

A Special Advertising Supplement Distributed with New York Magazine

NEW YORK'S LEADING PERSONAL INJURY LAWYERS 2016



Law Offices of
Michael S. Lamonsoff, PLLC

"I love to win, and my clients love me for it."

LARGEST VERDICTS & SETTLEMENTS

**LEADERS
IN THE LAW**

NEW YORK

all data on
 LexisNexis®

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**

\$7,250,000

- Construction accident – Fall from scaffold – **Brain Injury (TBI)**

\$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**



H K D

HECHT KLEEGER & DAMASHEK, P.C.

DEDICATED TO YOUR RECOVERY

HECHT KLEEGER & DAMASHEK



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 \$300 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."



HECHT KLEEGER & DAMASHEK, P.C.

19 West 44th Street, Suite 1500, New York, NY 10036
ph: 212.490.5700 | info@lawyer1.com
www.lawyer1.com

SHAEVITZ LAW OFFICES & KOTZAMANIS

From left:
Dimitri Kotzamanis,
Oliver Shaevitz,
Eric Shaevitz &
Mark Shaevitz

Personal Injury, Construction Accidents & Falls

SHAEVITZ, SHAEVITZ & KOTZAMANIS

Statia Grossman



When Oliver Shaevitz 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 60 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, collected tens of millions of dollars in settlements, and obtained numerous multimillion-dollar jury verdicts.

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 of the law, but also of medicine, psychology, engineering, and technology. Shaevitz, Shaevitz & Kotzamanis is dedicated to providing the most knowledgeable, sophisticated, and effective legal representation to its clients.

The staff at Shaevitz, Shaevitz & 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 Shaevitz. "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. Shaevitz, Shaevitz & 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.

Shaevitz, Shaevitz & 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.

SHAEVITZ, SHAEVITZ & KOTZAMANIS

148-55 Hillside Avenue | Jamaica, NY 11435

ph: 718.291.3400 | fax: 718.739.5654

www.shaevitzandshaevitz.com

Personal Injury, Automobile Accidents & Premises Cases

OGEN & SEDAGHATI, P.C.

Eitan Ogen & Natalie Sedaghati

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 have been selected as Super Lawyers numerous times—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, 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 ER, claimant returned to work, and surgery was not related to accident as claimed injuries were pre-existing.

\$2.76 Million Settlement for 63 year old man for degenerative neck and back injuries. 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 there was nothing wrong. 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 necessity of any surgery/treatment, as client had returned to work after MVA, and 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 walked into side of the taxi. Jury awarded 100% liability against the Defendants. Plaintiff alleged a disc bulge and a shoulder tear. Defendants' doctors argued that MRIs showed no injuries and that plaintiff had soft tissue injuries which had fully resolved. American Transit's offer was \$40,000.

\$1.5 Million Settlement involving a rental car company in a one car accident, with only a minimum \$25,000 policy. Most attorneys would settle 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 soft-tissue MVA, knee arthroscopy case with no damage, no ER, minimal treatment. Defendants' doctors testified 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 re-ported at scene, waited 1 month to see a doctor (while continuing to work), gaps in treatment, MRI showed bulging disc. USAA's offer was \$7,500, then \$50,000 after surgery arguing it was unnecessary and unrelated.

\$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 accident. Client was working and defense liability doctor said she had made a good recovery.

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

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

\$750,000 Settlement for bicyclist where 3 independent witnesses testified against him and blamed him completely. 80% liability obtained against driver. Injury was resolved finger fracture and shoulder arthroscopy.

\$600,000 Jury Verdict for unemployed convicted felon. No complaints of pain at scene, no ER returned to physical work. Defendants' experts opined that he was not injured. Defendants established Plaintiff lied on stand, that his initial doctor (prior to retaining our office) had been accused of misconduct, and employer testified he did heavy duty labor. Defense showed photos confirming minimal property damage, no cars towed. 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 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, Defendants denied liability. No lost wages and minimal treatment. Defendants' doctors testified Plaintiff's exam and films were normal. 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, minimal property damage, no ER, no lost wages. Plaintiff first sought care with a chiropractor 9 days later, with minimal treatment. American Transit valued 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 which had resolved, her medical exams were normal and she was working. 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 property 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.

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). St. Paul had a no-pay position.

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

\$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 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." 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.

Attorney Advertisement "Prior results do not guarantee similar outcome"

OGEN & SEDAGHATI, P.C.

202 East 35th Street, New York, NY 10016

Tel: (212)344-3440 | www.osfirm.com

Top Settlements & Verdicts

2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015

Construction, Automobile & Personal Injury

Jacob Oresky

Jacob Oresky & Associates, PLLC

Personal injury attorney Jacob Oresky has achieved the rare distinction of having obtained recoveries for clients that have earned a place in the New York Law Journal's annual "Top Settlements & Verdicts" section for each of the past six years.

So far this year, his firm, Jacob Oresky & Associates, PLLC, has secured a number of outstanding settlements: \$7.5 million for a construction worker who fell from a sidewalk bridge, \$6 million for a plumber who fell from a ladder at a construction site, \$5 million for a demolition worker who was knocked off a ladder by a HVAC duct, and \$4 million for an asbestos removal worker who fell from a scaffold.

Of this success, Oresky states, "Our firm's number one priority is to provide outstanding representation to each client. This includes sparing no expense to investigate and champion our clients' rights. We establish a strong relationship with each client from the very beginning to help them through the difficult time following an accident."

From the moment Oresky is retained as counsel, he and his team of lawyers work to ensure clients receive maximum compensation for their injuries as well as personal attention and responsive service on every matter. To that end, the firm employs a team approach that addresses all aspects of its clients' cases—from helping a client obtain lost wages, to securing witness statements, hiring experts, and taking a case through trial to verdict.

Describing his firm's core approach, Oresky notes, "We're a smaller

firm, and because of that, clients aren't just a file number—we get to know the people we're representing and we build long-term relationships with them. In my experience, only by understanding a client's injuries, having empathy for their situation, and being proactive about litigating their case, can you achieve the sort of results that make a difference."

Oresky discovered a passion for representing personal injury victims early on in his career, while working as a young lawyer at a general civil litigation firm. As a result, in 1992 he started his own firm focused solely on representing personal injury clients, which has since become one of New York's go-to personal injury firms, particularly for victims of construction and automobile accidents.

"When compared to other areas of law, personal injury always struck me as the most meaningful," Oresky states. "There is nothing more rewarding than meeting with clients, learning about what they've been through, and then championing their rights and helping them get back on their feet. I like to help people."

*Prior results do not guarantee a future similar outcome.
Attorney Advertising.

Jacob Oresky & Associates, PLLC
149 East 149th Street
Bronx, NY 10451

P: 718-993-9999 | www.oreskylaw.com

NOTE FROM KEVIN VERMEULEN

"Personal injury is any damage or wrong done to a person, his or her property or reputation." Injuries can happen at work, in a traffic accident, because of faulty products or services, mistakes in medical service... the list is long, and if you've experienced any of these wrongs you know what it's like to try to get satisfaction. Most times the deck is stacked against you.

If you believe that you or a loved one has been harmed and you are wondering if you should sue, you need to consult an experienced attorney. That's why Leaders In The Law has assembled this list of some of the leading lawyers in New York City and the tri-state area. Check out this list of experienced personal injury lawyers who are prepared to help you navigate this very difficult area.

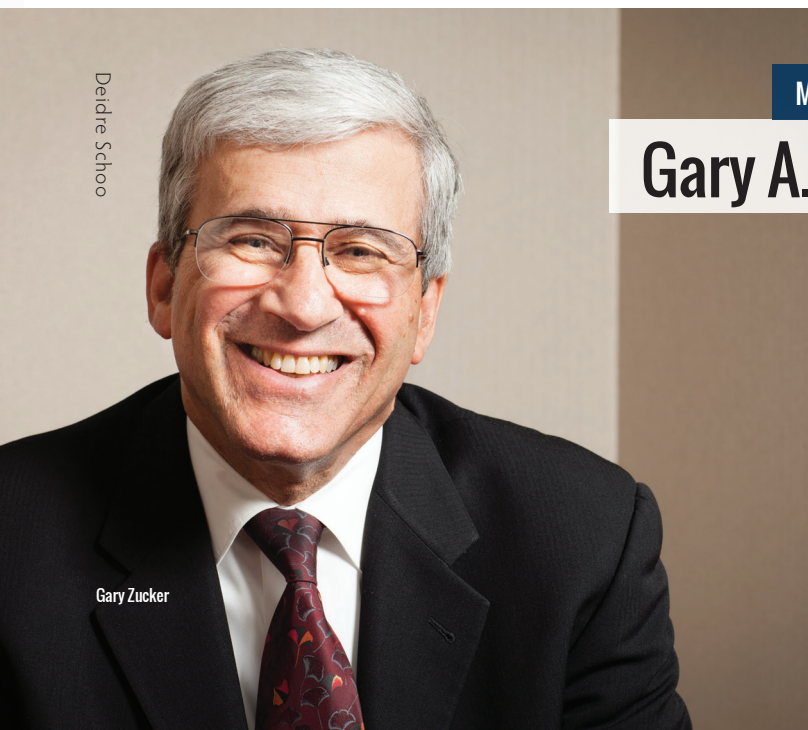
Also, take a look at our list of the fifty top verdicts and settlements in New York. The list is astounding—the largest verdict/settlement being \$806 million with the total amount over \$4 billion. The list will give you an idea of what a law suit can be worth—plus it's good reading.

We'd really like to hear from you so please write me at kevin@leadersinthelaw.com

Sincerely,

Kevin Vermeulen
CEO Leaders In The Law

Deidre Schoo



Gary Zucker

Medical Malpractice, Personal Injury, Verdicts & Settlements

Gary A. Zucker & Associates, P.C

Over the past four decades, Gary Zucker has distinguished himself as one of the most committed and professional personal injury and medical malpractice attorneys in New York City.

Mr. Zucker has been given an AV Preeminent rating by Martindale Hubbell, the organization's highest rating for professional excellence, based on voting by his peers. In addition, Mr. Zucker has been selected to the 2015 and 2016 editions of New York Super Lawyers and the New York Law Journal Motor Vehicle Verdicts and Settlements Hall of Fame.

Mr. Zucker handles cases in all five boroughs of New York City, as well as in the surrounding counties. The firm has a track record of consistent success in wrongful death, medical malpractice, and personal injury cases, including those involving 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 obstetrical malpractice. It also secured a \$6 million settlement for the death of a 32 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.

TOP 25 VERDICTS IN 2015

Based on Data From LexisNexis®

	Case Name	Award	Fact Summary	Plaintiff Attorneys
1	Federal Housing Finance Agency, as Conservator for The Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) and The Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac) v. Nomura Holding America, Inc., et al.	\$ 806,000,000	Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac maintained that mortgage-backed bonds violated securities laws with material misstatements and omissions regarding ability of mortgage borrowers to repay loans.	Adam M. Abensohn, Richard A. Schirtzer, Justin Paul Givens, et al.
2	Mark I. Sokolow et al v. The Palestine Liberation Organization, et al.	\$ 218,500,000	Victims of terrorist bombings and shootings claimed the Palestinian Authority and the Palestine Liberation Organization knowingly supported the terrorist activity that injured plaintiffs.	Rachel May Weiser, Kent A. Yalowitz
3	Lee E. Buchwald, as Chapter 7 Trustee for Magnesium Corporation of America and Related Debtor, Renco Metals, Inc. v. The Renco Group, Inc., a Delaware Corporation; K. Sabel Holdings, Inc., an Alabama Corporation; KPMG Peat Marwick LLP; Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette Securities Corporation; Houlihan Lokey Howard & Zukin; Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft, LLP; Ira Leon Rennert; Roger L. Fay; Justin W. D'Atri; Dennis A. Sadlowski; Michael C. Ryan; Michael H. Legge; Ron L. Thayer; Todd R. Ogaard; Lee R. Brown; Howard I. Kaplan; Keith Sabel; Unidentified Trustees of Trusts Established by Ira Leon Rennert; and Does I Through XX	\$ 118,222,000	Bankruptcy trustee claimed that corporate bankruptcy stemmed from improper and fraudulent payments that were delivered to holding company, its officers, and its directors.	Leo R. Beus, Scot C. Stirling, Malcolm Loeb, Robert O. Stirling
4	Maria Leo, Administratrix for the Estate of Her Son, Donald Christopher Leo, Deceased, and Xhevahire Sinanaj and Selvi Sinanovic, individually and as co-administrators of the Estate Of Ramadan Kurtaj, Deceased, v. The City of New York, et al.	\$ 95,971,644	Families of construction workers killed by crane collapse alleged that crane equipment was poorly maintained due to frugality of owners and contractors.	Craig H. Snyder, Michael G. O'Neill, Robert G. Schacht, Susan M. Karten, Bernadette Panzella, Robert Mulhall
5	Jizelle Correa, an Infant by Her Mother and Natural Guardian, Stephanie Barnett v. Payman Paul Jarrahy, M.D., Geddis Abel-Bey, M.D., New York Hospital Queens, Contemporary OB/GYN Health Care Inc., and Geddis Abel-Bey Jr., M.D., P.C.	\$ 52,606,017	Mother alleged that newborn suffered brain damage from hypoxic event during labor, stemming from mismanagement of Pitocin and Terbutaline.	Randy B. Nassau
6	Melvin Lee and Carol Lee v. The City of New York The New York City Police Department, Detective Carlos Marchena (Shield # 6212), P.O. "John Doe" Fictitious Name Meant to Designate Police Officer Who Permitted Injury to Plaintiffs and Julio E. Gonzalez	\$ 28,205,372	Pedestrian struck in crosswalk during car chase alleged injuries were caused by negligence of police officer who used unmarked van without a siren or built-in emergency lights to pursue minor traffic offender.	Robert J. Genis
7	Sean Dowdell v. 4545 Eastcoast, LLC., TF Cornerstone & TF Cornerstone QW2GC. LLC.	\$ 25,370,000	Construction foreman sought to recover for loss of leg and other injuries sustained in a 20 foot fall from an elevated deck.	Kenneth Sacks, David H. Mayer, James J. McCrorie
8	Eugene Sims a/k/a James Small v. City of NY; & Sgt. Sean O'Brien, Individually, and in His Official Capacity as NYC P.O.	\$ 25,200,000	Arrestee alleged police used excessive force by shooting him while he was lying chest down on the ground, leaving him with a paralyzing injury.	David M. Godosky
9	Walter Miller v. BMW of North America, LLC, et al.	\$ 25,000,000	Automobile mechanic alleged mesothelioma was caused by grinding automotive brakes that contained asbestos.	Douglas D. von Oiste, David A. Chandler
10	PPC Broadband, Inc., d/b/a PPC v. Corning Optical Communications RF, LLC	\$ 23,850,000	Broadband company claimed optical communications company infringed patents for coaxial cable connectors.	John T. Gutkoski, Bella S. Satra, Douglas J. Nash, Gabriel M. Nugent, Jason C. Halpin, John D. Cook, Kathryn Daley Cornish, and Mark E. Galvez
11	Ivan and Stella Tafur vs. A 1 Entertainment, LLC	\$ 20,403,540	Taxi passenger who was ejected from vehicle following collision with drunk driver brought dram shop action against Manhattan nightclub.	Samuel L. Davis
12	Hanna Bouveng v. NYG Capital LLC d/b/a New York Global Group, FNL Media LLC, and Benjamin Wey	\$ 18,000,004	Former employee brought retaliation and defamation action against CEO that allegedly terminated her from her job after she resisted his sexual advances and then characterized her as an alcoholic, party girl, and a prostitute.	David S. Ratner
13	Steven Espinal v. Jamaica Hospital Medical Center, Roger Torres, Maritza Torres	\$ 16,000,000	Motorcycle-rider struck by car in an intersection; claimed aggravation of his injuries by actions of hospital aide in subduing him after his coma.	Louis Grandelli
14	Juan Vargas v. Peter Scalամandre & Sons, Inc., Ferrera Bros. Building Materials Corp., Rad & D'Aprile Construction Corp., Total Safety Consulting, LLC, and AB Green Gansevoort, LLC	\$ 10,600,000	Worker tripped and fell while repairing a loading dock's gate, allegedly sustaining injuries of his back.	Neva Hoffmaier
15	A. Katherine Chisholm, Individually and as Personal Representative of the Estate of Richard G. Chisholm, Deceased v. R.T. Vanderbilt Company, Inc. Individually and as Successor in Interest to Gouverneur Talc Company, Inc.	\$ 10,055,000	Worker learned that he was suffering mesothelioma, allegedly from exposure to asbestos that was contained in talc.	Donald P. Blydenburgh, Arthur Prystowsky
16	Yolanda Abarca Ramos v. Lester Bartis & South Shore Ready Mix, Inc.	\$ 9,000,000	Pedestrian struck while in a crosswalk by a concrete truck, resulting in leg amputation and other injuries.	Theodore A. Naima



Building Accidents, Personal Injury & Wrongful Death

The Law Offices of Michael S. Lamonsoff, PLLC

Standing: Michael Lamonsoff, Colin Mulholland, Jonathan Wachlarz, Joseph Gorczyca, Jessica Massimi, Darren Moore, Faziah Gafur. Sitting: Dmitry Lapin, Stacey Haskel, Ryan Lawlor, Seth MacArthur

When asked to identify the most rewarding part of handling plaintiffs' personal injury cases, Michael S. Lamonsoff, Esq., the owner and principal of the Law Offices of 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 and most successful law firms concentrating in personal injury, medical malpractice, and police and prosecutorial abuse cases. He has meticulously put together a highly experienced team of aggressive lawyers, paralegals and paraprofessionals that reflect his zeal to win.

The overwhelming majority of his clients retain the firm because of its reputation and by referrals from former and current clients. His firm's reputation is fueled by a track record that includes some of the largest personal injury verdicts and settlements in New York history. 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 American Airlines Flight 587 disaster. His firm also represents many of the victims of the Metro-North train disasters in Connecticut and the Bronx; 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." This passion has led the firm to attain 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 is the highest award in state history for a wrongful conviction. Mr. Lamonsoff's firm also 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; and in another case involving an injured construction worker, the firm attained a \$4.75 million settlement days before trial.

With the firm's many multi-million dollar recoveries, Mr. Lamonsoff has become an authority in his field. 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. Further, he was elected to serve on the New York State Trial Lawyers' Association's Board of Directors. Mr. Lamonsoff remains the highest-rated New York City personal injury attorney on many premier lawyer ranking services online.

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



The Law Offices of Michael S. Lamonsoff, PLLC
Financial Square - 32 Old Slip | New York, NY 10005
Tel: 212-962-1020 | Toll Free: 877-675-4529
www.mslegal.com

TOP 25 VERDICTS IN 2015

Based on Data From LexisNexis®

17	Nataliya Karabaza and Edvard Karabaza v. Manhattan Beach Estates Associates	\$ 8,350,000	Tenant struck by a falling piece of ceiling in her apartment suffered injuries to head, back, and spine.	William Schwitzer
18	Michael Lombardo v. County of Niagara, Niagara County Community College and Board of Trustees-Niagara County Community College	\$ 7,250,000	Laborer sustained a crushed leg when eight 300-pound windows fell against him in the back of a truck; subsequently suffered complications, including deep vein thrombosis and complex regional pain syndrome.	Thomas H. Burton
19	Claudine Discala, as administrator of the estate of Joan Robusto, v. Charles B. Chrystal Co., Inc., R.T. Vanderbilt Co., Inc., individually and as successor-in-interest to Gouverneur Talc Co., Inc. and International Talc Co., S-hulton, Inc., individually and as successor to The Shulton Group and Shulton, Inc., Whittaker Clark & Daniels, Inc., Wyeth Holdings Corp., f/k/a American Cynamid Co., individually and as successor-in-interest to Shulton, Inc., American Talc Co., individually and as successor-in interest to Suzorite Mineral Products, Inc., f/k/a Pioneer Talc Co., a wholly owned subsidiary of Wold Cos.; Imerys Talc America, Inc., individually and as successor-in-interest to Rio Tinto, a wholly owned subsidiary of Luzenac, Inc., The Scotts Co., LLC.	\$ 7,000,000	Decedent was diagnosed with mesothelioma, allegedly from exposure to asbestos in talcum-powder products she used from the 1960s to the mid-1970's, and also from exposure to asbestos in cigarette filters she used from 1952 to 1956.	Brendan J. Tull, James Kramer
20	Selim Sadiku, as Guardian for the Personal Needs and Property Management of Kastriot Sadiku, Incapacitated v. Joseph F. Hederman, M.D., Island Medical Specialists, PLLC., Joseph F. Hederman, M.D., P.C., Chadi G. Saifan, M.D., Loretta Emenike, M.D., Munaf Siyamwala, M.D., Michael A. Castellano, M.D., Staten Island Pulmonary Associates, P.C., Neville K. Mobarakai, M.D., Steven Bonvino, M.D., Rabih G. Maroun, M.D., Debra Ann Ippolito, R.N., "John/Jane Doe 1", M.D.	\$ 6,500,000	Patient, who did not inform hospital of narcotic use when he went to ER for impaired respiration, maintained that hospital negligently administered oxygen, resulting in encephalopathy and spastic quadriplegia.	James Wilkens
21	Marlena Santana, Yasmina Davis & Melissa Rodriguez v. G.E.B. Medical Management, Bruce Paswall & Peter Ayende	\$ 6,181,000	Employees who were terminated from positions shortly after announcing pregnancy, claimed terminations occurred as a result of pregnancy discrimination.	Scott A. Lucas, Steven Sack
22	Merle Brenner & Stephen Brenner v. Mosholu Preservation Corp, Langsam Property Services Corp & VIP's Cafe Caterers Corp	\$ 5,700,000	Plaintiff slipped and fell on tiles as she left defendant's cafe.	Vito A. Cannavo
23	Wesley Kennedy v. New York City School Construction Authority and Volmar Construction, Inc.	\$ 5,524,716	Worker fell 20 feet through an open section of railing while working at a renovation site, landing in the building's sub-basement and suffering injuries to his ankles, heels, and back.	Kenneth Sacks, James J. McCrorie
24	Ana Espinal v. New York City Health Hospitals Corporation	\$ 5,483,733	Home health aide fell while she was working at Elmhurst Hospital Center, sustaining injuries to her back, a knee, her neck, and a shoulder.	Scott A. Steinberg
25	Hector Reynoso v. Bovis Lend Lease LMB, Inc.; & National September 11 Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center Foundation Inc.	\$ 5,160,000	Laborer fell while carrying a 9-foot-long, 175-pound panel at a construction site, sustaining injuries to his back, knee, neck, and shoulder.	Mariangela Chiaravalloti

TOP 25 SETTLEMENTS IN 2015

Based on Data From LexisNexis®

	Case Name	Award	Fact Summary	Plaintiff Attorneys
1	Johnson & Johnson, a New Jersey Corporation v. Guidant Corporation, an Indiana Corporation; Boston Scientific Corporation, a Delaware Corporation; Abbott Laboratories, an Illinois Corporation	\$ 600,000,000	After Johnson & Johnson (J&J) entered into an initial merger agreement with Guidant Corporation, competing companies allegedly leaked information, resulting in Guidant's decision to merge with J&J's competitor, Boston Scientific Corporation.	Harold P. Weinberger, Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP
2	In Re Bear Stearns Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates Litigation	\$ 500,000,000	Investors alleged that Bear Stearns Company misrepresented the quality of the loan pools underlying mortgage-backed certificates, resulting in 95% of the securities being downgraded to "junk bond" status from AAA/maximum safety ratings.	Brett M. Middleton, Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann LLP
3	Mary K. Jones, Individually and on Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated, v. Pfizer Inc.; Henry A. McKinnell; Jeffrey B. Kindler; Frank D'Amelio; David L. Shedlarz; Alan G. Levin; Ian C. Read; Joseph Feczko; Karen Katen; J. Patrick Kelly; Allen Waxman	\$ 400,000,000	Pfizer Inc. reportedly aggressively marketed medications Bextra, Geodon, Lyrica and Zovox for illegal, off-label uses and gave doctors illegal kickbacks to promote the off-label uses.	Samuel H. Rudman, Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP
4	United States of America, ex rel, David Kester, et al. v. Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation	\$ 390,000,000	Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation allegedly paid large kickbacks to owners of specialty pharmacies to induce the pharmacies to recommend patients order Novartis' specialty medications that were reimbursed by federal and state health care programs.	Li Yu, United States Attorney's Office



Personal injury, Construction Accidents, Civil Rights

The Perceman Firm, PLLC

Standing from Left: Adam Hurwitz, Rudolph Radna, Mariusz Sniarowski, Edward Galdi, Peter Rigelhaupt, Carissa Peebles. Sitting: Steven Dorfman, Zachary Perceman, David Perceman

Every client's case is different. But they each need what we deliver, a true understanding of their suffering. We couple that understanding with a commitment to service so that our clients feel what we know, that they are number one. Towards that end we bring to bear painstaking preparation, the relentless pursuit of our client's cause and unbridled passion for our clients. Our adversaries know this to be true, as do the people we come before in court. It is this combination that brings about the many astonishing results we have achieved for the people who trust us with their cases.

We know it isn't enough that we have achieved some of the largest verdicts and settlements every year in New York. For that reason we pride ourselves in servicing and staying in touch with our clients and with what is going on in their families' lives. It is only that way that we can bring our brand of justice to those whom we serve, the clients.

The firm's founder, David Perceman, has been practicing trial law for 38 years and in that time has achieved much for his clients. In recognition of that he has been selected for many years running by The Best Lawyers in America, Super Lawyers, U.S. News and World Report's Best Law Firms and Multimillion Dollar Advocates Forum. His verdicts and settlements have been heralded in the New York Law Journal as among the highest in the state of New York year after year. Last year, his \$9.9 Million dollar settlement was the highest in the state for a construction accident and the 2nd highest over all

categories. He has appeared on CNN, ABC, CBS, NBC, WPIX, and Fox 5 and in The New York Times, The Daily News, The New York Post and Newsday.

This year David and his son Zachary, who has now joined the firm, along with another associate, Peter Rigelhaupt (also recognized by Super Lawyers) achieved what David considers to be one of his proudest moments. He successfully argued a case before the states highest court, The New York Court of Appeals, and won the right to go to trial against The City of New York and several police officers for the false arrest and malicious prosecution of a woman who he claimed spent four years in jail after being coerced by the police into confessing to a brutal murder which she did not commit. Lawyers who practice in this area of civil rights law have made comments after reading the 40 page decision that this case will "change the landscape" and called David an "American Hero".

The Perceman Firm, PLLC
250 West 57th Street, 4th Floor
New York NY 10107
500 north Broadway, Suite 123
Jericho NY 11753
T: 212-977-7033 | www.perceman.com

TOP 25 SETTLEMENTS IN 2015

Based on Data From  LexisNexis®

5	Fort Worth Employees' Retirement Fund, on behalf of itself and all others similarly situated, v. J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Corp., J.P. Morgan Securities, Inc., Louis Schioppo, Jr., Christine E. Cole, David M. Duzyk, Edwin F. McMichael, J.P. Morgan Acceptance Corporation I	\$ 388,000,000	Investors claimed that mortgage-backed securities sold by J.P. Morgan companies were based on false and misleading registration statements and prospectuses, and that the certificates were unverified, had loan-to-value ratios outside the requirements, and netted, at best, 62 cents on each dollar invested.	Jonah Goldstein, Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP (San Diego)
6	U.S. ex rel. Mann v. Fifth Third Bank	\$ 85,000,000	Fifth Third Bank was accused of maintaining a culture that emphasized profits over compliance with federal regulations, resulting in a violation of the False Claims Act related to the bank's practices in connection with loans insured by the Federal Housing Administration.	Brian P. Kenney, Kenney & McCafferty, PC
7	Consumer Financial Protection Bureau v. Sprint Corporation	\$ 50,000,000	Sprint Corporation allegedly allowed placement of unauthorized third-party charges on customers' wireless telephone bills in violation of CFPA.	Genessa Stout, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
8	In Re American International Group, Inc. ERISA Litigation II	\$ 40,000,000	American International Group, Inc. (AIG) allegedly violated ERISA and other laws by failing to prudently and loyally manage their employee benefit plan assets, failing to monitor fiduciaries, and failing to avoid conflicts of interest with self-dealing.	Robert I. Harwood, Harwood Feffer LLP
9	Dennis Rich as Guardian of Stephen Rich, Dennis Rich Individually v. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and Steven Auerbach	\$ 28,000,000	Billboard sign installer was struck by SUV driven by allegedly distracted N.Y. and N.J. Port Authority worker.	Brian R. Davey, Mulholland, Minion, Davey, McNiff, & Beyrer; Thomas J. McManus, Sullivan Papain Block McGrath & Cannavo, PC
10	Gregory G., John L. Jr., Todd K. and Adams Affiliates, Inc. v. Crude Oil Commodity Futures Litigation	\$ 16,500,000	Two London-based companies and certain employees were accused of manipulating the price of crude oil futures in violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act and Commodity Exchange Act.	Warren Burns, Burns Charest
11	Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, et al. v. Local 28 of the Sheet Metal Workers' International Association	\$ 12,700,000	State and federal authorities filed a discrimination action against a prominent trade union, with the most recent issue involving work-hour disparities based on race over a 15-year period.	Thomas S. Lepak, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
12	In Re China MediaExpress Holdings, Inc. Shareholder Litigation (Deloitte Settlement)	\$ 12,000,000	Investors alleged securities violations by Chinese television advertising company and accounting firm in connection with reverse merger process.	Steve W. Berman, Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro LLP
13	Erin Elizabeth Heald v. West-Herr Chrysler, Jeep LLC, Salvatore Nasca, Michael J. Brown and Luanne M. Brown	\$ 9,950,000	Driver's van careened into parking lot after a collision and struck social worker, severed her leg.	Stephen J. Murphy, David L. Scher, Block, O'Toole & Murphy, LLP
14	Henry Williams as Guardian of Ebony Curry, an Incapacitated Person, & Henry Williams, Individually v. NYCH & H Corp., Leah Bright, D.O., and Steven Pulitzer, M.D.	\$ 9,560,000	Misdiagnosis of spinal injury in patient with autism led to her permanent paralysis.	Thomas A. Moore, Kramer, Dillof, Livingston & Moore
15	Roberto Ramos, et al. v. SimplexGrinnell LP	\$ 9,500,000	Workers performing testing and inspection work of fire safety equipment on public works project claimed violations of contract and labor laws for failure to pay overtime, prevailing wages, and benefits.	Raymond C. Fay, Fay Law Group PLLC; Jason Rozger, Beranbaum Menken LLP
16	Jason J. Trinca Individually, as Administrator of the Estate of Jason T. Trinca, (Deceased) and as p/n/g of Marialena Trinca and Christopher Trinca. v. Steven A. Vonfricken, Northgate Electric Corp., the County of Suffolk, the Town of Brookhaven and Anthony Trinca, as Administrator of the Estate of Keri A. Trinca / Anthony Trinca as Administrator of the Estate of Keri Trinca and Anthony Trinca, Individually v. Steven Von Fricken, Northgate Electric Corp., County of Suffolk and Town of Brookhaven	\$ 7,525,000	Widower claimed that wife and child were killed and two other children injured in collision due to aggressive driving and intersection signal malfunction.	Stephen J. Murphy, David L. Scher, Block, O'Toole & Murphy, LLP
17	United States of America and State of New York v. Twin America, LLC, et al.	\$ 7,500,000	Hop-on, hop-off bus tour operators who previously competed allegedly violated antitrust laws by implementing joint venture and raising prices.	David Altschuler, U.S. Department of Justice - Antitrust Division in Washington, D.C.
18	Joseph Thomas Bevacqua, Jr., by His Legal Guardian Karen Marie Bevacqua v. City of New York, Fire Department of the City of New York, Michael D. Moyle, Elrac, Inc. d/b/a Enterprise Car Rental, Enterprise; FM Trust, Lifestyles for the Disabled and Peter Roskowsinski / Rosemarie Capone, Administratrix of the Goods, Chattels and Credits of Albert DeFilippo, Deceased v. City of New York, Michael D. Moyle, Lifestyles for the Disabled Inc. and Peter Roskowsinski / William Perry as Administrator of the Estate of Eric Perry Deceased v. City of New York, Lifestyles for the Disabled, Inc. and Peter Roskowsinski	\$ 7,250,000	Families of passengers of van for disabled, who were injured or died in collision, asserted that van driver and driver of fire truck were negligent in causing accident.	Thomas A. Moore, Kramer, Dillof, Livingston & Moore
19	Luis Manuel Ramirez v. City of New York, NYC Dept. of Education, NYC Board of Education and NYC School Construction Authority	\$ 7,250,000	Laborer sustained head and neck injuries after fall from fork lift bucket at worksite, claimed aggravation of old injuries.	Jordan D. Hecht, Hecht, Kleeger, Pintel & Damashek

Left to Right: Scott A. Steinberg,
Seth M. Greenberg,
Joshua N. Stein, Ian Asch

Personal Injury, Construction Accidents & Falls



Greenberg & Stein, P.C.

At Greenberg & Stein, the attorneys have a long history of protecting and vindicating the rights of people whose lives were devastated in preventable accidents. Combined, they bring more than five decades of litigation experience to the practice; and, as firm president and founding partner Seth Greenberg notes, this expertise has proved vital in pursuing justice for injured clients.

"We know what information will compel insurance companies to pay a fair settlement, and we are skilled at using the most effective strategies to negotiate with adjusters and claims representatives," he says. "Most importantly, every case we present is fully prepared for trial, allowing us to take claims to court if insurance companies fail to offer fair settlements."

Over its history, the firm has successfully represented clients in personal injury cases ranging from construction and auto accidents to slip-and-falls and wrongful death matters. Its attorneys are particularly well known for their staunch advocacy on behalf of construction workers and others injured while working. As part of its practice, the firm helps to ensure that clients obtain workers' compensation and/or No-Fault benefits, so that all medical bills are paid and money still comes into the household while the client—who is often the only family breadwinner—cannot work.

"We firmly believe that all accident victims are entitled to justice,"

says founding partner Joshua Stein, a member of the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum who has been included in New York Super Lawyers since 2014. "Throughout our careers we have made it our mission to serve injured and disabled clients and hold accountable those responsible for their injuries."

In 2015, for example, Greenberg & Stein achieved a jury verdict of \$5.48 million on behalf of a health aide whose fall in a hospital ended her career; the award was reported by VerdictSearch as one of the top 30 verdicts in the state of New York for that year. The firm also obtained one of the state's top construction accident verdicts for 2011, when it secured a \$2 million award on behalf of a laborer whose fall from a scaffold resulted in face and spine fractures.

"As a boutique firm, we pay attention to every case we handle, tailoring our strategies to meet each client's individual legal needs," says Greenberg of these successes. "Ultimately, that devotion to achieving client satisfaction through personalized service sets us apart from many other firms."

Client service is a priority at Greenberg & Stein—every phone call is taken, all questions are answered, and clients are kept informed about the status of their case. "We have personally seen the confusion, devastation, and chaos that people experience following an accident," notes Stein. "That's why we strive to help clients get their lives back on track in the fastest, easiest way possible."

Greenberg & Stein, P.C.

360 Lexington Avenue, Suite 1501 | New York, NY 10017
ph: 212.681.2535 | www.greenbergandstein.com

TOP 25 SETTLEMENTS IN 2015

Based on Data From LexisNexis®

20	Casey Ojeda and Karina Reynaga, individually and on behalf of other persons similarly situated v. Viacom Inc.; Viacom International Inc.; and Black Entertainment Television LLC	\$ 7,200,000	Former interns alleged violations of FLSA and state labor laws for failure to pay minimum wage by entertainment companies.	Lloyd R. Ambinder, Virginia & Ambinder, LLP
21	John Marks v. Astoria Energy II, LLC, SUEZ Energy Astoria II, LLC, SNC-Lavalin Generation Inc. and SNC-Lavalin Constructors Inc.	\$ 7,000,000	Carpenter helping to disassemble scaffold on worksite suffered injuries to face, jaw, neck, and teeth when struck by falling metal clamp.	S. Joseph Donahue, Jeffrey A. Block, Block, O'Toole & Murphy LLP
22	Robert Labatto and Mary Labatto v. Genting New York LLC, Tutor Perini Corporation and Resorts World Casino	\$ 7,000,000	Construction worker who fell 25 feet off partially constructed stairway, injuring ankle, back, neck, ribs, and wrist, claimed unprotected stair and lack of safety devices allowed fall.	Anthony P. Gentile, Godosky & Gentile, PC
23	In re: Gentiva Securities Litigation	\$ 6,500,000	Investors alleged securities fraud by home health service provider based on improperly increased revenue and earnings numbers for Medicare.	Frederic S. Fox, Kaplan Fox & Kilsheimer LLP
24	Rosaly Ramirez, et al., on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated v. Riverbay Corp., Marion Scott Real Estate, Inc., Vernon Cooper, and Peter Merola	\$ 6,250,000	Employees of housing cooperative claimed non-payment of actual and overtime wages.	Brett Reed Gallaway, McLaughlin and Stern, LLP
25	Tino DelGreco v. New York City Transit Authority, Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Lawrence Battle, F&S Contracting, LLC., Egg Electric, Inc., Long Island Railroad, the City of New York, New York City Economic Development Corporation and Greater Jamaica Development Corporation / Victor Guadalupe as Administrator of the Estate of Cesar Cespedes, Deceased v. MTA Bus Company, Metropolitan Transportation Authority, New York City Transit Authority, Long Island Railroad, City of New York, F&S Contracting, Inc., Greater Jamaica Development Corp., Pride Equipment Corp., JLG Industries Inc. and Lawrence Battle	\$ 5,750,000	Electrician and estate of another electrician who were working at night on underpass sought to recover after fall from scissor lift that was hit by transit authority bus, killing one electrician and injuring other.	Robert Vilensky, Ronemus & Vilensky, LLP

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Most police officers do admirable work, but when they abuse their power and use excessive force you can do something about it.

With over 35 years' experience, including helping victims of police brutality and excessive use of force, Devon Reiff has what it takes to help you pursue justice and receive compensation.

2015 Verdict

\$1.82 M against the NYPD for excessive use of force.

Prior Verdicts and Settlements

- \$3.5 M Shooting Victim
- \$3.6 M Hit and Run
- \$4.3 M Lacerated Cornea

Devon Reiff | 150 Broadway, New York, NY 10038
of Sacks and Sacks LLP | 212.964.5570 | devon@sacks-sacks.com



From left: Andrew Levine
and Howard Raphaelson

Personal injury, Construction Accidents, Wrongful Death

Raphaelson & Levine, PC

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.

Ensuring clients are fully compensated for their injuries is a bedrock principle at the firm. 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 2015 the firm obtained two of New York's top "motor vehicle: no-fault case" verdicts, as reported by Verdict Search, 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. 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 and have been selected to Super Lawyers.

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



14 Penn Plaza, Suite 1718, New York, NY 10122
ph: 800.852.0071 | www.rllawyers.com



Plaintiff's Personal Injury and Medical Malpractice

Queller, Fisher, Washor, Fuchs & Kool, L.L.P.

Standing from left to right: Matthew Maiorana, Kevin McDonald, Brian Schwartz, Helen Setton and Christopher Sallay. Seated from left to right: Barry Washor, Jonny Kool and Dallin Fuchs

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 present 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.

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.

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.



Queller, Fisher, Washor, Fuchs & Kool, LLP
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233 Broadway, Suite 1800, New York, NY 10279
Phone (212)406-1700 | Fax (212) 406-2313
www.quellerfisher.com



Personal Injury, Medical Malpractice, Wrongful Death & Construction Accidents

Gair, Gair, Conason, Rubinowitz, Bloom, Hershenhorn, Steigman & Mackauf

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

Founded in 1919, Gair, Gair, Conason, Rubinowitz, Bloom, Hershenhorn, Steigman & Mackauf (GGCRBHS&M) 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 GGCRBHS&M 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, GGCRBHS&M 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 80 cases per year," says Anthony Gair, a partner at the firm. "That selectively 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; \$28 million for a SUV passenger injured in a collision with a tree; \$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.

In the past three months alone, our firm has had three settlements well in excess of \$10 million each in addition to a \$27.5 million dollar settlement for a woman who lost her leg after being struck by a NYC bus.

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 nine partners and associates have been listed in the The Best Lawyers in America and 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."

80 Pine Street, New York, NY 10005

P: 212. 943.1090 | F: 212.425.7513

One Gateway Center, Suite 2600, Newark, NJ 07102

P: 973.645.0581 | F: 973.622.8160

Ian Chaikin & Jason Paris

Personal Injury, Motor Vehicle Accidents & Construction Accidents

Paris & Chaikin

As the founders of Paris & Chaikin, Jason Paris and Ian Chaikin have established one of New York's premier personal injury firms—a practice known for its honest, committed, and knowledgeable representation of injury victims.

"Our clients and their families can count on us during tough times," says Chaikin, who is licensed in the states of New York, New Jersey, and Florida, and speaks English, Spanish, and Hebrew. "We understand the pain and financial hardships our clients are experiencing, and we will always be there for them, helping them get back up on their feet."

Paris and Chaikin have focused on personal injury law throughout their careers, and they are known for being relentless in their pursuit of justice. Over the years, they have recovered millions of dollars for victims of construction and motor vehicle accidents, municipal and premises liability, and many other instances of negligence.

"We're fearless in the courtroom, and because of that, we consistently secure significant results at trial for our clients," says Paris. "In fact, other lawyers often call upon the firm, usually on the brink of trial, to assist in matters involving difficult legal issues and devastating injuries."

Most recently, the firm achieved the third highest no-fault motor vehicle verdict in the state for 2015, as reported by VerdictSearch. It is now bringing its resources to bear on two high-profile cases: one on behalf of a man who was killed in upstate New York after a drunk driver struck his car head-on while going northbound in a

southbound lane; the other for a woman who was injured in a devastating limo crash in Cutchogue that killed four of her friends.

"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," explains Chaikin. "So our approach is to retain the most accomplished investigators and experts at the start of every case, and then leave no stone unturned in our work-up."

This dedication has resulted in a number of prestigious accolades. For example, Super Lawyers, which honors no more than five percent of attorneys in each state, has named Paris and Chaikin to its New York publication for three years running. In addition, both attorneys serve on the New York State Trial Lawyers Association's Board of Directors and have been inducted to the Million Dollar Advocates Forum and Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum.

"Ultimately, we're here to try and make our clients' lives better," says Paris. "And the recognitions we've received simply reflect our success in helping injury victims obtain the resources to overcome any hurdle in life."



Paris & Chaikin, PLLC
225 W 34th Street, Suite 2202 | New York, NY 10122
ph: 212.742.0476 | www.parischaikin.com



Standing:
Nicole Kim,
Michael Reiner,
Christopher Holbrook,
Sachin Gadh,
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Seated:
Steven Schwartzapfel

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Schwartzapfel Lawyers takes your case personally.

Our founding partner, Steven J. Schwartzapfel, understands the frustrations and heartbreak of living with a serious physical disability. His father was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and often needed assistance with everyday activities. This childhood experience sparked Steve's passion for helping injury victims and shaped Steve's approach to legal practice. Our attorneys advise you in the same manner as we would our own family member.

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Standing left to right: Daniel Rehms, Timothy Staines, Seth Pavsner, David Cheverie, John Blyth, Mark Sokoloff Seated left to right: Frank Schirripa, Gregory Hach, Michael Rose

Personal Injury, Construction Site Accidents & Motor Vehicle Accidents

HACH & ROSE
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Since its founding in 2002, Hach & Rose has distinguished itself as one of New York's top personal injury law firms by achieving some of the largest results in the state for its clients. In 2012, the firm secured a jury verdict of more than \$13 million—the highest construction site accident verdict in New York for that year. The firm also obtained recent jury verdicts of \$8 million for a victim of a motorcycle accident, \$6 million for a woman injured on a dangerous premises, and more than \$2 million for a pedestrian struck by a motor vehicle.

"Whether it's a seven-figure settlement or jury verdict, or a six-figure resolution, we obtain similar results on a regular basis. We have the financial resources to fight the largest companies out there," says founding partner Michael Rose. "Defendants know that if the settlement offer is not appropriate or fair we will recommend to our clients to proceed to trial."

Indeed, Hach & Rose has found success in the courtroom through its keen attention to detail and its practice of retaining the most qualified experts. Just this past year, the firm settled a case during trial for \$3.25 million following its expert's testimony. The defense had offered less than a million dollars to settle the case before trial.

"We prepare all of our cases for the courtroom, and that puts us in a position where we can achieve great settlements for our clients prior to a jury verdict," notes managing partner Gregory Hach. "For instance, in a case where an injured construction worker told us that his attorney was recommending a \$60,000 settlement, we were able

to maximize his recovery and obtain a \$2 million settlement."

Two of the firm's lawyers, Hach and associate David Cheverie, have worked in building trade unions, and possess firsthand knowledge of construction sites. Rose, meanwhile, has spent his entire career representing accident victims, earning a prestigious AV® rating from Martindale-Hubbell®, as well as inclusion in New York Super Lawyers and the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum along with Hach.

"What I love about our work is the fact that we're in a position to help people at a time when they need us the most," says Rose, who also lectures to other attorneys on topics like construction site accidents, vocational rehabilitation, and expert witness examinations. "Our clients are people who, because of their injuries, can't pay their bills or provide for their families; they are relying on our law firm to make them financially whole, and we work hard to get them results as soon as possible."

HACH & ROSE
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

185 Madison Avenue, 14th Floor
New York, NY 10016
P: 212.779.0057 | F: 212.779.0028
info@hachroselaw.com
www.unionlawfirm.com

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Never stop fighting till the fight is done.



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Car Accidents, Medical Malpractice, Slip and Fall & Construction Accidents

Bergman, Bergman, Goldberg, Fields & Lamonsoff, LLP

From left: Allen Goldberg, Michael E. Bergman, Seth I. Fields & Eric J. Lamonsoff

Since attorney Marvin Bergman hung his shingle outside a one-room law office more than 50 years ago, his firm has grown into Bergman, Bergman, Goldberg, Fields & Lamonsoff, LLP the powerful litigation partnership it is today. From offices in Queens, New York City, and its own building in Nassau County, the firm has continued to expand by never straying from its focus on maintaining the strongest personal relationships with its clients.

As a result, unlike many firms, Bergman, Bergman, Goldberg, Fields & Lamonsoff, LLP still receives most cases through referrals from past clients. The firm has now represented four generations of families, and it is not uncommon for the great-grandchild of an original client to seek the firm's help. Michael Bergman attributes this longevity to the firm's practice of providing clients with one-on-one attention and continuous case updates, and also to its expertise: the firm's partners have been recognized and rated by New York Super Lawyers and have received five-star client reviews on Avvo, the online attorney rating directory.

"When clients come to our firm, they are entrusting us with the utmost responsibility—to protect their future following a devastating loss or injury," says Mr. Bergman. "From experience, we know that the only way to accomplish this goal is to truly understand what our clients are going through and how their lives have been affected by tragedy. To help a jury understand the depths of a person's loss, you have to feel it yourself first."

With this empathetic approach, Bergman, Bergman, Goldberg, Fields & Lamonsoff, LLP has obtained many six- and seven-figure verdicts and settlements. Among those results, the firm's experienced litigators have in the past two years recovered \$3.1 million for a crane operator who was injured when he fell from the crane platform, \$1.5 million for a moped operator who lost part of his leg, \$1 million for a woman who required spinal surgery following a rear-end collision, \$1.25 million for a woman who fractured her ankle upon being struck by a car, and \$3 million for a man who suffered a

serious head injury at an event hall.

"These results were the product of our relationships with our clients, because we understood not only how our clients' injuries affected their own well-being, but also the profound impact the injuries had on the family as a whole," says partner Eric Lamonsoff. "By focusing on that impact, we were able to effectively illustrate the seriousness of our clients' injuries, and show how those injuries had altered their lives."

In addition to building strong client relationships, the firm employs unyielding negotiation tactics and an aggressive litigation style to ensure that clients receive full compensation in their case. From the outset, every case is fully prepared for trial, regardless of whether it involves an automobile or construction accident, a premises or products liability matter, or a medical malpractice suit. Moreover, cases are managed as a team, with the partners discussing every aspect with an eye toward maximizing recovery.

"When we reflect on our continued success, we know that it is entirely based upon our close relationships with our clients and good old hard work," Mr. Bergman says. "We recognize that clients are putting a lot of trust in us—their case represents their sole opportunity to obtain justice. So we do everything in our power to earn their respect, and we never waver from our goal of obtaining an award that fully compensates them for their injuries."

Hicksville Office

801 S. Broadway
Hicksville, NY 11801
P: 516.739.2220

Queens Office

118-35 Queens Boulevard, Suite 400
Forest Hills, NY 11375
P: 718.275.3300
www.selectattorney.com

Construction Accidents, Medical Malpractice, Premises Liability

Paul B. Weitz & Associates

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

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.

PAUL B. WEITZ & ASSOCIATES, PC

FORMERLY WEITZ KLEINICK & WEITZ

55 Broadway 23rd Floor | New York, N.Y. 10006
ph: 212.346.0045 | fax: 212.346.0876
www.weitzkleinick.com

Paul B. Weitz



John J. Ciafone, Esq.

Personal Injury, Medical Malpractice
and Workers Compensation

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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Gash & Associates, P.C.

COLEMAN V. N.Y. VANITY & MANUFACTURING COMPANY, ET AL.- Wayne Coleman, was hit in the rear in a five car pileup. Coleman suffered injuries to his back and neck, including herniated discs;

fracture T11, and a laminectomy and fusion of his spine at the L3-4, L4-5, and L5-S1 levels, with the implantation of stabilizing hardware. His back and neck continues to remain painful, with pain radiating to his right leg; he experiences recurrent spasms; he suffers residual erectile dysfunction; he suffers from chronic residual headaches; he retains a limp and requires the use of a cane and a back brace. The matter was mediated before trial, and resolved for \$1,660,000.00. **MEDIATED SETTLEMENT: \$1,660,000.00**

AUBRY V. MARCAL PAPER MILLS, INC. - Plaintiff was crushed by a defective industrial garbage compactor, and was caused to suffocate. The pathologist opined that the plaintiff experienced about 15 minutes of fear of impending death. The matter was brought in the N.J. Federal Court, and settled before trial for \$2,500,000.00. **TRIAL COURT SETTLEMENT: \$2,500,000.00**

VANDENBERGE V. MAHLER - Soft tissue automobile accident case in which the plaintiff sustained bulging and herniated discs, with cervical radiculopathy. Cervical surgery was indicated but never done. Plaintiff was a union foreman in the construction trades and was unable to return to his former position, impacting his ability to work, earn money and to remain in the work force as long as he would have had he not been injured. As a result, the plaintiff received a jury verdict of \$3,000,000.00. **TRIAL VERDICT: \$3,000,000.00**

GASH & ASSOCIATES, P.C. is a full-service litigation firm which maintains offices in White Plains, NY, Edison, NJ and Greenwich, CT. We proudly provide exceptional legal representation in all areas of civil litigation, including personal injury, matrimonial, civil rights, commercial and employment. We love what we do. Some call us "The Lawyer's Lawyer", because many lawyers confidently refer their clients to us. Indeed, highly regarded physicians suggest to their patients, who are seeking legal representation, to consider our firm. These doctors know firsthand our reputation and how hard we fight for our clients and their patients. We have the ability to convert the ordinary case to the extraordinary case. Imagine what we can do with the extraordinary case!

Gash & Associates, P.C.
Attorneys At Law

235 Main Street, 3rd Floor
White Plains, New York 10601
Tel. (914) 328-8800

Fax. (914) 328-3503
Gashlaw@aol.com
www.Gashlaw.com

Fatos Dervishi, Esq.

Construction Accidents, Motor Vehicle Accidents & Machinery Accident

Dervishi Law Group, P.C.

A personal injury attorney with offices in the Bronx, **Fatos Dervishi** has years of experience handling cases in New York.

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

In 1998, Mr. Dervishi immigrated to the United States, with his family joining him a few months later. Upon his arrival in Washington, D.C., Mr. Dervishi met with members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, as his trip was sponsored by the U.S. government.

Beginning in 2003, he attended Pace University School of Law and graduated with a Master of Law degree in May 2004. He has since been admitted to the New York State Bar, and practices in all of the state's courts. On June 13, 2011, Mr. Dervishi was further admitted to practice law before the U.S. Supreme Court.

A decade after immigrating to the United States, Mr. Dervishi partnered with Jared T. Levine and Duane R. Morgan to establish the Law Offices of **DERVISHI, LEVINE & MORGAN, P.C.** in 2008. Mr. Dervishi also remains extremely active in the Albanian-American community, serving as a liaison for its members and assisting recent and long-time residents with their legal and other needs.

NOTEWORTHY CASES:

In one of the firm's recent cases, a New York County jury returned a verdict of \$13.2 million for an injured construction worker who fell four feet from a crane on the 2nd Avenue Subway project due to a missing step on the crane's ladder. The worker suffered a ligament tear in his right shoulder that required surgery, and also experienced post-concussion symptoms such as short-term memory loss and difficulties with his executive functioning. **The case was tried by partner Duane R. Morgan, a talented trial lawyer.**

Only a few weeks after securing that award, the Dervishi Law Group and partner **Glen P. Dolan** obtained a \$3.29 million verdict against the New York City Transit Authority on behalf of a 74-year-old Albanian janitor who slipped and fell down an outdoor subway stairway at Rockefeller Center during a rainstorm. The plaintiff, a cleaner with the union Local 32BJ, was on his way to work at 1185 Sixth Avenue when he slipped and fell on a step with a loose metal plate and a downward slope.

"As these results show, deciding on the right law firm can make an enormous difference in a case," Mr. Dervishi says. "The people who choose us to represent them can expect total devotion to their matters, and an unyielding dedication to them and their families."



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Dervishi Law Group, P.C.

2322 Arthur Ave., Suite 3A | Bronx, New York 10458
ph: 917.300.0797 | www.dervishilaw.com

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Morelli Law Firm

When it comes to high-stakes litigation, Morelli Law Firm has a proven track record of success—and a history of precedent-setting verdicts—in areas ranging from workplace sexual harassment, to catastrophic personal injury, to defective drugs and medical devices.

"We're not a run-of-the-mill firm doing the same medical malpractice cases and the same personal injury cases," says Benedict Morelli, the firm's founder. "Many of the matters that come to us are high-value, prominent cases, and that's because we offer the expertise and experience of a larger law firm in a smaller, more client-focused environment."

Morelli, whose results include the largest vaccine verdict in U.S. history (\$22.5 million), the largest single-plaintiff sexual harassment verdict in U.S. history (\$95 million), and one of the largest single-plaintiff construction accident verdicts in U.S. history (\$62 million), is known for handling some of the country's most significant cases. In 2015, he secured a confidential settlement for actor and comedian Tracy Morgan and five others in their lawsuit against Wal-Mart over a New Jersey highway crash that killed one man and left Morgan and two others seriously injured. The case resolved just 10 months after the initial filing, with Wal-Mart taking full responsibility for the crash.

"This case, which involved intense media scrutiny, was against the largest company in the world," Morelli notes. "But we have a history of taking on powerful adversaries in high-profile matters, and we've never shied away from difficult cases that we believe are meritorious."

Morelli Law Firm is currently representing top-ranked women's professional tennis player Eugenie Bouchard in her case against the

U.S. Tennis Association and National Tennis Center, regarding a head injury she sustained when she was injured at the 2015 U.S. Open due to the negligence of the defendants, and was forced to withdraw from the tournament.

Beyond handling individual cases, Morelli and his firm regularly take on far-reaching mass torts and class actions, with court-appointed leadership roles in a number of large-scale litigations. The firm, for instance, represents numerous victims who were seriously injured in the May 12, 2015 Amtrak train derailment outside Philadelphia, and it was recently selected by the federal judge in charge of the litigation to be one of the few firms to serve as lead counsel on the Plaintiff's Management Committee. The firm has also become highly involved in representing women in cases against Johnson & Johnson alleging that their use of the company's talcum powder caused their ovarian cancer.

"These may be complex, challenging matters, but this firm was founded to represent people in need of a voice, and we are always working to deliver on that original mission statement," Morelli says. "I've been handling plaintiffs' litigation for nearly four decades now, and there's still nothing more satisfying to me than being able to help people who are struggling."



Morelli Law Firm, PLLC
777 Third Avenue | New York, NY 10017
ph: 212.751.9800
www.morellilaw.com