week later, with minimal treatment, then arthroscopic surgery 2 years later. Defendants’ doctor opined that he did not suffer any injuries and had a prior accident where he claimed same injuries. State Farm’s offer was \$30,000; State Farm paid more than double its policy limits.

\$600,000 Jury Verdict for unemployed convicted felon. No complaints of pain at the scene, no ER returned to physical work. Defendants’ experts opined that he did not suffer any injuries and had large, gaps in treatment. Defendants established that Plaintiff lied on the stand, that the doctor he had initially been to (prior to retaining our office) had been accused of misconduct, and employer testified that he did heavy duty labor. Defense showed photos confirming minimal property damage, no cars were towed from the scene. Original offer: \$3,000; offer before trial: \$125,000. Case tried against head partner of large defense firm.

NON-SURGICAL SOFT TISSUE/DISPUTED LIABILITY CASES

\$1.3 Million Jury Verdict for soft tissue, non-surgical herniated disc MVA, where Defendants denied liability, plaintiff had minimal treatment, no lost wages. Defendants’ doctors testified that their exams were normal. Defendants argued he had the same injury from a prior MVA, which he failed to reveal to his doctors. State Farm valued case at \$50,000.

\$1.2 Million Jury Verdict for soft tissue, non-surgical herniated disc MVA case, where Defendants denied liability. No lost wages and minimal treatment. Defendants’ doctors testified that Plaintiff’s exam and films were normal. Amount suggested to Jury was \$1 million. The award was one of the highest ever for pain and suffering only for a single, non-surgical disc. App. Div. sustained \$700,000, one of the largest amounts sustained ever for such injury. NJ Manufacturers valued case at \$7,500. 100K policy tender during trial rejected as untimely. Bad faith lawsuit successfully settled for amount significantly above policy limits.

\$960,000 Judicial Award A 37-year-old driver with non-surgical bulging discs, minimal property damage.

\$850,000 Jury Verdict for unemployed man in a soft tissue, nonsurgical disputed, degenerative herniated disc MVA case, with minimal property damage, no ER, no lost wages. Plaintiff first sought care with a chiropractor 9 days later, with minimal treatment. American Transit valued the case at \$6,000.

\$500,000 Settlement for non-surgical bulging and herniated disc. Defendant’s doctors stated Plaintiff’s exams were normal, that he was capable of working, his soft tissue injuries were degenerative, and resolved.

\$425,000 Settlement in MVA where Defendants argued that Plaintiff sustained soft tissue injuries from which she had resolved, her medical exams were normal and she was working full time. Recovery was 30 times greater than that of another passenger in her vehicle, with similar injuries, but represented by another attorney.

\$300,000 SUM Arbitration Award (full policy limits) in non-surgical herniated disc (contested), minimal prop–erty damage case, no complaints at scene, no ambulance, no lost wages, large unexplained gaps in treatment, and normal exams by insurance doctors. GEICO’s top offer was \$7,500. Featured in NYLJ’s Top Settlements.

DISPUTED ON-THE-JOB CASES

\$900,000 Settlement in a case involving an employee injured on the job (ordinarily barred from suing the employer), wherein we successfully sued the tenant (a related corporate entity from to the employer). St. Paul had previously maintained a no-pay position.

\$600,000 Settlement following liability jury verdict in disputed liability case, where our client was injured while working. The landlord, denied any liability. Jury awarded 100% liability against the landlord. Greater New York had no-pay position until liability verdict.

\$450,000 Settlement for an employee who injured hand on the job (ordinarily barred from suing the employer), wherein we successfully sued employer’s related corporate entities. Zurich had previously maintained a no-pay position.

COURT DECISIONS IN THE NEWS

\$11 Million lawsuit against Madison Square Garden given go-ahead to proceed by Court in widely publicized case where fan was struck by a hockey puck at MSG. (Precedent-setting case in NY)

Appeals Court Triples Award for Plaintiff’s soft tissue injuries in a minor impact accident where Defendant disputed that Plaintiff suffered a causally related “serious injury,” (one of the top motor vehicle verdicts in NY in 2011). Appellate Court added additional \$300,000 to the verdict. The total recovered, with interest and costs, exceeded \$550,000. GEICO originally valued the case at \$7,500.

OGEN & SEDAGHATI, P.C.

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RECENT TOP VERDICTS & SETTLEMENTS

\$9,000,050

- Construction Workers Injured on an Exterior Scaffold - **Labor Law**

\$8,000,000

- Child Burned by scalding water in the shower - **Premises Liability**

\$7,625,000

- Asbestos Exposure - **Wrongful Death**

\$4,500,000

- Premises Liability - Worker Falls at Building - **Multiple Injuries**

\$3,875,000

- Customer Trips and Falls - Back, Knee and Shoulder Injuries - **Premises Liability**

\$3,300,000

- Ironworker – Multiple Fractures - **Labor Law**



HKD HECHT KLEEGER & DAMASHEK, P.C.

DEDICATED TO YOUR RECOVERY

HECHT KLEEGER & DAMASHEK

NEW YORK'S
TOP
VERDICTS & SETTLEMENTS
PERSONAL
INJURY
LITIGATORS
2015



From Left: Jonathan S. Damashek, Judd F. Kleeger, Jordan D. Hecht

At the personal injury firm Hecht Kleeger & Damashek (HKD), every lawyer is a seasoned trial attorney who is experienced in serving the needs of accident victims and their loved ones. Hailing from some of the largest personal injury firms in New York, the firm's partners founded HKD in 1999 because they wanted to bring more personal attention to their clients' cases—something they felt could not be done at larger firms.

"We strive to provide unparalleled legal representation while supporting our clients through the difficulties that arise from being injured in a serious accident," says partner Jordan Hecht. "For that reason, we handle our clients' cases from beginning to end, with our goal being to obtain the highest possible cash award for each client."

Though the firm's attorneys, who have more than 75 years of combined legal experience, work in a number of different personal injury practice areas, they concentrate on construction, defective medical device, catastrophic injury, and pharmaceutical cases. Together, they have achieved more than \$200 million for their clients, with an impressive track record of settlements and verdicts of \$1 million or more.

"We want to win a case before it is even filed," says partner Judd Kleeger. "So when a new case comes into our office, we are already formulating our trial strategy, which involves extensive investigation, as well as consulting with the most qualified experts."

In one of the HKD's most notable cases, the firm obtained a \$9 million settlement in 2014 for two brothers who were working on the exterior scaffold of a building in the Bronx when they were both struck by cement block. As a result of the accident, one of the brothers suffered an amputation to his finger, as well as an injury to his neck that required cervical fusion surgery; the other brother suffered injuries to his back, knee, and shoulder that all required surgeries.

"Our success in this case—as in all our cases—was the result

of leaving no stone unturned," observes partner Jonathan Damashek, who handled the matter. "We put all our resources toward not only the investigation, but also to the discovery and trial stages of the case; and in the process, we were able to secure a settlement that will ensure that neither of these brothers has to worry about any type of financial difficulties in the future."

Similarly, this approach helped HKD obtain a settlement valued at \$8 million in 2012 on behalf of a boy who at the age of 3 suffered second- and third-degree burns due to scalding water in the shower of his apartment. After an extensive investigation, the firm discovered that a plumbing company hired by the owner of the building had incorrectly installed a mixing valve in the boiler room of the building; this negligence meant that the hot water was not properly regulated at the time, and that the water was therefore erratic in temperature.

As leaders in their field, HKD's attorneys serve as members of the prestigious Million Dollar Advocates Forum and *New York Super Lawyers*, as well as in a number of prominent legal organizations, such as the American Association for Justice and New York State Trial Lawyers Association. Their expertise, combined with their firm's resources, allows them to support even the most complex cases, and they only recover a fee upon successful conclusion of a case.

Damashek notes, "The greatest satisfaction I get as an attorney is handing my clients a check that fully compensates them for their pain and suffering and provides them with a lifetime of financial security."

HKD HECHT KLEEGER & DAMASHEK, P.C.

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NEW YORK'S TOP VERDICTS & SETTLEMENTS

PERSONAL INJURY LITIGATORS

When one is searching for a qualified attorney, it can be difficult to differentiate between the good and the great. Let *New York's Top Verdicts & Settlements*, as presented by the *New York Law Journal*, help guide you in your search as it ranks lawyers and their extraordinary accomplishments by one of the most clear-cut quantifications of talent possible—the monetary value of their jury verdict awards. Working in conjunction with VerdictSearch, the following section lists the top verdicts in New York from 2014. VerdictSearch is the nation's leading publisher of verdict and settlement news and research, with over 40 years of experience and an online accessible database of over 160,000 detailed case reports from across the nation [www.verdictsearch.com].

Someone you love is injured and you find yourself needing a Personal Injury Attorney—you will settle for nothing but the best. *New York Law Journal's Personal Injury Litigators of 2015*, includes attorneys from the greater metropolitan area who handle all types of personal injury cases—slips and falls, burns and disfigurements, brain injuries, asbestos poisoning, and much more. Learn about the talented individuals profiled here who are raising the bar for success in their field, and next time you are in need of an attorney, consider what they could achieve representing you.

KERNER & KERNER

At the law firm Kerner & Kerner, Richard and Ken Kerner have established one of New York's most respected practices for personal injury, general negligence and medical malpractice cases. The firm earns its clients' trust through its diligent and compassionate approach to the practice of law. As a result, it is frequently referred complex litigation by other attorneys and by the New York City Bar Legal Referral Service.

"The way we've tried to distinguish ourselves from other firms, particularly larger firms, is through our careful case selection and the individualized care we bring to each client's case," Richard says. "We pride ourselves on preparing every case for trial. In that way, we ensure that our clients will be fully compensated for their injuries, whether their case ends up settling or going to trial."

Richard Kerner, the founding member of the firm, has been practicing law since 1958, and is regarded as an authority on New York civil practice law. His vast experience includes trying hundreds of case to conclusion, appearing and arguing in federal courts and New York's highest appellate courts, and successfully resolving thousands of cases. He has served as an Assistant District Attorney for Rockland County and as a Federal Court Arbitrator.

Ken Kerner, who has been practicing since 1989, has litigated hundreds of cases to conclusion over his career. He is a member of the American Association for Justice and has been AV Preeminent® rated by Martindale-Hubbell®, the organization's highest rating for legal ability and ethical standards. He has served as a court appointed Arbitrator, Foreclosure Referee and Guardian Ad Litem. He is often retained as special trial counsel to firms throughout the tri-state area and has authored appellate briefs as a Special Assistant District Attorney for the New York County District Attorney's office.

"It's gratifying to know that we've been able to make a difference in the lives of people who have experienced tragedy," Ken says. "We can't change what happened, but we can at least make things easier for our clients going forward. That is why this work continues to be so rewarding."

KERNER & KERNER

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PERSONAL INJURY LITIGATORS



Ken Kerner & Richard Kerner



Deidre Schao

**\$4,500,000 Settlement*****Cruz-Acosta v. 15 Fort Washington Avenue****Housing Development Fund Corp.**

1/16/13 Bronx Supreme

Proper equipment would have prevented fall, worker claimed

\$2,900,000**Duran v. Jane St. Hospitality, LLC**

6/19/12 Kings Supreme

Ladder accident led to spinal injuries

\$18,334,226****Barros v. New Roc Parcel 1A, LLC**

1/26/10 Bronx Supreme

15-foot fall caused spine, ankle injuries

Personal Injury lawyer Jacob Oresky prides himself on meeting with each new client to learn about their case and discuss the best possible way to prepare for victory. Oresky states: "I want clients to know that their case is very important to me, and that my firm is ready to go right to work for them. We work hard from the very beginning and don't stop until the case is over."

Jacob Oresky & Associates, PLLC is a highly respected New York City personal injury firm, that handles major construction, automobile, and building accident cases. In its 25 year history the firm has been known for some of the largest settlements and jury verdicts in New York State. Jacob Oresky & Associates, PLLC has been recognized in New York's Top Verdicts & Settlements, Personal Injury Litigators in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 for its top verdicts and settlements.

In 2014, the Oresky firm obtained 4 of the top 25 numbered settlements in New York State according

to Verdict Search's Top New York Settlements of 2014. In April 2014, Oresky secured an award of \$5 Million Dollars for the family of a pedestrian killed by a school bus. In May 2014, Oresky secured an award of \$4.4 Million Dollars for a construction worker who was injured when he fell approximately 30 feet at a building under construction. In July 2014, Oresky obtained an award of \$4 Million Dollars for a painter who was injured when he fell from a display case. Also in July of 2014, the Oresky firm obtained an award of \$3 Million Dollars for a construction worker who fell from a scaffold.

The firm's clients are very loyal; some clients have given video interviews about their positive experience with the Oresky Firm and can be seen on the firm's website at www.OreskyLaw.com.

Jacob Oresky, Esq. is a member of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association, New York State Bar Association, Bronx County Bar Association and has been selected to be in Super Lawyers.

* Prior Results do not guarantee a future similar outcome.

**Reduced to \$8,000,000 pursuant to hi-lo stipulation.

Attorney Advertising

TOP 25 VERDICTS IN 2014

#	CASE	DATE	Venue	TYPE OF ACTION	PLAINTIFF'S COUNSEL	AMOUNT
1	Applewhite v. AccuHealth Inc.	5/28/14	Bronx Supreme	Paramedics' inaction led to damage of girl's brain, suit alleged	Thomas A. Moore of Kramer, Dillof, Livingston & Moore, New York, NY	\$172,381,728
2	Galette v. Byrne	1/10/14	Kings Supreme	Docs overlooked damage of patient's colon, suit alleged	Ira M. Newman (co-lead) and Edward J. Sanocki (co-lead) of Sanocki, Newman & Turret, LLP; New York, NY & Sanford A. Rubenstein of Rubenstein & Rynecki, Brooklyn, NY	\$64,300,000
3	Lin v. Hutch Realty Partners, LLC.	12/15/14	Queens Supreme	Laborer fell off roof, claimed disabling injuries of brain, spine	Benedict P. Morelli, Adam E. Deutsch, David T. Sirotkin of Morelli Alters Ratner, LLP, New York, NY	\$62,060,086
4	Mazzei v. Money Store	12/19/14	U.S. District Court, SDNY	Lenders charged excessive fees, mortgagors alleged	Moshe Horn and Christopher Van de Kieft of Seeger Weiss LLP, New York, NY; Paul Grobman of Law Offices of Paul Grobman, New York, NY & Neal DeYoung and H. Rajan Sharma of Sharma & DeYoung LLP, New York, NY	\$54,800,000
5	Capitol Records Inc. v. MP3tunes, LLC	3/26/14	U.S. District Court, SDNY	Web sites allowed illegal sharing of music, companies claimed	Andrew H. Bart, New York, NY and Luke C. Platzer, Washington, DC of Jenner & Block LLP, & Mona Simonian and Frank P. Scibilia of Pryor Cashman LLP, New York, NY	\$48,061,073
6	Deskovic v. City of Peekskill	10/23/14	U.S. District Court, SDNY	Due Process: Investigator coerced false confession, plaintiff claimed	Nick J. Brustin, Emma Freudenberger, Farhang Heydari, Anna Benvenuti Hoffmann and Aaron W. Scherzer of Neufeld Scheck & Brustin, LLP, New York, NY	\$40,000,000
7	Restivo v. Nassau County	4/17/14	U.S. District Court, EDNY	Detective fabricated evidence, convicted men claimed	Nick J. Brustin, Anna Benvenuti Hoffmann, Alexandra L. Lampert, Elizabeth Daniel Vasquez and Joshua E. Dubin of Neufeld Scheck & Brustin, LLP, New York, NY	\$36,000,000
8	Sweberg v. ABB Inc.	6/16/14	New York Supreme	Gaskets, insulation blamed for workers' mesothelioma	Jerry Kristal, Danny R. Kraft and Michael Fanelli of Weitz & Luxenberg P.C., Cherry Hill, NJ	\$25,000,000
9	Buri v. Mount Sinai Medical Center Inc.	2/4/14	Queens Supreme	Doc didn't timely address teen's collapsed lung, suit alleged	Jonathan C. Reiter of Jonathan C. Reiter Law Firm, PLLC, New York, NY	\$22,977,200
10	Hillyer v. A.O. Smith Water Products Co.	12/12/14	New York Supreme	Steamfitter alleged his cancer was from asbestos at work	Adam R. Cooper and Benjamin Darche of Weitz & Luxenberg P.C., New York, NY	\$20,000,000
11	Alcantara v. NYCTA	1/29/14	Kings Supreme	Stairway accident led to brain injury, seizures, plaintiff claimed	Brad A. Kauffman of Law Offices of Brad A. Kauffman, PLLC, New York, NY, trial counsel, Ziegler & Robinson, P.C., New York, NY	\$16,000,000
12	Korsunskiy v. Careful Bus Service Inc.	7/2/14	Kings Supreme	Car crash led to disabling stroke, plaintiff claimed	Daniel A. Thomas of Law Offices of Daniel A. Thomas, P.C., New York, NY; Boris Zivotov of Boris Zivotov, Esq., P.C., Brooklyn, NY; & Paul J. Edelstein of The Edelsteins, Faegenburg & Brown LLP, New York, NY	\$14,080,000
13	Terry v. A.O. Smith Water Products Co.	3/18/14	New York Supreme	Workers were not warned about asbestos, estates alleged	Danny R. Kraft, Michael Fanelli and Phan T. Alvarado of Weitz & Luxenberg P.C., New York, NY	\$12,500,000
14	Munian v. Mootabar	3/4/14	Westchester Supreme	Doc's inaction allowed damage of infant's brain, suit alleged	Jordan Merson of Kramer, Dillof, Livingston & Moore, New York, NY	\$11,346,000
15	Tarallo v. Occhipinti	10/24/14	Nassau Supreme	Car crash caused permanent spinal injuries, plaintiff claimed	Regina C. Nichols of Nichols & Cane LLP, Syosset, NY	\$9,164,000
16	Ortiz v. New York City Transit Authority	4/21/14	New York Supreme	Bicyclist, bus driver traded blame for collision	Ben B. Rubinowitz & Peter J. Saghir of Gair, Gair, Conason, Steigman, Mackauf, Bloom & Rubinowitz, New York, NY	\$8,570,000
17	Nash v. A.W. Chesterton Co. Inc.	12/19/14	Onondaga Supreme	Bus's toxic parts caused man's mesothelioma, estate alleged	Keith W. Binder and Amber R. Long of Levy Konigsberg LLP, New York, NY	\$7,700,000
18	Estate of Hernandez-Morales v. Crown Container Co., Inc	3/25/14	Kings Supreme	Maintenance error led to fatal truck accident, suit alleged	Matthew Zepnick of Sol Zepnick PC, New York, NY; Daniel A. Thomas of Law Offices of Daniel A. Thomas, P.C., New York, NY, of counsel & Paul J. Edelstein of The Edelsteins Faegenburg & Brown LLP, New York, NY, of counsel	\$7,208,000
19	Rosario v. St. Barnabas Community Enterprises Inc.	2/5/14	Bronx Supreme	Patient injured by surgeon's use of improper item, suit alleged	Lucille A. Fontana of Clark, Gagliardi & Miller, PC., White Plains, NY	\$7,200,000
20	Marin v. NYC Health & Hospitals Corp	2/4/14	New York Supreme	Doc needlessly amputated leg, patient alleged	Ryan H. Asher of Asher & Associates, P.C., New York, NY	\$6,883,740
21	Valverde v. FS 41-45 Tiemann Place LLC	12/8/14	New York Supreme	Fall off of landing caused injury of brain, plaintiff claimed	Eric H. Green of The Law Offices of Eric H. Green & Associates, New York, NY & Ronald W. Ramirez of Law Office of Ronald W. Ramirez, Forest Hills, NY, trial counsel	\$6,837,950
22	Doe v. Goldweber	6/14/14	New York Supreme	Infected patient claimed doc didn't supervise anesthesiologist	Thomas P. Giuffra of Rheingold, Valet, Rheingold, McCartney & Giuffra LLP, New York, NY	\$6,100,000
23	Hennessy v. Continuum Health Partners Inc.	11/18/14	New York Supreme	Messy, poorly lit job site a hazard, fallen worker claimed	Kenneth Sacks and Andrew D. Diamond of Sacks and Sacks LLP, New York, NY; & James J. McCrorie of Law Offices of James J. McCrorie, P.C., Jericho, NY, of counsel	\$5,578,011
24	Hernandez v. Danella Construction of NY Inc.	6/2/14	Bronx Supreme	Worker claimed he wasn't provided ladder for trench	Joseph E. Gorczyca of The Law Offices of Michael S. Lamonsoff, PLLC, New York, NY	\$5,500,000
25	Mungo v. Travieso	6/25/14	Kings Supreme	Vehicular collision caused spinal injuries, plaintiff claimed	Norman Robert Gershon of North Salem, NY, trial counsel, Alexander Bespechny, Bronx, NY, New York, NY	\$5,350,000

PARIS & CHAIKIN, PLLC

**PERSONAL
INJURY
LITIGATORS**

Statia Grossman


 From left:
Ian Chaikin, Jason Paris

Paris & Chaikin, PLLC is one of New York's premier boutique personal injury law firms. Combining an aggressive and progressive approach to the practice of law, the firm utilizes today's newest technologies to assist its many clients—people who have suffered complex and life-altering injuries.

With this niche in litigating catastrophic liability cases, Paris & Chaikin continues to exhibit fearlessness in the courtroom, earning its reputation by consistently securing justice at trial. As a result, other lawyers will call upon the firm, often on the brink of trial, to assist in matters involving difficult legal issues and devastating injuries.

"We are a firm with powerful resources" says partner Ian Chaikin, an attorney licensed in the states of New York, New Jersey, and Florida, who is fluent in English, Spanish, and Hebrew. "We invest our resources to ensure our clients receive the justice they deserve for the wrong they have suffered. And we will not be outworked, outfought, or outspent."

Partner Jason Paris adds, "The key to successful litigation is not only what you do at the end but also how you handle the beginning investigation, as that lays the foundation for your victory." Consequently, the firm works with the most accomplished investigators and experts from the very start of its cases, leaving no stone unturned.

The success of this approach is evident in the many millions of dollars Paris & Chaikin has recovered for its clients. The firm has achieved many significant results for victims of construction and motor vehicle accidents, municipal and premises liability, and countless other instances of negligence. And these

substantial recoveries have in turn bolstered its reputation among insurance companies. As Chaikin notes, "The foundation of our practice is an unwavering dedication to our clients"; Paris agrees, observing, "Our clients' happiness is our ultimate success."

From the moment they are retained on a case, the firm's attorneys are dedicated to realizing Paris & Chaikin's mission of providing clients with the personal attention and care their cases demand. "We emphasize close client relationships that endure past the conclusion of a client's case," says Paris. Chaikin adds, "We want our clients to know that we are here for them now and will be here for them in the future."

As part of helping their clients and ensuring their convenience, Paris & Chaikin provides personal car service to all of its clients. That way, clients can be transported to the office or court in a comfortable, tranquil environment, without the hassle of using mass transit.

Given the dedication and commitment Paris and Chaikin show their clients, both attorneys have been included in the prestigious Super Lawyers publication, which recognizes no more than five percent of attorneys in each state. They have also been inducted to the Million Dollar Advocates Forum and Multi Million Dollar Advocates Forum and serve on the New York State Trial Lawyers Association's Board of Directors.

"The truest measure of our success is when our clients leave our office in a better position than when they came in," observes Chaikin. To which Paris says, "The joy we get in securing a better future for our clients is what continues to fuel our drive."

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PAUL B. WEITZ & ASSOCIATES

**PERSONAL
INJURY
LITIGATORS**

Paul B. Weitz & Associates is a premier personal injury law firm that handles major complex litigation in New York City and its outer boroughs. "No case is too complicated for us," says managing partner Paul B. Weitz. "We put the necessary time and money into every case to get the best results for our clients."

The firm has a tradition of providing expert representation and personalized service, dating back to the early 1970s when the firm began as Schneider, Kleinick & Weitz. Since then, the firm has established a proven track record of more than 200 cases or settlements in excess of \$1 million.

Attorneys at the firm are experienced in all types of catastrophic personal injury cases, including construction and workplace accidents, car and truck accidents, medical malpractice, wrongful death, municipal liability, and premises liability. Since 2007 alone, they have achieved a number of notable settlements, including: \$20 million for a 26-year-old worker who was rendered a quadriplegic after a steel pipe was dropped on him at a construction site; \$16 million for a 23-year-old man who fell from a rock wall after his safety belt broke; \$14 million for a worker who was injured after a platform collapsed while he was laying cable; and \$11 million for a 65-year-old woman who was injured when she fell through a gap between a Long Island Rail Road train and the platform.

Above all, the firm's attorneys strive to help clients through their recovery process, which often requires extensive medical treatment and costly rehabilitation. "Though we handle some of the largest cases, we're still able to provide all of our clients with the personal attention they need," Weitz says. "I make sure that I'm available to speak to all of my clients at any time."

The firm is dedicated to realizing its clients' goals both inside and outside of the courtroom. For example, in a case where a mother's only son was killed by a drunk driver, the firm worked with the woman to strengthen New York laws that punish drunk drivers who have committed vehicular assault or manslaughter. These efforts resulted in



Stefia Grossman

Paul B. Weitz

VaSean's Law, which has made it easier for district attorneys to prosecute drunk drivers on those charges. "If a client has an objective that goes beyond a monetary result, we will work tirelessly to achieve that for them," Weitz notes.

Weitz has been selected for inclusion in the *Best Lawyers in America* since 2001 and has served as president of the New York Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates. He is considered an expert in the personal injury field, and frequently lectures on the subject before a number of bar associations.

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AT OUR BEST WHEN YOU'RE
AT YOUR WORST

MAD MEN ESQ.



FROM LEFT: ANDREW M. LASKIN*; BRETT M. STAMBOLIAN, LAWRENCE T. YABLON*, JOEL H. ROBINSON**, MORTON J. SEALOVE, SCOTT B. COLLINS, JARED R. COOPER**

*Super Lawyers 2013-2015 *Super Lawyers 2015 **Super Lawyers 2011-2015 **Super Lawyers Rising Star 2015

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Super Lawyers

DOUGLAS & LONDON P.C.

PERSONAL
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LITIGATORS

Douglas & London, P.C. is a New York City-based law firm that advocates for those harmed by others. Firm founders Michael A. London and Gary J. Douglas have achieved justice for their clients against some of the largest companies in the world, and they remain committed to fighting for the underdog.

Among the firm's pioneering verdicts and settlements, it achieved the first verdict in New York against the tobacco industry, one of the first verdicts in the country for a defective airbag against the automobile industry, a \$690 million settlement against Eli Lilly & Co for injuries caused by the atypical anti-psychotic medication Zyprexa, and the first successful verdict in the country against Merck for injuries caused by the drug Fosamax.

In addition to these past successes, the firm has achieved the following results in the last 3 years (2012-2015):

- **More than \$1.9 billion recovered against Bayer for women injured by the birth control pills Yaz and Yasmin:** London served as co-lead counsel in the Yaz Multidistrict Litigation, and Douglas was designated as the lead trial attorney; after two and a half years of hard-fought litigation, settlement parameters began taking shape just 11 days before the first trial, led by Douglas, was set to begin.
- **\$9 billion verdict and \$2.4 billion settlement against Takeda Pharmaceuticals for injuries caused by the drug Actos:** Firm partner Stephanie O'Connor was an integral part of the trial team that won this verdict. She was primarily responsible for the expert witnesses and the development of the scientific evidence put forth by the plaintiff at trial. Following this groundbreaking verdict, a global settlement of \$2.4 billion was reached with Takeda on behalf of approximately 9,000 claimants who developed bladder cancer.
- **\$650 million settlement against Boehringer Ingelheim for injuries caused by the drug Pradaxa:** Both Douglas and London served crucial roles in the Pradaxa Multidistrict Litigation: London served as court-appointed co-lead counsel on behalf of all plaintiffs and was one of two primary negotiators for the entire plaintiffs' team in the \$650 million settlement; Douglas, once again selected as the lead trial attorney for the first trial in the country, was one of a handful of lawyers who spent many weeks overseas battling the German company and

developing much of the evidence necessary to prosecute the case.

Given Douglas & London's unparalleled combination of leadership and trial capabilities, the firm is poised to further its successful track record in the years to come:

- **C-8 Environmental litigation:** Douglas is one of two lead trial lawyers in the first trial against DuPont over its decades-long pollution of certain water districts with C-8, a known carcinogen, in parts of Ohio and West Virginia. (DuPont has already agreed to a class action settlement of up to \$235 million for medical monitoring as a result of this pollution.) London was also appointed by the court as co-lead counsel of the entire Multidistrict Litigation for over 3,500 plaintiffs.
- **Testosterone Replacement Therapy Litigation:** London and O'Connor are both active in prosecuting cases against various manufacturers of testosterone replacement therapy. London serves on a court-appointed executive committee charged with steering the litigation on behalf of all plaintiffs, and O'Connor is one of a handful of lawyers charged with developing the scientific evidence.
- **Xarelto Litigation:** The firm is representing more than 650 people injured by the drug Xarelto, and Douglas and firm attorney Lara Say are spearheading the science and liability for the thousands of cases that will soon follow.

Randolph Janis, the firm's newest partner, has represented medical malpractice victims for nearly two decades, recovering millions of dollars on their behalf. Additionally, attorney Virginia Anello continues to spearhead the firm's vaccine and class action practices, with a recent \$15 million settlement against Bayer for alleged consumer fraud violations.

London notes "our entire team is highly respected in New York and throughout the country for its skill and experience with many on our team often recognized for their accomplishments and terrific work." Douglas adds, "No one at Douglas & London will stop until justice is served."

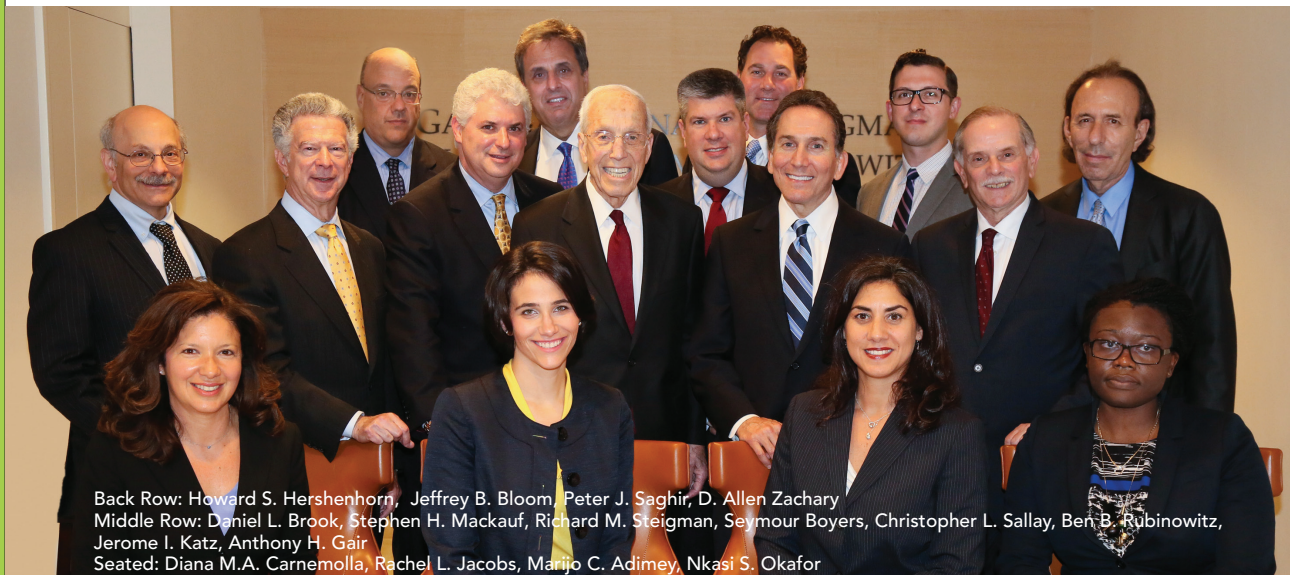


DOUGLAS & LONDON

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GAIR, GAIR, CONASON, STEIGMAN, MACKAUF, BLOOM & RUBINOWITZ

NEW YORK'S
TOP
VERDICTS & SETTLEMENTS
PERSONAL INJURY
LITIGATORS



Back Row: Howard S. Hershenhorn, Jeffrey B. Bloom, Peter J. Saghir, D. Allen Zachary
Middle Row: Daniel L. Brook, Stephen H. Mackauf, Richard M. Steigman, Seymour Boyers, Christopher L. Sallay, Ben B. Rubinowitz,
Jerome I. Katz, Anthony H. Gair
Seated: Diana M.A. Carnemolla, Rachel L. Jacobs, Marijo C. Adimey, Nkasi S. Okafor

Founded in 1919, Gair, Gair, Conason, Steigman, Mackauf, Bloom & Rubinowitz (GGCSMB&R) is one of the oldest and most well-established personal injury law firms in New York City. Representing only the most seriously injured plaintiffs, the firm has become synonymous with justice for the catastrophically injured.

"Our primary goal has always been to obtain justice for our clients and their families. Although we can't replace what our clients have lost, we work tirelessly to achieve superior results that will help restore them to a life of dignity and independence," says managing partner, Ben Rubinowitz.

While GGCSMB&R is headquartered in Manhattan, its attorneys regularly handle cases throughout New York and New Jersey, including some of the most significant personal injury and negligence cases in the country. In the past decade alone, GGCSMB&R has achieved verdicts or settlements exceeding \$1 million in more than 500 cases, and it has achieved more than \$1 billion in total verdicts and settlements for its clients.

"The key to these results is the fact that we limit our case intake to about 100 cases per year," says Anthony Gair, a partner at the firm. "That selectivity allows us to devote our firm's full resources and attention to each case from start to finish. It is our meticulous trial preparation and our ability to take a case to verdict that defines our success."

Some of the firm's most notable results include \$103 million for a child who sustained brain damage at birth; \$90 million for a child with cerebral palsy resulting from birth injuries; \$26 million for a pedestrian struck by a truck; \$17 million for a young man disabled

after a failed medical diagnosis; \$16 million for a construction worker who was injured when he fell from a scaffold; and \$14 million for tenants who were injured in a pipe explosion resulting from Con Edison's negligence.

"There is nothing more important to us than our clients. Whether it is a client who has been severely injured or a client who has lost a loved one, we approach each case with the highest level of dedication and commitment, knowing that the result will determine, in large part, the quality of life our clients will have going forward," says Howard Hershenhorn, a partner at the firm.

Recently, the firm achieved a \$27.5 million verdict for a woman who lost her leg after being struck by a Transit Authority bus, which was one of the largest verdicts for such an injury in the country. Additionally, in the past year, we obtained a \$8,570,000 verdict for a woman struck by a bus while riding her bicycle, a \$7,125,000 verdict against the City of New York and a \$5,000,000 verdict in a trial against the Federal Government for a woman who was struck by a postal truck while riding her bicycle resulting in her death.

Because of our continued success in prosecuting personal injury and medical malpractice cases, our attorneys have been repeatedly recognized by the legal community for their expertise: A total of eight partners have been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* and 9 have been named in *New York Super Lawyers*. The firm also includes attorneys who are members of the Inner Circle of Advocates and fellows of the prestigious International Academy of Trial Lawyers. Notably, our firm was selected by the *National Law Journal* and Law.com to be part of the "TOP 50 LIST OF AMERICA'S ELITE TRIAL LAWYERS."

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TOP 25 SETTLEMENTS IN 2014

#	CASE	DATE	VENUE	TYPE OF ACTION	PLAINTIFF'S COUNSEL	AMOUNT
1	Jordan v. MTA Bus Co.	2/5/14	New York Supreme	Bus driver didn't yield during turn, injured pedestrian claimed	David J. Dean, Frank V. Floriani, New York, NY of Sullivan Papain Block McGrath & Cannavo P.C.	\$12,000,000
2	Nechifor v. RH Atlantic-Pacific LLC	3/12/14	New York Supreme	Laborer claimed fall from scaffold ended career	David H. Perecman (lead), Adam M. Hurwitz, New York, NY of The Perecman Firm, P.L.L.C.	\$9,900,000
3	Gambale v. 400 Fifth Realty LLC	1/27/14	Kings Supreme	Ironworker claimed fall through floor ended career	James J. McCrorie, Kenneth Sacks, New York, NY of Sacks and Sacks L.L.P.	\$9,250,000
4	Krluc v. City of New York	1/7/14	Queens Supreme	Plaintiff. Inattentive driver, unchecked foliage led to accident	Stephen J. Murphy (lead), David L. Scher, New York, NY of Block O'Toole & Murphy, LLP	\$8,800,000
5	Dyer v. City N.Y.	10/15/14	Bronx Supreme	Suit: Driver, pedestrian couldn't see each other in work zone	Edward Gersowitz, William Hackwelder, Jeff S. Korek, New York, NY of Gersowitz Libo & Korek, P.C.	\$8,025,000
6	Leoncini v. New York City Transit Authority	5/5/14	Queens Supreme	Plaintiff claimed she was snared by bus's door and dragged	Ben B. Rubinowitz, Peter J. Saghir, New York, NY of Gair, Gair, Conason, Steigman, Mackauf, Bloom & Rubinowitz	\$6,500,000
7	Petrides v. School Construction Authority	4/1/14	Kings Supreme	Scaffold's platform not stable, injured worker claimed	Edmond C. Chakmakian, Hauppauge, NY of Law Offices of Edmond C. Chakmakian, PC	\$6,300,000
8	Estate of Campione v. Campione	7/3/14	Richmond Supreme	Intoxication to blame for car crash that killed two, suit alleged	Gary A. Zucker, Brooklyn, NY of The Law Office of Zucker & Bennett, P.C.	\$6,000,000
9	Koerner v. 281 Broadway Holdings LLC	9/1/14	New York Supreme	Tie-off point was too far from window, fallen worker claimed	David H. Mayer, Kenneth Sacks, New York, NY of Sacks and Sacks LLP	\$5,450,000
10	Fanning v. Rockefeller University	4/6/14	New York Supreme	Fall from ladder ended career, steamfitter claimed	James J. McCrorie, Jericho, NY of Law Offices of James J. McCrorie, P.C.	\$5,300,000
11	Bermudez v. State of New York	11/24/14	Court of Claims, New York	Prosecutors coerced witnesses, convicted man claimed	Michael S. Lamonsoff, New York, NY of The Law Offices of Michael S. Lamonsoff, PLLC	\$4,750,000
11	Kuras v. Cornell University	10/22/14	New York Supreme	Steamfitter claimed fall caused career-ending shoulder woes	James J. McCrorie, Jericho, NY of Law Offices of James J. McCrorie, P.C.	\$4,750,000
12	Ferraro v. Cohn	8/18/14	New York Supreme	Engineer claimed car accident ended career	Stephen J. Murphy (lead), Michael J. Hurwitz, New York, NY of Block O'Toole & Murphy LLP.	\$4,600,000
13	John v. Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America	2/25/14	Kings Supreme	Work site's owners, manager ignored hazard, plaintiff claimed	Jonathan S. Damashek, Jordan D. Hecht, New York, NY of Hecht Kleeger & Damashek, PC	\$4,500,000
14	Paz v. Highbridge Community Housing Development Fund Corp.	5/5/14	Bronx Supreme	Laborer claimed he injured ankle, spine in two-story fall	Jacob Oresky, Bronx, NY of Jacob Oresky & Associates, PLLC	\$4,400,000
15	James v. Jet Sanitation Service Corp.	9/3/14	Suffolk Supreme	Motorist killed when overloaded truck fell onto her vehicle	Christopher T. McGrath, Garden City, NY of Sullivan Papain Block McGrath & Cannavo P.C.	\$4,000,000
15	Sanchez v. P.M. Construction Services	7/30/14	Queens Supreme	Painter claimed he hurt ankle, spine in fall from display case	Jacob Oresky, Bronx, NY of Jacob Oresky & Associates, PLLC	\$4,000,000
15	Escobar v. GFC Fifth Avenue Owner, LLC	2/12/14	New York Supreme	Carpenter claimed nerve damage from 20-foot fall	Andrew M. Laskin, Joel H. Robinson, New York, NY of Robinson & Yablou, P.C.	\$4,000,000
16	Fattorusso v. B. Bros. Broadway Realty, LLC	8/13/14	New York Supreme	Mechanic claimed shaky ladder caused fall, injuries of head, neck	James J. McCrorie, Jericho, NY of Law Offices of James J. McCrorie, P.C.	\$3,750,000
16	Logan v. Green Street Developers LLC	1/27/14	Kings Supreme	Worker struck by falling object, claimed disabling injuries	Spencer H. Herman, Kew Gardens, NY of Law Offices of Spencer H. Herman, P.C., Kew Gardens, NY, trial counsel, Koenigsberg & Associates, P.C., Brooklyn, NY	\$3,750,000
17	Jenkins v. Related Cos. LP	5/1/14	Bronx Supreme	Contractor didn't address ice at job site, worker claimed	David H. Mayer, Kenneth Sacks, New York, NY of Sacks and Sacks LLP	\$3,500,000
17	Hunt v. City of New York	5/22/14	New York Supreme	Bus driver claimed accident caused injuries of spine, shoulder	Daniel P. O'Toole (lead), Robyn Brazzil, New York, NY of Block, O'Toole & Murphy, LLP	\$3,500,000
17	Silva v. FC Beekman Associates, LLC	2/11/14	Queens Supreme	No railings on scaffold's platform, fallen worker claimed	Daniel P. O'Toole (lead), Scott C. Occhiogrosso, New York, NY of Block O'Toole & Murphy, LLP	\$3,500,000
18	Strickland v. Central Park Conservancy Inc	12/1/14	New York Supreme	Man collided with cart, claimed injuries led to spinal fusion	Daniel P. O'Toole (lead), Frederick C. Aranki, New York, NY of Block, O'Toole & Murphy, LLP	\$3,400,000
19	Pero v. DiLorenzo	5/2/14	Richmond Supreme	Trucker wandered out of lane, initiated collision, suit alleged	Philip A. Russotti (lead), Kenneth J. Halperin, New York, NY of Wingate, Russotti, Shapiro & Halperin, LLP	\$3,300,000
20	Tanasescu v. Cayuga Excavating Inc.	3/24/14	Queens Supreme	Trucker's dangerous act caused accident, motorcyclist claimed	Daniel A. Thomas, New York, NY of Law Offices of Daniel A. Thomas, P.C.; Howard G. Frederick, New York, NY of Silbowitz, Garafola, Silbowitz, Schatz & Frederick, L.L.P.; Glenn K. Faegenburg, New York, NY of The Edelsteins, Faegenburg & Brown LLP	\$3,250,000
21	Khan v. Richards	11/3/14	Bronx Supreme	Motorcyclist claimed pothole left him unable to avoid car	A. Ali Yusuf (lead), New York, NY of A. Ali Yusuf, Esq.; Stephen A. Skor, New York, NY of of counsel, A. Ali Yusuf, Esq.	\$3,025,000
22	Westphelan v. Larkfield Manor, LLC	11/16/14	Suffolk Supreme	Wedding guest claimed careless waitress injured his head	Michael Bergman, Queens, NY of Bergman, Bergman, Goldberg, Fields & Lamonsoff, LLP; Seth Fields, Hicksville, NY of Bergman, Bergman, Goldberg, Fields & Lamonsoff, LLP	\$3,000,000
22	Garcia v. Lenox Hill Florist III Inc.	12/23/14	Queens Supreme	Man struck by van, claimed lasting injury of brain	Skip Alan LeBlang, New York, NY of Law Offices of Skip A. LeBlang	\$3,000,000
22	James v. 23rd Street LLC	9/10/14	Bronx Supreme	No protection around work site's trench, laborer claimed	Devon Reiff, Kenneth Sacks, New York, NY of Sacks and Sacks LLP	\$3,000,000
22	Santos v. City of New York	10/30/14	Queens Supreme	Bricklayer claimed disabling injuries from scaffold accident	James J. McCrorie (lead), New York, NY of Law Offices of James J. McCrorie, P.C., Jericho, NY, trial counsel, Jacob Oresky & Associates, PLLC, Bronx, NY; Jacob Oresky, Bronx, NY of Jacob Oresky & Associates, PLLC	\$3,000,000
22	Estate of Shatlaw v. Olori Brothers, LLC	4/1/14	Orange Supreme	Worker not provided area to attach safety line, estate claimed	Greg M. Sobo, Middletown, NY of The Law Offices of Sobo & Sobo, L.L.P.	\$3,000,000
23	McManus v. Greenburg	3/31/14	Nassau Supreme	Driver's improper turn caused accident, scooter rider claimed	Cathy S. Flanzig, Mineola, NY of Flanzig and Flanzig LLP	\$2,900,000
24	Brattesani v. Lisman	9/4/14	New York Supreme	Brain injury ended career, police sergeant claimed	Philip A. Russotti, New York, NY of Wingate, Russotti, Shapiro & Halperin, LLP	\$2,750,000
24	Lopez v. Toys "R" Us NY Limited Partnership	1/8/14	Bronx Supreme	Plaintiff claimed shopping center didn't fix uneven sidewalk	Scott Occhiogrosso, Daniel P. O'Toole, New York, NY of Block, O'Toole & Murphy, LLP	\$2,750,000
25	Fobbs v. SeniorCare Emergency Medical Services Inc.	6/5/14	Bronx Supreme	Woman struck by ambulance, claimed career-ending injuries	Walter F. Benson, Syracuse, NY of Lynn Law Firm, LLP	\$2,700,000

LINDSTADT LAW PLLC

**PERSONAL
INJURY
2015
LITIGATORS**



Michael A. Lindstadt, Esq.

Lindstadt Law levels the playing field for injury victims and their families, who are disadvantaged against insurance companies and their lawyers. Following a disabling and weakening injury, victims and their families are immediately faced with multiple unexpected problems and issues. Insurance companies and their lawyers use various tactics to avoid liability and save as much money as possible, regardless of the defendant's fault or the damage they cause to others.

Like many of us, Michael A. Lindstadt himself endured multiple heartbreaking experiences wherein family members were caused to suffer serious injuries. Personal experiences such as these created passions in Michael for justice, finding the truth, and protecting the injured. As a trial lawyer who once represented companies, hospitals and cities, Michael Lindstadt levels the playing field with both his experience representing both sides of litigation in various areas of personal injury, and the traits and values he brought into the profession - honesty, loyalty, hard work and care. These values, along with hard-fought legal experience, are what drive Michael and make him both persuasive and successful.

"The most disheartening part of my job is assigning a monetary value to my client's pain and suffering. I don't see a multi-figure result as a measure of my skill or as if I had won the lottery for someone. The lives of these individuals will never again be the same and no monetary amount will ever replace what they have lost. There are many cases wherein the other side minimizes the client's injury, claims the injury existed before the accident, or that the client themselves are responsible for their injuries. Instances when the insurance company refuses to settle the matter for any amount at all, regardless of its merit, and gives the client no alternative but to go to trial. Many firms shy away from these cases. We don't

push off clients whose problems don't fit perfectly within our practice. These cases take more skill as an attorney and more care as a person to be successful. This is where Lindstadt Law stands apart from the rest."

Michael began practicing law at Kopff Nardelli & Dopf, LLP, at the time one of Manhattan's premier medical malpractice defense firms, where he represented doctors and hospitals such as Memorial Sloan-Kettering and Lenox Hill Hospital. Thereafter Michael expanded his areas of practice to construction law. In 2009 he made the switch from representing defendant hospitals, companies and municipalities, to representing plaintiffs and everyday people. He then helped oversee the litigation department of a successful plaintiffs' personal injury firm in the Bronx, and there developed his presence in the Bronx community.

In 2012, Michael began his solo career, and in addition to representing his own clients, was retained as trial counsel by other lawyers and law firms. In 2014 Lindstadt Law PLLC opened its office in the Bronx, in addition to offices in Manhattan, Queens, White Plains and Long Island.

Michael makes it a point to counsel each one of his clients as to their unique situations, exploring the pros and cons of the issues at hand, and developing a plan of action - many times not only to the case, but to their lives and families as a whole. Cases accepted by Lindstadt Law are handled by Michael from inception to conclusion, so matters don't get lost amongst hundreds of other files and attorneys like other firms.

Michael prides himself on honesty, loyalty, experience, hard work and care.

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QUELLER, FISHER, WASHOR, FUCHS & KOOL, L.L.P.

**PERSONAL
INJURY
LITIGATORS**



From left to right: Helen Setton, Brian Schwartz, Jonny Kool, Barry Washor, Dallin Fuchs, Matthew Maiorana, Kevin McDonald

We believe that behind every significant case there are the emerging shadows of tragedy, change and uncertainty. As a firm, it is our quest to help the families we represent as they pass through these shadows every step of the way. We offer the requisite litigation skills to maximize a case's recovery. Yet our services transcend legal expertise. We are professionals who offer the time and dedication to our clients in order to attain a common goal: positive closure. Each case represents an individual story with its own unique concerns, circumstances and objectives. Our experience has allowed us pathways of communication when working with families who've suffered deeply due to birth injuries, orthopedic injuries, traumatic brain injuries and deaths. We represent the newborn, the young, the middle and the aged. We faithfully address the full magnitude of their physical, mental and emotional injuries so that the same can be forcefully and poignantly communicated to a jury. We use our advocacy, skills and resources to touch the lives of others so that they, as judges, are ultimately willing and able to sense our client's loss and compensate them fully.

For nearly 50 years, Queller, Fisher, Washor, Fuchs & Kool, L.L.P., has served injury victims in New York City and the surrounding area. The firm's current structure is the result of a 2000 merger of Queller & Fisher with Dienst & Serrins, two highly regarded personal injury and medical malpractice firms that were often consulted by other lawyers looking for representation for complex injury claims.

Today, we focus our practice on complex cases involving catastrophic accidents and injuries, worker injuries, construction accidents, vehicle accidents, medical malpractice, premises liability and wrongful death. Our reputation as one of the premier personal injury and medical malpractice firms in the city remains as strong as ever.

The firm's lawyers are well known in the profession.

Several of the partners teach at law schools and are regularly asked to participate in conferences, panel discussions and continuing legal education classes sponsored by national and state bar associations.

All of the practicing partners at Queller, Fisher, Washor, Fuchs & Kool have been named to the most current edition of Super Lawyers, an honor limited to no more than 5 percent of attorneys who practice personal injury law. Queller, Fisher, Washor, Fuchs & Kool, L.L.P., as well as all of the partners, has received an AV rating® by Martindale-Hubbell, a distinction voted on by peers in the legal community and considered by Martindale-Hubbell to be the highest rating for legal ability and ethical standards.

We use the finest medical and financial experts to demonstrate our clients' needs. The firm also works with investigators and our knowledgeable staff to research cases and obtain evidence. Our thorough case work and preparation of clients for depositions and trial are among the reasons we are so often successful.

The firm's partners carefully review and select cases. We are dedicated to providing personalized representation to clients, which means we value quality over quantity. We treat clients as individuals, not commodities. With fewer cases, our attorneys have more time to spend with clients and to focus on building strong arguments. As a result, Queller Fisher's clients receive the attention necessary to maximize their potential recovery.



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RAPHAELSON & LEVINE, PC

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2015

Stefia Grossman



Andrew Levine and Howard Raphaelson

Since its founding in 1992, Raphaelson & Levine has prided itself on serving as a "Voice for the Injured." The firm's trial lawyers, paralegals, investigators, and support staff all work tirelessly to help victims secure the verdicts and settlements they deserve; and over the past decade, they have obtained hundreds of millions of dollars in results for their clients.

Indeed, ensuring clients are fully compensated for their injuries is a bedrock principle at the firm, which aggressively pursues accountability when negligent behavior causes serious physical and economic harm. The firm has secured significant awards and settlements from construction companies, general contractors, product manufacturers, building owners, homeowners, business owners, automobile owners, trucking companies, municipalities, and medical professionals.

Among its recent results, Raphaelson & Levine obtained a \$1.85 million recovery for a carpenter who fell 18 feet from an unsecured extension ladder while working at a commercial building site. The firm also achieved a \$1.75 million recovery for the driver of a motor vehicle who sustained injuries to his spine when his car was struck by another vehicle, a \$1.5 million settlement for a woman in her 50s with a history of prior injuries who was reinjured in an auto accident, and a \$1.3 million recovery for a woman injured in a serious pedestrian accident. Moreover, in 2014 the firm obtained two of New York's top "motor vehicle: no-fault case" verdicts, as reported by VerdictSearch, with one being a \$1.25 million award in a case where a car crash caused spine and shoulder injuries.

Partners Andrew Levine and Howard Raphaelson credit these million- and multimillion-dollar verdicts and settlements to the substantial resources the firm puts toward identifying the underlying issues of a case. In addition to experienced attorneys, the firm utilizes a number of experts to help clients get the best recovery possible. Attorneys at the firm also make a point of familiarizing themselves with their clients' day-to-day lives in order to anticipate all of their clients' needs and expectations.

Given its results, Raphaelson & Levine has been recognized annually in New York's Top Verdicts and Settlements and Personal Injury Litigators publication. Levine and Raphaelson are also well known as leaders in the personal injury community, as both serve on the Board of Directors of the

New York State Trial Lawyers Association—the preeminent association for personal injury litigators in the state—and have been selected to Super Lawyers. In addition, the Trial Lawyers Board of Regents recently honored the firm with its 2014 Litigator Award.

In the spirit of helping others, the firm is involved in many charities, most notably as the chief sponsor of the Long Island 2 Day Breast Cancer Walk, which raises awareness and money for cancer research in the New York area. For more information about the firm and its work in the community, please visit its website, www.rllawyers.com, or join its social media network on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Google Plus. You can also sign up on its website for the monthly email distribution of its personal injury magazine, "The Voice of The Injured."

Results Sidebar:

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

\$40 Million Structured Settlement

Building Collapses on Child

\$8.5 Million Award

Psychiatric Patient Forcefully Knocked to Ground

\$5 Million Jury Award

Young Father Killed in a Train Accident

\$3.25 Million Mediated Settlement

Child Paralyzed from Automobile Seating Design Defect

\$2.255 Million Mediated Settlement

Mason Fell 45 Feet from Scaffold

\$1.95 Million Mediated Settlement

Driver Struck by Delivery Truck

\$1.75 Million Mediated Settlement

Driver Struck by MTA Bus

\$1.65 Million Mediated Settlement

Business Executive Tripped at Workplace

\$1.1 Million Jury Award

Union Paperhanger Falls at Work Site

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\$22,977,200

Among top malpractice verdicts in 2014 in the U.S.
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A 16-year-old boy suffers from pneumonia and septic shock. His family rushes him to the emergency room.

After being treated at Mount Sinai Hospital in Manhattan, the boy sustains severe brain damage.

He cannot walk, live an independent lifestyle or perform many of his everyday activities.

The family turns to attorney Reiter. He takes the case to trial and wins over \$22 million, one of the largest medical malpractice verdicts in the United States in 2014 as reported by ALM VerdictSearch.

Case results matter here.



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PROUD TO BE TRIAL LAWYERS

For over 35 years, Rheingold, Valet, Rheingold, McCartney & Giuffra has dedicated itself to providing the best possible legal representation to our clients and the lawyers who refer their cases to us. This proud tradition continues, as evidenced by the successful verdicts and settlements that we have had in the fields of personal injury, medical malpractice, product liability and mass tort litigation over the past year.

We are honored that for the 7th consecutive year, our partner Thomas P. Giuffra has been recognized for having two of the highest verdicts in New York State. In 2014, Tom obtained a \$6.1 million verdict in a medical malpractice case, which was the largest verdict for a malpractice case involving anesthesiology care. He also obtained a verdict for \$1.7 million in a motor vehicle case, which was the largest verdict for a case involving a U-turn in 2014. In March 2015, Tom obtained a landmark verdict for \$1.5 Million for a client who

sustained neck and head injuries while riding Coney Island's iconic Cyclone roller coaster. This was the 17th Million Dollar verdict of Tom's career.

In personal injury, medical malpractice and mass tort litigation, our firm retains its long-standing position among the nation's preeminent leaders. Our firm is currently working on large mass tort settlement payouts for hundreds of Biomet, DePuy, Stryker and Zimmer hip and knee implant cases, as well as AMS, Bard, Boston Scientific, Coloplast, and Johnson & Johnson pelvic and hernia mesh cases. We are always on the lookout for new litigation involving medical devices and prescription drugs, such as Actos, Benicar and Zofran.

We welcome the opportunity to work with lawyers who have personal injury, medical malpractice or products liability cases they wish to refer and are also available to work as trial counsel on cases that have already been prepared.

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FATOS DERVISHI, ESQ.

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2015



In 1989, Mr. Dervishi obtained his law degree from Tirana University School of Law. **Mr. Dervishi** worked as a special agent of the General Investigations Office with his office in Tirana. In 1994 he was elected as the Deputy Attorney General by the Albanian Parliament. He served as the **Deputy Attorney General** of Albania from 1994 to 1998.

In 1998 he immigrated to United States. His family arrived in the U.S. within a few months. Upon his arrival in Washington D.C., he met with Members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives since his trip was sponsored by the U.S. government. Beginning in 2003, he began to attend Pace University School of Law and graduated with a Master of Law degree in May, 2004. He is now admitted to the New York State Bar and practices law in all courts in our state. On June 13, 2011, Mr. Dervishi was admitted to practice law to the United States Supreme Court.

In the year of 2008 Mr. Dervishi partnered with Mr. Jared T. Levine and Duane R. Morgan and established the Law Offices of **DERVISHI, LEVINE & MORGAN, P.C.** Mr. Dervishi is extremely active in the Albanian community assisting recent and long-time

residents with their legal and other needs. He serves as a liaison for members of the Albanian community in America for all of their legal needs.

NOTEWORTHY CASE:

Insurance company pays \$2.2M to Dervishi Law Group's client

The Dervishi Law Group and his Partner, Mr. Duane R. Morgan won an insurance company battle, causing the insurance company to pay \$2.2M last week to a union carpenter who didn't go to the doctor for 7 months following his fall at work. The carpenter was complaining of neck and head pain but continued to work on light duty for 7 months. He ended up getting laid off for missing work and that is when his lawsuit was started. Almost 3 years after the accident, the Union Carpenter had surgery on his neck. Despite multiple doctors saying the neck problem was degenerative, Mr. Morgan still made the insurance company pay for the Carpenter's lost wages and pain and suffering to the tune of \$2,200,000.

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Standing left to right: Liza Milgrim, Deanne Caputo, Brian Shoot, David Dean, Mary Walling, Al Aquila, John Nash, Hugh Turk, Eric Schwarz, Eleni Coffinas, Frank Floriani, Elizabeth Montesano and Marie Ng
Seated left to right: Christopher McGrath, Vito Cannavo, Robert Sullivan, Nicholas Papain and Michael Block

SULLIVAN PAPAIN BLOCK McGRATH & CANNAVO P.C.

EXPERIENCE · Sullivan Papain, which was founded more than 80 years ago, is one of New York's premier personal injury law firms, with 40 attorneys devoted solely to the representation of those who have been seriously injured or who have lost a loved one as a result of negligence, medical malpractice, defective products or other wrongful acts. The firm offers a team of skilled trial lawyers who are deeply committed to each of the firm's valued clients.

REPUTATION · The firm is honored to be the recipient of the AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rating, the highest rating available for legal ability and professional ethics. The firm is also honored to have 13 of its Members selected by their peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers In America 2015 in the fields of Plaintiffs Personal Injury Litigation, Product Liability and Medical Malpractice—Robert Sullivan, Nicholas Papain, Michael Block, Christopher McGrath, Vito Cannavo, John Nash, Frank Floriani, Marie Ng, Eleni Coffinas, David Dean, Al Aquila, Brian Shoot and Mary Anne Walling.

RESULTS · Sullivan Papain's recoveries are consistently among the highest in the state. In the last 10 years the firm obtained over \$2 Billion for its clients, more than 400 receiving \$1 Million or more. In 2014, the firm's notable recoveries included:

- **\$12 Million** – Pedestrian Bus Accident Settlement (highest reported settlement in 2014)
- **\$8.5 Million** – Medical Malpractice Settlement
- **\$5.18 Million** – Medical Malpractice Settlement
- **\$5 Million** – Pedestrian Bus Accident Verdict
- **\$4.13 Million** – 9.11 Victim Compensation Fund Award
- **\$4 Million** – Motor Vehicle Truck Accident Settlement
- **\$3.9 Million** – Medical Malpractice Settlement
- **\$2.3 Million** – Medical Malpractice Settlement
- **\$2.25 Million** – Construction Accident Settlement
- **\$1.65 Million** – Lack of Security Sexual Assault Settlement



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SCHWARTZAPFEL LAWYERS, P.C.

**PERSONAL
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2015

Stasia Grossman

Standing, from left:
Benjamin Rabinowitz
Sachin Gadh
Michael Reiner
Brian Murphy

Seated, left to right:
Nicole Kim
Steven Schwartzapfel
Christopher Holbrook



For the past three decades, the personal injury law firm Schwartzapfel Lawyers has served as a powerful advocate for people who have been seriously injured, maimed, disabled, or killed as a result of someone else's wrongdoing.

THE FIRM'S EXPERIENCED LEGAL TEAM—WHICH handles all accidents – auto accidents, construction accidents, workers' compensation, personal injury, medical malpractice and wrongful death on a contingency fee-basis—has changed thousands of lives for the better; and nowhere is that more evident than in the many thank-you letters the firm has received.

"WE GENUINELY CARE ABOUT OUR CLIENTS," SAYS Steven J. Schwartzapfel, who founded his firm in 1981 after defending accident cases for an insurance company and seeing firsthand the tactics and strategies insurance companies can engage in to delay and deny legitimate claims. From inception, Schwartzapfel Lawyers P.C. handles every case with a sense of urgency. Heath Brandafino, a union worker who was injured in a motorcycle accident, wrote, "I am so glad I decided to use you. You settled my case in full for the whole policy in the record time of just 6 weeks."

"WE RECOGNIZE WE'RE DEALING WITH PEOPLE, NOT simply numbers; so we are in close contact with our clients on an ongoing basis in order to better understand how their injuries have impacted them and their family's lives. We treat our clients like family. The many thank-you letters we receive and video testimonials are a testament to that high level of service."

FOR EXAMPLE, AFTER HANDLING AN ELEVATOR construction accident case, Schwartzapfel Lawyers received a letter from the client, Francis Scarnati, detailing how the firm had exceeded his expectations by reaching a large settlement that enabled him and his family to never have to worry about their financial future.

SCHWARTZAPFEL LAWYERS HELPED US IN EVERY aspect of our journey from the legal paperwork, to doctor visits,

to depositions, to litigation, to workers' comp, to social security disability. We did not have to deal with different firms," Scarnati wrote in his letter. "Whenever we had a question, the answer was just one call away. . . [and that] truly makes us feel like part of the Schwartzapfel family."

INDEED, THROUGHOUT THE FIRM'S TESTIMONIALS there is one expression that clients consistently use when describing its service—"You treated me like family." And as Schwartzapfel notes, that experience is by design: "Our goal is to build relationships for life. We provide our clients a comfort level and confidence that we can make these difficult situations easier; and to that end, I give my clients my home and cell phone numbers so they can reach me 24/7 with any problems or questions."

IN ANOTHER CASE, SCHWARTZAPFEL REPRESENTED A man who fell off the roof of a single-family home in an unwitnessed accident, rendering him a quadriplegic. He had already been turned down by three other lawyers when he came to Schwartzapfel, as labor laws don't protect workers in cases involving single-family homes. Still, Schwartzapfel felt the seriousness of his injuries warranted an investigation; and, after retaining experts, it was determined that this incident fell under an exception to that law, resulting in a significant recovery providing a much better quality of life for our client.

REGARDLESS OF THE TYPE OR SEVERITY OF THE HARMS and losses that have been done to its clients, Schwartzapfel Lawyers treats each case with the same genuine care, concern, compassion and understanding that have made clients feel like family for over 30 years. For cases involving personal injury, construction accidents, worker's compensation and medical malpractice, Schwartzapfel Lawyers knows how to fight...and how to win.

Past performance does not guarantee future results.

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DELL & DEAN, PLLC

PERSONAL
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2015



Joseph G. Dell

Christopher R. Dean

Dell & Dean, PLLC was established to be the voice for injured victims who have suffered catastrophic injuries caused by the negligence of others. The firm is dedicated to representing plaintiffs and their families in all facets of personal injury cases. These cases include Mass Transit accidents, Construction Site accidents, Medical Malpractice, Nursing Home negligence and neglect, Slip, Trip and Fall accidents, Multi-District Litigation for Defective Products, Medical Devices and Pharmaceuticals, Product Liability cases, Asbestos and Toxic Tort cases, Automobile Collisions, Dram Shop cases, Workers Compensation claims, Social Security Disability claims, and Employment Discrimination.

For almost twenty five years, Joseph G. Dell and Christopher R. Dean have been recovering outstanding multi-million dollar awards for injured clients and their families. The philosophy of the firm is simple: "the client always comes first." This philosophy matters. Treating clients as if they are family matters. Returning every call matters. Preparing the case and winning matters. Building a bond with a client and their family matters. What we do at Dell & Dean, PLLC matters, because we get the justice that our clients deserve.

Joseph G. Dell is the Founding Partner and President of Dell & Dean, PLLC. Mr. Dell and Partner Christopher R. Dean have been united in their friendship and in their interest in protecting the rights of injured individuals since they first met at St. John's University School of Law in 1988.

Both attorneys are recognized by their colleagues and peers as aggressive and zealous adversaries that always protect their injured clients. They have spent their careers representing injured victims and their families in every conceivable type of accident or injury case, and Dell & Dean, PLLC is regularly sought out by other lawyers and law firms to represent their injured clients as well. Those relationships have grown out of their unwavering dedication, respect and concern for each and every client they represent.

The firm's clients rely upon our reputation and our results. We rely upon their loyalty and their continued support in referring us to their family and friends. The greatest honor we can have as an attorney is to be trusted by a client with a case involving a loved one. That trust and bond is a sacred thing at Dell & Dean, PLLC and we do everything possible to honor and protect that trust.

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BERGMAN, BERGMAN, GOLDBERG, FIELDS & LAMONSOFF, LLP

NEW YORK'S
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2015

As one of New York's leading personal injury firms, Bergman, Bergman, Goldberg, Fields & Lamonssoff, LLP, brings a proven approach to cases that range from automobile and construction accidents to premises liability, products liability, and medical malpractice.

"From the outset, we consider cases from the perspective of the client, the adversary, the judge, and the jury, because we prepare every matter for trial," says partner Michael Bergman. "Each case is managed as a team, with the partners discussing every case so that no stone goes unturned in our endeavor to maximize recovery. Additionally, clients can be assured they will not be turned over to an associate; rather, a partner will work directly with them on their case."

Bergman attributes the firm's success (it has been thriving for more than 50 years) to the personal relationships it builds with its clients. Attorneys are hands-on and seek to provide the level of service they would want for their own family members. "We strive to empower clients so they leave our office feeling knowledgeable about how the law operates in their case," Bergman notes.

At the same time, the firm employs an aggressive litigation style and unyielding negotiation tactics to ensure clients receive full compensation in their case; over the years, this approach has resulted in more than 100 million dollars in verdicts and settlements. Most recently, the firm secured a \$3 million mediated settlement—one of the top 25 New York settlements in 2014, as reported by VerdictSearch—for a man who suffered a serious head injury at an event hall.

"We developed a strong relationship with our client in this matter, so we knew that his injury not only affected him, but also had a profound impact on his family," says partner Eric Lamonssoff. "To effectively convey the gravity of his injury, we broadened the focus and we created a powerful video from the perspective of his wife and kids, showing how his injury devastated their lives as well."

"Ultimately, it's not about getting an offer, it's about getting the right offer, and we never waver from our goal of obtaining an award that fully compensates our clients for their injuries."



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HACH & ROSE, LLP

PERSONAL INJURY
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Hach & Rose has distinguished itself as a top personal injury law firm in New York for its ability to achieve successful results for its clients. "When our firm is retained following an accident, we make sure to follow two principles. First, we believe that clients deserve a law firm that will be immediately responsive to their needs following an accident and we earn that trust daily. Second, we must be aggressive and unrelenting with the responsible parties," says founding partner Michael Rose. "When people are faced with medical bills and money pressures, we know the clock is ticking on their financial security and we need to get them results as soon as possible."

Managing Partner Gregory Hach adds: "Results are a great indicator of the work we do. In 2012, we secured a jury verdict in excess of \$13 million, the highest jury verdict in the state of NY for a construction site accident. We obtained an \$8 million jury verdict for a victim of a motorcycle accident and a \$6 million jury verdict for a woman injured on dangerous premises. We are equally proud of the \$400,000 jury verdict we received on behalf of a victim injured in a car accident, showing that we treat every client and case equally. If the defendants do not take responsibility, we will go to trial and these results help us maximize our settlement amounts." Mr. Hach went on to state, "I'm proud of the work we do. An injured construction worker once told us his attorney was recommending a \$60,000 settlement and we settled that case for \$2 million."

Michael Rose has received the prestigious AV® rating from Martindale-Hubbell®, is recognized as a New York Super Lawyer, and is a member of the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum.



From Left: Gregory Hach, Michael Rose

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LAW OFFICES OF NICHOLAS ROSE, PLLC

Attorney Nicholas Rose has spent his entire career advocating for people who have been injured by the negligence of others. Since 2003, Rose has battled large insurance companies and other powerful defendants to ensure his clients—the victims of personal injury and wrongful death—have their voices heard; and he has a history of obtaining justice on their behalf.

"I've always represented plaintiffs in personal injury cases because there is no better feeling than securing compensation for a client whose life has been dramatically altered by an injury or the death of a loved one," Rose says. "I've had clients who could no longer walk, and to see them smile again upon achieving justice in their case has been very rewarding—you can't change the fact that clients have been injured, but you can get them the money they need to take care of themselves and their families for the rest of their lives."

A member of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association, New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers, and American Association for Justice, Rose brings to his practice the experience and dedication necessary for successful resolutions. He is known for meticulously preparing every case for trial, and is involved in all aspects of his clients' cases from beginning to end; indeed, client satisfaction is a central priority at the firm.

"Our goal is to ensure clients are treated as people, not case numbers; and to that end, we're focused on providing individualized attention that really addresses our clients' concerns about their matter," Rose says. "Many of the people who come to us haven't been involved in accidents before and they're looking for guidance, so we work hard to ensure they have a complete understanding of both the facts of their case and the legal process."

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Nicholas Rose

Stella Grossman

THE PERECMAN FIRM, PLLC

In 2013, personal injury lawyer David Perecman achieved one of the top verdicts in New York for a construction case, when he secured a \$7.98 million verdict on behalf of a dock builder who suffered a foot injury that ended his career.

While impressive, Perecman notes that this verdict is just one in his almost four-decade-long career of multimillion-dollar results. "I've been handling cases for nearly four decades and I am not satisfied with settling a case for less than its top value based on the reputation I've been lucky enough to have achieved," he says. "A \$6 million case is a \$6 million case, and settling it for \$4 million just doesn't work for me."

Since founding his firm in 1983, Perecman has won more than \$200 million for his clients, who include victims of all types of personal injury, from construction and automobile accidents to medical malpractice. In the process, he has garnered significant recognition from his peers, having been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* since 2008 and *Super Lawyers* since 2007. His firm is also ranked among the top law firms in New York City for plaintiffs' personal injury litigation, tier 3, by *U.S. News – Best Lawyers* "Best Law Firms."

"When I'm asked what single factor has led to my past results I believe the answer is unbridled passion," says Perecman of his success. "It's a nice feeling when in winning a case you know that you've just rescued someone's life."



From Left: Peter Rigelhaupt, Rudolf Radna, Carissa Peebles, John Tolud, David Perecman, Zachary Perecman, Marvin Lava, Adam Hurwitz, Mario Snierowski



THE PERECMAN FIRM, P.L.L.C.
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RONALD W. RAMIREZ ATTORNEY AT LAW

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Few lawyers understand the specific challenges present in brain injury litigation better than Ron Ramirez. Since entering private practice in the early 1980s, Ramirez has developed a focus on cases involving brain and head trauma, with his many victories earning him a reputation as a preeminent lawyer in the field.

Most recently, Ramirez achieved a \$6.8 million jury verdict—one of the top 25 verdicts in New York for 2014 as reported by VerdictSearch—for a student who fell down a stairway when a balustrade collapsed. To prove his client had in fact suffered a serious brain injury, Ramirez called upon eight medical experts during the trial—a number that he says was essential to the case's success, as the experts' different analyses all pointed to the same head injury.

"Often in cases where the brain injury seems invisible and the victim appears 'normal,' nobody believes the person was actually hurt," Ramirez says. "Friends and family don't understand the severity of the injury, and even clients themselves might be confused about the symptoms they're experiencing. So the most satisfying part of my practice is helping clients identify these undetected injuries and then ensuring that their claims are not minimized or denied."

In addition to his knowledge of brain injuries, Ramirez, who started out as a trial attorney for the Legal Aid Society of New York, brings to his practice years of courtroom experience. He has tried hundreds of cases in both state and federal courts, and as a solo practitioner, he handles all aspects of these cases, providing individual service to each client.

"Brain injury cases are complex and challenging, and therefore require a deep understanding of both neuroscience and the client's ability to endure the litigation in order to be successful," Ramirez notes. "By combining cutting-edge technology and extensive resources with passionate, knowledgeable representation, we have been able to secure life-changing results for our clients."

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Stefia Grossman

Ronald W. Ramirez

ZUCKER & BENNETT, PC

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Over the past three decades, Gary Zucker has distinguished himself as one of the most committed and professional medical malpractice attorneys in New York City. His history of fighting aggressively for his clients' rights has been recognized by peers and adversaries alike, and he is featured in the 2015 Metro New York edition of Super Lawyers.

"Our philosophy in this firm is that every client matters," Zucker says. "If we take on cases, then we're committed to those clients, and we go the extra mile to make sure they receive the personal attention they need."

Zucker & Bennett handles cases in all five boroughs of New York City, as well as in the surrounding counties. The firm is one of the leaders in representing individuals who suffer injury or death as a result of medical malpractice, automobile accidents, premises liability, defective products, and construction accidents.

Among its significant recoveries, the firm obtained a verdict of \$10.5 million for a child who suffered severe brain injury due to prenatal care malpractice. It also secured a \$6 million settlement for the death of a 34 year old married plumber, which was the largest reported settlement in New York in 2014 for injury or death suffered by a passenger in a motor vehicle accident.

"At the end of the day, there's nothing better than the hug you receive from clients after you've assisted them during their time of need," says Zucker of these results. "It's what I enjoy most about this area of law."



Gary Zucker

Deidre Schio

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For twenty-five years, Charlie has been actively litigating and trying civil personal injury cases in Connecticut. Listed as an AV-rated lawyer by Martindale-Hubbell® (pre-eminent, highest rating available), Charlie has also been selected as a Connecticut Super Lawyer (2010-2014) and a Top 100 Lawyer by the National Trial

Lawyers. Charlie has won jury cases in Connecticut state and federal courts. In addition to trial work, he has achieved consistently outstanding settlements in personal injury cases. He has a particular interest in complex orthopedic and neurologic injuries, including traumatic brain injuries. Charlie enjoys a reputation as a fair and honorable adversary in all settings, including the courtroom, arbitration hearings, mediation sessions and direct negotiations with opposing counsel and insurance companies.

In addition to his statewide trial practice, Charlie has been active in the legal profession. He served as President of the New Haven County Bar Association from 2010-2011, is a James W. Cooper Fellow of the Connecticut Bar Foundation and is a member of the Executive Committee of the Metro Bar Caucus of the American Bar Association. He has been a member of the Nominating Committee for the Connecticut Bar Association and he is currently a member of the Board of Governors of the New Haven Country Club.

Charlie graduated from Northwestern University in 1986. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame Law School in 1990, having served as the Editor-In-Chief of the Journal of College and University Law.

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LAW OFFICES OF JOHN J. CIAFONE ESQ.



John J. Ciafone, Esq., an Attorney practicing in New York, New Jersey and Washington D.C. for over 20 years and is admitted to the United States Supreme Court, is a Trial Attorney to the Profession and has argued numerous appeals to the Appellate Division of the New York State Supreme Court. Ciafone's main area of practice is Personal Injury, Medical Malpractice and Product Liability cases and has tried numerous Criminal Cases.

Ciafone has tried and settled millions of dollars in Personal Injury Actions and has had some high profile cases appearing on Fox 5 news, Channel 7 news, Channel 4 news, Channel 2 news and New York 1 news in addition to radio and newspaper interviews in the Daily News, Newsday, New York Post and local newspapers.

Ciafone is a New York State Certified Arbitrator and Mediator and has been appointed a Referee and Guardian Ad Litem for the New York State Court System. He currently serves as Executive Director of the Aldos Democratic Club and is the Attorney for the New York State Fraternal Order of Police Big Apple Lodge.

Ciafone ran for office numerous times and was elected twice to Community School Board 30 with the highest number of votes where he served as President and Treasurer of the Board.

Ciafone is a product of the New York Public School system and graduated on the Dean's List with Honors at New York University and received the coveted Chancellor's Award. Ciafone graduated from St. John's University School of Law where he received the Judge Mary Egan Scholarship and was the Editor of the "Forum".

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