

Partner Allan M. Siegel becomes President of the Trial Lawyers Association of Washington, D.C.

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On May 10, 2008, **Partner Allan M. Siegel** was inducted as the President of the Trial Lawyers Association of Washington, D.C. (DC-TLA) at the organization's Annual Awards Dinner, which took place at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. Allan has served as the Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President, and President-Elect of the organization prior to his taking over as President. Allan will be the third member of Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C., to have been president of this prestigious organization, following in the footsteps of **Donald Chaikin, Partner Emeritus**, and **Partner Ira Sherman**.

DC-TLA is an organization dedicated to preserving the rights of, and advocating on behalf of, those who are injured by the negligence of others. Its members share an abiding commitment to maintaining a civil-justice system that enables citizens to have their claims for full and fair compensation adjudicated by trial by jury. The organization supports the legal community by championing legislation that promotes and protects our clients' rights and by providing high-quality educational programs for its members.

Kathleen Flynn Peterson, the President of the American Association for Justice, was the keynote speaker at the Annual Awards Dinner. The Association also gave awards to retired Maryland Court of Appeals Judge Howard Chasanow, Robert Peck of the Center for Constitutional Litigation, and College Bound, Inc.



Joseph Cammarata named "Super Lawyer" for second consecutive year

He did it again! **Partner Joseph Cammarata** was recently named to Washington, D.C. Super Lawyers for 2008 by *Law & Politics* magazine. Mr. Cammarata enjoyed this same recognition in 2007. *Law & Politics* utilizes a rigorous multistep evaluation process that incorporates peer recognition and professional achievement to select lawyers for inclusion in Super Lawyers.



Kiran Sharma joins law firm as an Associate

We are proud to announce that **Kiran Sharma** has joined the law firm as an associate. Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Sharma clerked for the Honorable John N. Prevas and Joseph P. McCurdy, each on the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, Maryland. In addition, Ms. Sharma previously worked for a defense law firm representing corporations and insurance-company interests. Ms. Sharma will use the experience and knowledge she gained while working “on the other side” to effectively represent victims of the negligence and wrongdoing of others.

Ms. Sharma is a graduate of the University of Baltimore School of Law and is licensed to practice in the federal and state courts of Washington, D.C., and Maryland.

Law firm resolves near-drowning claim

A tragedy of indescribable dimension occurred when our young client suffered a profound permanent brain injury as a result of a near-drowning. Our client was discovered floating unconscious in the water of a pool at a recreational facility. The law firm of **Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C.**, was retained by the family after they conducted an investigation and interviewed attorneys to determine the individual and firm that they felt could most competently represent their severely injured child.

The law firm of Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C., was proud to have been selected by the family and to have the confidence and trust placed in them to represent their child in an aggressive, yet compassionate, fashion. The law firm immediately began to pursue the perceived wrongdoers.

Interviews with the State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene investigators and state detectives who investigated the incident were conducted. Public Information Requests were filed seeking volumes of information regarding the potential defendant, the facilities it ran, the policies and procedures it utilized, and the competence of its employees. The law firm hired numerous experts in the field of pool and water safety as well as in the care and treatment of a child with profound brain injury. This resulted in the marshalling of valuable information utilized to persuade the owner and managers of the facility to provide a monetary settlement that would secure the best medical and other care that money could buy for the rest of the child’s life. The proceeds of the settlement were invested in a “structured settlement” and placed in a “Special Needs Trust” to maximize the family’s ability to have the financial resources to care for their child, including beyond their lifetimes should their child survive their deaths. Although the terms of the settlement are confidential, the matter was settled to the satisfaction of our clients.

Medical malpractice case results in settlement

The law firm recently successfully resolved pending litigation filed on behalf of an infant and his family. The lawsuit alleged the negligent care, treatment, monitoring, and resuscitation of an infant who was a patient at a local Washington, D.C., metropolitan-area facility. The law firm presented evidence by way of sworn deposition testimony of numerous experts regarding the allegations of negligence concerning the failure to adequately monitor this child’s care and to resuscitate the child appropriately. The innocent infant suffered profound, permanent brain injury, requiring that he receive assistance and care for all activities for the rest of his life. Needless to say, no amount of money can undo the harm caused, but the law firm is proud to have assisted the family in achieving a result that will assure that their baby will have the resources to receive the best care available for the rest of his life.

Please go to “Client Comments” on www.ChaikinSherman.com to read what our client has to say about her experience at **Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C.**

Car plows through street festival, injuring client

Our client was severely injured while attending an outdoor street festival called Unifest, which is sponsored by the Union Temple Baptist Church. Mayor Fenty called the incident “one of the worst, serious traffic accidents” in D.C. history. A car driven by Tonya Bell, while she was under the influence of crack cocaine, crashed through the festival crowd, causing mayhem and injury. She was said to have been traveling at a speed of up to 70 mph. She was charged with aggravated assault while armed. Ms. Bell was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

Our client suffered multiple leg fractures that required surgery, and severe facial lacerations. **Partner Joseph Cammarata** brought a claim against Erie insurance company to seek compensation for her injuries. Erie is our client’s insurance carrier, and the law firm brought the claim against Erie because Ms. Bell did not have car insurance. Erie eventually agreed to pay its full policy limits of \$250,000 to our client in settlement of her claim.

State Farm offers \$20,000— Jury awards \$104,000

Partner Allan M. Siegel obtained a jury verdict in excess of \$104,000 on behalf of a Prince George's County schoolteacher. In November of 2005, our client was driving a vehicle that was struck in the rear by the defendant. As a result of the collision, our client suffered a herniated disc in her neck and had to miss the rest of the school year.

The defendant hired a doctor who examined our client and testified in court that the herniated disc was not caused by the collision, but was a result of arthritis. This doctor also said that our client could have returned to work in four weeks. The defendant had an insurance policy of \$100,000. Mr. Siegel insisted that the insurance company tender its full policy limits to settle the case. However, State Farm Insurance Company only offered \$20,000.

The case went to trial, and the jury awarded over \$104,000—**more than the defendant's insurance policy**. State Farm Insurance Company's failure to tender its limits exposed the defendant to personal liability. In other words, the law firm could have attempted to garnish his wages, or even attach his house. The insurance company's failure to protect their insured from this risk exposed State Farm to a claim for bad faith. Rather than risk being held responsible for bad-faith insurance practices and continuing litigation against Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C., the insurance company relented and paid the **full** verdict.

Ira Sherman to moderate and Joseph Cammarata to present seminar at national American Association for Justice convention this July

Ira Sherman will be moderating a half-day seminar at the five-day annual convention of the American Association for Justice, formerly the Association of Trial Lawyers of America. The seminar will take place on July 13, 2008, and is expected to be attended by hundreds of trial lawyers. Joseph Cammarata's topic, one among five to be presented, is entitled "Involvement in the Community, Press, and Politics as a Component of a Marketing Plan." Mr. Cammarata's topic was selected because of the law firm's commitment to participating in community affairs. For instance, the law firm established the Ethiopian Heritage College Scholarship, which will award \$1,000 each year of college to a high school senior who has been admitted to, and will attend, an accredited two or four year college.

Mr. Cammarata has appeared on local and national television and radio news and talk shows. He has often been quoted in the press, particularly the *Washington Post*. Mr. Cammarata, along with Mr. Sherman, has excellent relationships with many members of the District of Columbia City Council and has successfully lobbied for the enactment of remedial legislation for one of our clients, Mr. Frank Harris, Jr. That legislation, "The Frank Harris, Jr. Justice Amendment Act of 2008," provided relief not only for Mr. Harris, but for all individuals similarly situated, forevermore.

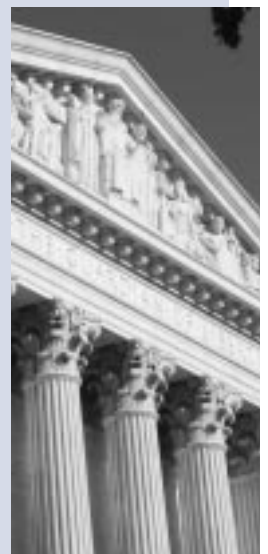
Finally, as many of you know, **Partner Allan Siegel** is now President of the District of Columbia Trial Lawyers Association and, as such, is leading the legal community of plaintiff's trial lawyers. We are proud of our participation in the annual American Association for Justice Trial Lawyers Convention and feel well-qualified to advise trial lawyers around the country how to duplicate the success we have had in forming valuable relationships with the community, press, and local governmental authorities.

Partner Allan M. Siegel speaks at Supreme Court

On May 2, 2008, **Partner Allan M. Siegel** was invited to speak at the Supreme Court to address the winners of the National Capital Lawyers Auxiliary's Annual Law Day Contest. The essay contest was open to all sixth-grade students in the District of Columbia public schools. The theme of the essay contest was "You Make a Difference." It was meant to encourage students to consider their roles, as they relate to the law, in maintaining the freedoms we share while also fortifying the reality that these rights require responsibilities for all residents and citizens.

Allan had the honor of joining Supreme Court Justice David Souter on this panel. Allan discussed the importance of the concluding words of the Pledge of Allegiance: "with liberty and justice for all." He emphasized that one way each and every sixth-grade student could make a difference is by ensuring that justice was guaranteed to all by making sure the courthouse doors stayed open to all Americans—rich or poor.

However, the highlight of the day was when the sixth-grade finalists read portions of their essays to the audience. It is clear that these wonderful students have and will make a difference in our world.



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

The law building to undergo refurbishing and remodeling

Those of us who "live" and work at **Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C.**, want to make it as warm and comfortable as possible for our clients and those of us who spend our days and nights working hard for our clients. We decided to refurbish and refurnish our "second home" because we want you to feel "at home" when you stop by to have a cup of coffee, get a lollipop or two, and just catch up.

Those of you who have been by recently have seen that the landscaping has been significantly improved; we now have beautiful new landscaping all along the sidewalk adjacent to the building. Additionally, the landscaping along the property of the building has been updated and upgraded. For the first time in at least 20 years, the courtyard of the building has been cleaned up, and a picnic table has been placed there to permit our staff to have lunch and perhaps even a T.G.I.F. get-together during the spring and summer months. (If you would like to stop by at our next wine and cheese get-together, please call **Biera** for the next date.) Over the next several months, the exterior of the building will be repainted and the completion of the replacement of the carpeting throughout the building will take place. Additionally, the reception area, as well as the conference room, will be completely remodeled and new furnishing purchased. We anticipate completion of all of our remodeling by the end of the year. Please feel free to stop by and check on the progress.

Client Corner

NEED A RIDE?

For over 10 years, our client **Teddy Worku** has operated a transportation company which provides transportation to and from Washington National, Dulles, or BWI airports, or anywhere else you may need to go. If you need a ride, call Teddy at **(703) 402-3364**.

In this section, we acknowledge the achievements, events, special recognitions, honors, awards, and promotions of our clients. If you would like to be part of our newsletter, please contact us; we will put you in the next edition.

Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C., celebrated Administrative Professionals Day with a law firm BBQ

The law firm celebrated Administrative Professionals Day by having a BBQ in the back courtyard of the building. The BBQ, catered by Red, Hot & Blue on May 21, 2008, was a big success. Congratulations and thank you to all of our staff.