

CHAIKIN
SHERMAN
CAMMARATA
SIEGEL P.C.

Attorneys at Law

Clients obtain over \$2.5 million in three tragic cases

The law firm is often called upon to assist families in crisis after loved ones have been killed or seriously injured as a result of the carelessness of others. While it is extremely difficult to deal with these tragic situations, we are proud that we are able to help our clients recover both financially and emotionally from these devastating losses.

In the last six months, the law firm has resolved three such cases. In one case a family was travelling in a van in South Carolina when a tractor-trailer struck the van and ran it off the roadway. The crash caused three of the occupants to die and two others to suffer serious injuries. The truck driver claimed he only had \$1,050,000 in insurance. However, the law firm was able to get the truck driver's insurance company to pay more than its full policy limits.

In another case, our client was run over and killed by a truck. Our client was the owner of a campground. The truck driver was on the premises of the campground, without permission. Our client climbed onto the step of the truck to find out why the truck driver was on the campground. However, the truck driver pulled away, causing our client to fall to the ground and get run over by the wheels of the truck. The truck driver claimed that he thought that our client had a gun and was threatening his life. The police believed the truck driver and did not press **any** charges. The law firm, recognizing the police's inaction was a travesty of justice, took the case and was able to obtain a significant recovery for our client's family.

Lastly, the firm represented the widow of a man who was jogging on a sidewalk when he was knocked to the ground by an 18-year-old bicyclist. He struck his head, causing a brain injury that put him in a coma. He later died of these injuries. The law firm's investigation discovered a homeowner's insurance policy, owned by the bicyclist's mother, which covered the negligent actions of the bicyclist. The insurance company paid its full policy limits to settle the case.

Washington, D.C. Office

The Law Building
1232 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Maryland Office

5303 W. Court Dr.
Suite 2
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Virginia Office

5673 Columbia Pike
Suite 101
Falls Church, VA 22041

Telephone

202.659.8600

(outside D.C.)

800.229.8384

Fax

202.659.8680

e-mail

sherman@dc-law.net

Website

www.chaikinsherman.com

Attorneys available
24 hours a day, 7 days
a week.

Practice limited to
personal injury

- Free consultation
- Home appointments
- No recovery, No fee.
We do not get paid
unless you do.

Partner Joseph Cammarata elected secretary of the Trial Lawyers Association of Metropolitan Washington DC



Congratulations to **Partner Joseph Cammarata**. He was recently elected Secretary of the Trial Lawyers Association of Metropolitan Washington DC (TLA-DC). Mr. Cammarata's election continues a long tradition of leadership in this organization. **Allan M. Siegel** served as President of the TLA-DC in 2008-2009. In addition, **Donald J. Chaikin** and **Ira Sherman** were both Presidents of this organization.

Three high school players suffer concussions at training camp and look to law firm for help

Partner Joseph Cammarata and the law firm were asked to represent three high school football players who were injured when coaches ran a passing drill that caused the players to run into each other. The coaches had one set of players at one end of the field run toward the center of the field, while another set of players at the other end of the field were also told to run toward the center of the field. The coaches set the players on a collision course, and when the players got to the center of the field, they crashed into each other.

Each of the players suffered a brain injury from the collision. One of the players was hospitalized with a skull fracture and bleeding on the brain. Each of the players continues to suffer from the effects of the brain injury.

Mr. Cammarata was interviewed on NBC 4—Washington in relation to his representation of these three high school players.

Man injured in disputed beltway crash wins settlement

Partner Joseph Cammarata and associate **Kiran Sharma** obtained a significant settlement in a case involving a disputed beltway crash.

Our client was driving along the beltway when his SUV was struck by a pickup truck, causing his SUV to violently flip and come to rest in a ditch on the shoulder of the beltway. The pickup truck, prior to striking our client's SUV, was struck by a man driving a Nissan. The driver of the Nissan claimed that the driver of the pickup truck improperly changed lanes, causing the collision with the Nissan.

The law firm retained an accident reconstruction expert, who established that the collision was caused by the driver of the Nissan. Lawyers for the Nissan driver hired their own accident reconstruction expert, who claimed that the driver of the pickup truck caused the collision. The driver of the pickup truck was not a party to the lawsuit brought by our client.

After Mr. Cammarata took the deposition of the accident reconstruction expert (questioned him under oath) hired by the Nissan driver, the insurance company for the Nissan driver contacted us to settle the case.

Our client suffered a neck injury that required neck surgery. The case settled for \$250,000.

Associate Matthew Tievsky joins firm

Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C., welcomes its newest associate attorney, **Matthew W. Tievsky**. Mr. Tievsky is a native of Washington, D.C., with significant ties to the area. He is a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center, where he took first place in Georgetown's 2005 William E. Leahy Moot Court Competition. Also, while attending Georgetown, Mr. Tievsky served as a law clerk at the Institute for Justice, a public interest law firm based in Arlington, Virginia.

After graduating from Georgetown, Mr. Tievsky became a member of the Maryland bar and proceeded to complete two judicial law clerkships at the Maryland Court of Special Appeals, first under the Honorable Timothy E. Meredith, then under the Honorable James P. Salmon.

Having begun his legal career in public service, Mr. Tievsky was eager to continue advancing the public good by joining Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C., to help innocent persons injured by the wrongful negligence of others.

Mr. Tievsky has already obtained his first favorable verdict in a hotly contested lane-change case. We at Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C., look forward to watching Mr. Tievsky's continued accomplishments.





Partner Allan M. Siegel doubles insurance companies' offers—again and again!

Our client was crossing the street in a crosswalk when an SUV made a left turn without looking for pedestrians. The SUV struck our client, causing her to be thrown in the air and land on her back. As a result of this incident, our client suffered a compression fracture of one of the vertebrae in her lower back. She had to wear a body brace for two months.

The insurance company only offered her \$100,000. The insurance company believed that since the compression fracture healed, her damages should be limited. While our client was not disabled and had returned to work full-time, she continued to have pain in her back when sitting for long periods of time and restrictions in some of her activities.

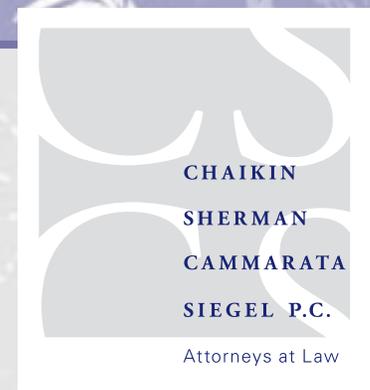
Our client agreed to submit the case to binding arbitration, which is a proceeding in which the case is presented to an arbitrator who the parties authorized to make a final decision. In this case, the parties agreed to submit the case to a retired judge. **Partner Allan M. Siegel** presented our client's testimony, as well as the testimony of her treating orthopedic surgeon. The retired judge awarded our client \$226,000, which was more than two times the insurance company's last offer.

Mr. Siegel also recently obtained an \$83,881 verdict in Montgomery County on behalf of a client who was injured when someone pulled out from a stop sign in front of her vehicle. Our client was diagnosed with fibromyalgia, which is a disease that causes chronic muscle pain. The insurance company took the position that our client did not have fibromyalgia and her injuries from the accident had healed. It offered her \$40,000. The jury disagreed and awarded our client \$83,881—more than double the insurance company's last offer.

Law firm featured in community newsletter

The Ethiopian Foundation, a local organization providing community services and information to members of the Ethiopian Community all across the United States, contacted the law firm for an interview in order to learn more about what we do for the community. The Ethiopian Foundation chose **Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C.**, because of its efforts to assist numerous segments of our population. For instance, Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C., offers the Ethiopian Heritage College Scholarship and sponsors a swim scholarship at the YMCA to enable children to go to classes to learn how to swim. The law firm is also sponsoring a runner in the Marine Corps Marathon who is running on behalf of the Brain Injury Association of D.C.

Patrina Yemane, founder of the Ethiopian Foundation, interviewed **Ira Sherman**, managing partner, and wrote an article based on that interview. This article can be found on our website on the "In the News" page.



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The Law Building
1232 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Attorneys at Law

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We are your law firm

We want you to think of us as your law firm.

If you have legal matters that need attention, please let us know. If we cannot handle the matter, we will refer you to a competent firm that can.

Please feel free to refer us to your family, friends, and neighbors for their legal needs. We welcome the opportunity to help.

Call us. You're going to feel a whole lot better about things.

Tune in to Partner Joseph Cammarata's radio show

Partner Joseph Cammarata is a host of a weekly Internet radio show that can be heard every Wednesday from 9:30–10:00 a.m. His show is about various timely legal issues.

Mr. Cammarata's show can be heard at **www.baynetradio.com**. Tune in and let Mr. Cammarata know what you think.

Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C., has teamed up with the YMCA to promote pool safety

The law firm is giving away three YMCA swim camp scholarships this summer to children in the DC Metropolitan area. To win, children are being asked to submit an original drawing on poster board showing their understanding of pool safety. If you are interested, there is still time to have a child submit a poster. All the details can be found on our website at **www.chaikinandsherman.com/swim-camp-scholarships.html**.

The deadline for the submission of posters is July 15, 2011, so act quickly.

Justice prevails in the end

Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel never stops fighting for our clients. **Associate Kiran Sharma** tried a case on behalf of a family of four who were all injured after being involved in a rear-end collision. Unfortunately, the jury only awarded each client \$600, which was far below the medical expenses incurred by the clients.

Ms. Sharma filed a motion asking the judge to either add additional money to the inadequate verdict or grant our clients a new trial. The judge found that the jury's verdict was not fair compensation for the injuries suffered by our clients and granted Ms. Sharma's motion. He ordered that the defendant pay our clients \$17,425 or try the case again. The insurance company, on behalf of the defendant, agreed to pay the judge's award, in full, rather than face the prospect of trying the case again. Congratulations to Ms. Sharma for never giving up until our clients received a fair and just award.

