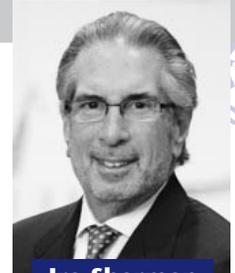


CHAIKIN  
SHERMAN  
CAMMARATA  
SIEGEL P.C.

Attorneys at Law

## Happy Holidays from CSCS

*A message from Managing Partner Ira Sherman*



Ira Sherman

My favorite part of my job is the opportunity to wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a general wish for peace for you, your family, our community, and the world.

I then get to look forward into the next year to wish you all a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year.

As always, throughout the year, we welcome your visits and the opportunity to chat over a cup of coffee. Of course, our famous Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C., lollipops are always available to take home to the kids.

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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.

## Partners Joseph Cammarata and Allan M. Siegel win \$800,000 settlement for injured pedestrian

Our client was struck by a vehicle as she was lawfully crossing K Street in Washington, D.C. The driver of the vehicle had been making a food delivery on behalf of a local restaurant. According to the police investigation, the driver admitted to taking his eyes off the road to catch a bag of food that had been sliding off the passenger seat.

As a result of the driver's actions, our client suffered, among other things, a fractured cheek bone, three fractured ribs, a dislocated shoulder, and a concussion. She was also left with scarring on her face and neck. All of these injuries could have been prevented had the delivery driver used caution and paid attention to the road when crossing the intersection.

The law firm filed a lawsuit against the negligent driver as well as the restaurant that employed him. The restaurant and the driver agreed to submit the case to mediation. The case settled at mediation for **\$800,000.**



# RABBI ACCUSED OF VIDEOTAPING WOMEN IN A RITUAL BATH

Many of you have seen the news that a local Rabbi has been accused of videotaping women, in the nude, while they were participating in a religious bathing (cleansing) ritual in a small bath or pool called a "mikvah." This bath and cleansing ritual is observed by Jewish women to spiritually purify and cleanse themselves before their marriage and after their menstrual cycle. Keshet Israel Synagogue in Georgetown had one of the ritual baths on its premises. Rabbi Bernard Freundel was in charge of individuals seeking to convert to Judaism and therefore the use of the mikvah.

He also taught at Georgetown University and Towson State University. While there he encouraged non-Jewish women who were not intending to convert to experience the culture of the Jewish ritual bath.

Approximately one month ago, a clock radio containing a video camera was discovered in the area where ladies first shower and then immerse themselves in the bath!

The Rabbi has been charged with six counts of voyeurism. One person who worked at the synagogue estimated that there might be as many as a 1,000 women who went through the mikvah at the synagogue over that 10-year period of time.

Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C., represents women who bathed in the mikvah as part of their conversion to Judaism.

Many of you who have been longtime clients or who are our clients because your parents, or even grandparents, have been clients of this law firm knew Donald Chaikin and that Mr. Chaikin was a very observant Jewish man. Evidence of Mr. Chaikin's religious belief exists on each of the doorjamb, where a traditional prayer was placed in a wooden case called a mezuzah. Rabbis would frequently come and go both to give lessons to the lawyers in the community who wanted to learn on a weekly basis or just to chat with Mr. Chaikin. It is particularly disheartening to the members of the law firm who were so intimately involved with Mr. Chaikin's life and the culture of the firm to have experienced what appears to be a manipulation and deception of innocent women resulting in the invasion of their privacy at a most solemn spiritual moment in their lives.

We stand with these women willing, ready, and able to offer free consultations and compassionate but aggressive advocacy on their behalf to ensure that each and every one of them receives their full cup of justice. If you or someone you know believes they have suffered this invasion of privacy, please have them call Managing Partner Ira Sherman either in the office or privately on his cell phone at **(301) 802-4075**, or contact him by e-mail at **Sherman@dc-law.net**.

## D.C. pays \$350,000 for police brutality

Partner **Allan M. Siegel** and Associate **Matthew Tievsky** successfully settled a lawsuit filed against the District of Columbia and one of its police officers.

The case involved an incident that occurred at a D.C. nightclub in which our client was pushed down a flight of stairs by a District of Columbia police officer. Our client was a patron at "The Scene" nightclub in D.C. when her friend got into a verbal altercation and was approached by the club's bouncers. Our client and her friend were later escorted out of the club. When our client exited the club, a District of Columbia police officer pushed her down the stairs. She landed on asphalt pavement and suffered severe fractures to her left leg that required three surgeries.

The police officer claimed that our client stepped towards her with her fist balled, and that he felt his safety was threatened. He also claimed that he saw our client punch a bouncer and feared that she would try to punch him as well. Our client denied that she punched or threatened anyone.

*(continued on back page)*

## Partner Joseph Cammarata wins arbitration awards of \$675,000 and \$319,924

In the last few months, Partner **Joseph Cammarata** was successful in two arbitrations. In the first case, our client's vehicle was T-boned in Virginia when another driver ran a red light. The force of the impact spun the car several times. Our client did not lose consciousness but was disoriented at the scene of the collision. The emergency room diagnosed her with neck and midback strain.

Our client was subsequently diagnosed with a concussion with postconcussive syndrome. She also had neuropsychological testing that confirmed the existence of cognitive deficits. Her deficits were causing her difficulty in functioning in all aspects of her life and at work. Our client's past medical expenses were \$18,293.

As a result of her injuries, our client is unable to fully perform 15–20 hours of weekly household chores that are now being done by her husband and son. The economic value of the loss of household services that our client previously provided was \$169,034. She also incurred lost wages of \$36,602 as a result of her injuries. The insurance company disputed that our client suffered a concussion and retained experts to support their claims.

Instead of proceeding to trial, the insurance company and the law firm agreed to resolve this case through binding arbitration. Binding arbitration is a streamlined process which is a more efficient way to resolve a case. At arbitration, both sides present their evidence to one person, usually a retired judge or lawyer who specializes in personal injury law. Cases which proceed to arbitration are typically completed within one day, instead of the numerous

days required if a case goes to trial.

The case was heard by a retired judge from the Circuit Court of Arlington, Virginia. Partner Joseph Cammarata presented the testimony of our client's treating neurologist, neuropsychologist, and speech therapist, in addition to family and coworkers. The judge found Mr. Cammarata's presentation of the evidence persuasive and awarded our client **\$675,000**.

In the second case, our client was driving in Washington, D.C., when another driver moved into our client's lane and caused a collision. The driver claimed it was our client who moved into his lane. Our client suffered a concussion and a worsening of a sleep condition which existed before the collision, as well as an aggravation of a lower-back problem.

The driver's insurance company refused to pay any money to resolve this claim. As a result, the law firm filed a lawsuit to obtain compensation for our client's injuries and property damage. During the fact-finding stage of the litigation, we located a witness who corroborated our client's version of the collision. The driver's insurance company eventually agreed that its driver was at fault for the collision, and agreed to submit the case to binding arbitration.

At the arbitration Partner Joseph Cammarata presented the testimony of our client's treating neurologist, wife, and the client. The client had \$19,924 in medical expenses.

Following the conclusion of the arbitration, the retired Chief Judge of the Civil Division of the D.C. Superior Court who was sitting as the arbitrator awarded the client **\$319,924**.



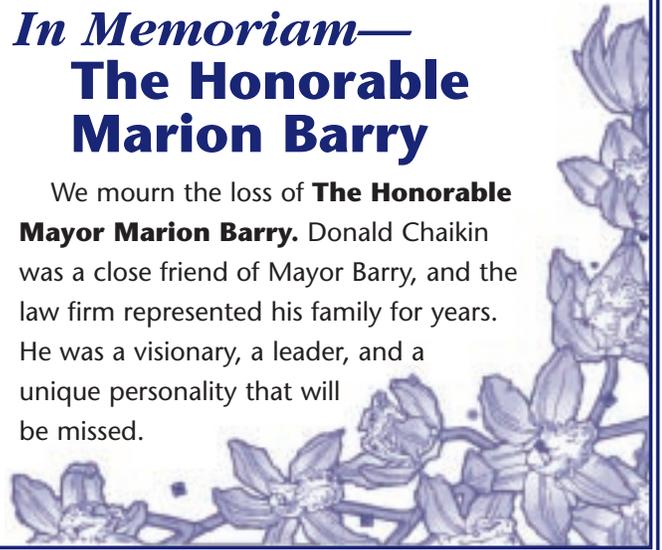
## D.C. pays \$350,000 for police brutality

(continued from page 2)

The law firm filed a lawsuit alleging that the D.C. police officer violated our client's constitutional right to be free from unreasonable force by a law enforcement officer. The case was intensely litigated for approximately three years. The District of Columbia agreed to pay \$350,000 the day before the trial was scheduled to begin. We are proud that we were not only successful in securing the compensation our client deserved, but that we also exposed injustice within the police department. This case was not only a victory for our client, but also a victory for ensuring that law enforcement officers behave reasonably towards the citizens they are supposed to protect.

## In Memoriam— The Honorable Marion Barry

We mourn the loss of **The Honorable Mayor Marion Barry**. Donald Chaikin was a close friend of Mayor Barry, and the law firm represented his family for years. He was a visionary, a leader, and a unique personality that will be missed.



## 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.**

CHAIKIN  
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*Attorneys at Law*

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## Associate Matthew W. Tievsky elected to Board of Governors of Trial Lawyers Association of Metropolitan Washington, D.C.

Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C., is proud to announce that on November 12, 2014, Associate **Matthew W. Tievsky** was elected to the Board of Governors of the Trial Lawyers Association of Metropolitan Washington, D.C. ("TLA-DC"). Mr. Tievsky follows in the footsteps of the firm's partners: Ira Sherman, Joseph Cammarata, and Allan M. Siegel were all members of the Board of

Governors. Mr. Sherman and Mr. Siegel went on to become Presidents of the Association. Mr. Cammarata is currently the President-Elect. As a member of the Board of Governors, Mr. Tievsky has a vote in governing TLA-DC, which is the area's leading organization advocating for the plaintiffs' bar. Mr. Tievsky has been a member of TLA-DC and its Amicus Committee since 2012.

