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Whistleblower to receive \$2.2 million for disclosing fraud

Our client will receive in excess of \$2.2 million for reporting fraud at her workplace to the federal government. Our client was a dental technician at a Small Smiles dental clinic in Maryland. She discovered that Small Smiles was allegedly billing Medicaid for medically unnecessary dental services. Partner **Joseph Cammarata**, along with Associate **Ebony Robinson**, reported the fraud claim to the federal government on behalf of our client. The law firm filed a lawsuit under the False Claims Act on behalf of the United States, seeking to recover the money paid by the government on the false medical claims. As a result of the lawsuit, the Department of Justice conducted an investigation into our client's claims.

The investigation led to a settlement with the management company for Small Smiles in which the company agreed to pay \$24 million, plus interest, to the United States. The federal government's share of the settlement was approximately \$14.2 million.

If you are aware of any fraud against the federal government, such as from overbilling or charging for goods or services not needed or provided, please contact us immediately. Under the federal law, the False Claims Act, if you report fraud and the government collects money from the wrongdoer, you will be entitled to 15–25 percent of the government's recovery.

The Department of Justice said that it considers the False Claims Act one of the most powerful tools in combating fraud. Since January 2009, the federal government's recoveries from fraud in health-care programs is in excess of \$3 billion.

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF



Red Line Metro crash

The one-year anniversary of the June 22, 2009, Red Line Metro crash just recently passed. We ask you to take a moment to remember those who died or were injured in this tragedy. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the victims and family members whose lives have been affected by this tragedy.

Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C., is working hard to ensure that those responsible for the crash are held accountable. We are confident that justice will prevail.

Law firm collects \$500,000 from the District of Columbia

Partners **Joseph Cammarata** and **Allan M. Siegel** spearheaded two separate cases which resulted in the law firm collecting \$500,000 from the District of Columbia. In the first case, a police officer ran a stop sign and collided with a taxicab in which our client was a passenger. The police officer claimed he was on an emergency run. Ordinarily, the District of Columbia cannot be held responsible for acts of its police officers, if an officer is on an emergency run, unless there was gross negligence. However, Partner **Allan M. Siegel** learned through discovery that the officer had actually been told, moments before the collision, that he was not needed at the crime scene. The officer then turned off his emergency lights, thereby ending the emergency run—**but he ran the stop sign anyway.**

As a result of the officer's negligence, our client suffered a fracture of his hip and a lacerated spleen. While his injuries were initially extensive, he made a full recovery. The District of Columbia settled the case for \$250,000.

In the second case, Partner **Joseph Cammarata** and Associate **Kiran Sharma** filed a lawsuit against the District of Columbia as a result of the assault of our client by a staff member of St. Elizabeths Hospital. Our client lost sight in one of his eyes as a result of the assault. The staff member and other hospital employees attempted to cover up the circumstances leading to our client's loss of sight by claiming that he tripped and hit his eye on a doorknob. An investigation was conducted which revealed the cover-up of wrongdoing by the staff.

The District of Columbia agreed to attend a mediation with D.C. Superior Court Judge Stephanie Duncan-Peters, who is the Chief of the Civil Division of the D.C. Superior Court, serving as the mediator. Early in her career, Judge Duncan-Peters was an associate of the law firm.

At mediation, the District of Columbia agreed to pay \$240,000 to our client and agreed to waive repayment of a medical lien in the amount of \$10,000, for a total settlement value of \$250,000.

These two cases continue a long tradition at **Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C.**, of holding the District of Columbia responsible for their negligent acts.

State Farm offer of \$30,000 rejected Jury awards \$267,907 to client

Our client, age 57, was involved in a collision that occurred in Prince George's County, Maryland. As a result of the collision, our client tore the medial meniscus in his knee, which required surgery to repair. Our client incurred medical expenses of approximately \$17,907 to care for his injuries. He did not lose any wages given that he was retired. Our client injured his knee when he was approximately 19 years old and remained pain-free until the date of the collision.

Partner **Joseph Cammarata**, along with Associate **Kiran Sharma**, filed suit against the negligent driver who caused the collision. The wrongdoer paid her policy limits of \$20,000 to our client.

We then filed suit against State Farm, our client's insurance carrier, because the wrongdoer was underinsured—she did not have enough insurance to fully compensate our client for his injuries.

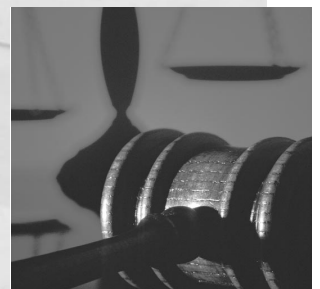
State Farm offered to pay an additional \$30,000 to our client. Our client rejected the offer based on our recommendation. State Farm's insurance policy with our client was for \$100,000; however, given that our client was paid \$20,000 from the wrongdoer, State Farm could be held responsible to pay another \$80,000. State Farm contended that our client's knee problem, and the need for surgery, was due to a degenerative condition and not due to any injury from the collision.

Mr. Cammarata presented the case to a jury in Prince George's County, and the jury awarded our client \$267,907, far in excess of State Farm's offer of \$30,000.

Multiple accident victims collect in excess of \$500,000

The law firm recently concluded the representation of a man who was involved in four automobile accidents over an 18-month period of time. Unfortunately, he suffered serious injuries in these accidents, including a mild traumatic brain injury, a torn rotator cuff, and a herniated disk. His wife was involved in two of the collisions and had her own claims for injuries as well. Because of the close proximity of the accidents, the insurance companies in each case attempted to avoid responsibility by claiming that our clients suffered the injuries in the other accidents.

Partner **Allan M. Siegel** litigated all four cases over a five-year period of time, bringing the final case to a resolution in April 2010. The clients received in excess of \$500,000 for the four accidents.



Christopher Daniels, Esq., becomes *of counsel* at the firm

We are proud to announce our new association with **Christopher Daniels, Esq.** Mr. Daniels' practice includes auto accidents; criminal matters; medical malpractice; workers' compensation; and trademark, copyright, and patent issues.



Prior to founding the Law Office of Christopher J. Daniels, LLC, Mr. Daniels studied clinical medicine for two years at the Ross University School of Medicine, earning the coursework equivalent to a Medical Master's degree. During his time in medical school, Mr. Daniels served as a teaching assistant in the areas of gross anatomy and clinical histology. At the University of Baltimore School of Law, Mr. Daniels concentrated his education in the areas of intellectual properties and medical law.

In order to provide his clients with the highest quality of representation, he has decided to become *of counsel* with the law firm of **Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C.** We are excited to have Mr. Daniels on our team and to be working with his clients.

Kiran Sharma passes Virginia Bar

Congratulations to Associate **Kiran Sharma** for passing the Virginia Bar Exam. Kiran joins Partners Joseph Cammarata and Allan M. Siegel, who are also licensed to practice in Virginia. Kiran is also licensed to practice in the state and federal courts in the District of Columbia and Maryland.

Kiran earned her B.A. in history and political science from Rutgers University, Douglass College, and her Juris Doctorate, with a concentration in trial advocacy, from the University of Baltimore School of Law.

Ebony Robinson elected a governor of the D.C. Trial Lawyers Association

We are proud to announce that **Ebony Robinson** was elected to serve as a governor on the Board of Governors of the Trial Lawyers Association of Metropolitan Washington, D.C. (DC-TLA). This continues a long tradition of leadership in this organization. Donald J. Chaikin, Ira Sherman, and Allan M. Siegel were all presidents of this organization. Joseph Cammarata is currently serving as a governor, and Allan M. Siegel is currently the DC-TLA delegate to the national organization, the American Association for Justice.



Congratulations, Ebony!

Janeen Scaturro joins the firm

We are proud to announce the addition of **Janeen M. Scaturro** as our newest associate. Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Scaturro

worked representing self-insured corporations as well as private insurance companies. That experience has provided her with a unique understanding of insurance companies and their approach, which she can use to effectively represent victims of negligence. Ms. Scaturro received her law degree from Loyola University School of Law in 2002. She received her B.A. in sociology with a focus on criminal justice from Fordham University in 1999. Ms. Scaturro is licensed in the state courts of Maryland and the District of Columbia.



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Client Corner

Your friends at Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel would like you to join us in our social-networking evolution!

We at **Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C.**, have been up and running with our social network. We are looking for new "friends" to join us on Facebook and to tweet along with us. We are also interested in your viewing our YouTube channel and being a YouTube star yourself. We invite you to talk about your experience at Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C. To gain access to each of our social-network venues, please follow the instructions below:

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You may also check out our Web site, www.chaikinsherman.com, and use the links to our social-networking sites. We update the information almost daily.

Sending your child to day camp— Make sure it's a safe summer

Many of our clients have selected day camps for their children to attend for all or part of the summer. Parents generally assume that the camps are well-operated and that safety is a primary concern. Unfortunately, camps frequently employ teenagers to take care of your children. These individuals may not have had any, or adequate, training in the care of children. Of particular concern is the adequacy of training and supervision of activities that pose a danger of injury.



Water safety is of particular importance. Be certain that all children are tested for their ability to swim and that there are safeguards to protect children from drowning or near-drowning. Make sure all children are identified with color-coded wristbands or similar devices to designate their swimming skill level. Learn the water-safety training program, and interview the head lifeguard. We suggest that you obtain a set of the training materials provided to counselors and that you read those materials as well. In the event you feel there are concerns that have not been addressed in the training materials, you should ask questions until you are satisfied. Additionally, determine the organizations and associations that the camp you are considering sending your child to belongs. You should check with these associations as well as with your local county and state agencies that license, govern, and monitor camps to determine if the camp you are selecting for your child has been the subject of any complaints and whether any children have been injured due to a finding by a state or local agency of negligence at that camp.

It is better to be thorough and safe now than sorry later.