

JOSEPH CAMMARATA

Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C., 1232 17th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036

Work: (202)659-8600 | Cell: (202)329-6643

Summary

Leading Washington trial attorney skilled in high-profile litigation with significant media experience.

Education

Georgetown University School of Foreign Service (B.S.F.S., 1980)

St. John's University School of Law (J.D., 1983)

Pace University Lubin Graduate School of Business (Cert. of Adv. Grad. Stdy. in Acctg., 1984)

Georgetown University Law Center (Masters of Law in Tax, 1987)

Practice History

1984-1986	Coopers & Lybrand, Tax Attorney
1986-1990	U.S. Dept. of Justice, Tax Division, Trial Attorney
1990-1992	Associate, Zapruder & Odell
1992-1996	Principal, Joseph Cammarata, Attorney-at-Law
1996-1998	Partner, Cammarata & Grandinetti
1998-present	Partner, Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C.

Current Practice Areas

Operates national litigation practice that successfully champions the rights of victims of discrimination and civil rights abuses. Has litigated against insurance companies, governmental entities and even the President of the United States, winning several high-profile cases and securing tens of millions of dollars in recoveries for clients.

Practice focuses on complex civil litigation in areas including brain injury, wrongful death, personal injury, medical malpractice, product liability, civil rights, sexual harassment, employment discrimination, and fraud.

Regularly appears in national and international media. Past appearances have included all major network and cable outlets. Has been quoted extensively in national and international newspapers and magazines. Selected to contribute an essay to *Beyond a Reasonable Doubt*, edited by television's Larry King.

Practice Highlights

Successfully litigated numerous complex and high-profile cases, including:

1. Jones v. Clinton. Lead counsel for Paula Jones in her claim against President Bill Clinton. Won a unanimous decision of the U.S. Supreme Court guaranteeing all individuals the right to equal access to justice, even against formidable, powerful opponents such as the President of the United States.
2. Green, et al. v. Bill Cosby. Filed lawsuit in federal court in Massachusetts against Bill Cosby for defamation on behalf of seven women who claim they were sexually abused and/or assaulted by Mr. Cosby. The case settled to the satisfaction of each woman.
3. Jane Doe v. The Georgetown Synagogue – Keshet Israel Congregation, et al. Successfully represented women, in a class action lawsuit, who were secretly videotaped while participating in a spiritual bathing ritual. The lawsuit was filed in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia against the synagogue which employed the rabbi who did the videotaping, the mikvah where the ritual was performed, and the Rabbinical Council which oversaw the conversion process. The Court approved the settlement of the case and the distribution of the settlement proceeds to the class members.

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4. Jane Roe 1, et al. v. Latin American Montessory Bilingual Public Charter School, et al. Filed lawsuit in the D.C. Superior Court on behalf of six children and their parents against a District of Columbia charter school and its former teacher for alleged sexual assault and/or abuse of the children. The Court approved the settlement of each case to the satisfaction of each family.
5. Group Home Litigation. Successfully represented developmentally disabled citizens of the District of Columbia in litigation against the District and its contractors for negligence and violation of their civil rights. The litigation led to reform in the group home system to improve care for developmentally disabled individuals.
6. Athletic Concussion Protection Act of 2011 of Washington, D.C. Drafted the most comprehensive legislation ever enacted in the nation designed to protect youth athletes from the known risks of a concussion.
7. Frank Harris, Jr. Offset Justice Amendment Act of 2007. Successfully lobbied for enactment of the Frank Harris, Jr. Offset Justice Amendment Act of 2007, to prevent the District of Columbia from offsetting the cost of support of a person whenever the District has been found negligent in the care for that person. The law was named after a client of the law firm.

Publication

“Access to Justice.” Essay published in *Beyond a Reasonable Doubt*, Larry King, ed., Phoenix Books, 2006. Advocated for full, prompt access to justice for all Americans as a fundamental right.

Certifications

Board Certified in Civil Trial Advocacy and Civil Pretrial Practice Advocacy
by the National Board of Trial Advocacy
Certified Public Accountant, New York, 1988

Bar Memberships

1984	New York	1992	Maryland
1985	District of Columbia	1993	Virginia

Professional Affiliations & Memberships

Past President, Trial Lawyers Association of Metropolitan Washington, D.C.
Secretary, Traumatic Brain Injury Litigation Group, American Association for Justice
New York State, Maryland State, District of Columbia and Virginia Bar Associations
The American Association for Justice
Virginia Trial Lawyers Association
Maryland Trial Lawyers Association
President, Virginia Chapter of National Medical Malpractice Advocacy Association

Professional Commendations

Named “Super Lawyer” of the Washington, DC area every year since 2007
Named one of the top 100 Super Lawyers in Washington, D.C. in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020
Named one of the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area’s top attorneys by *Washingtonian Magazine* in every survey year since 1997
Marquis Who’s Who: Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award recipient
Martindale-Hubbell Lawyer Ratings: AV “Preeminent,” 1999-present
U.S. Department of Justice, Outstanding Attorney Award, 1989

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Community Activities

- Commissioner, Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, and Use of Force Subcommittee Member, Fairfax County, Virginia, 2015
Engaged the community in a process to recommend changes to help Fairfax County achieve its goals of maintaining a safe community, ensuring a culture of public trust and making sure County policies provided for the fair and timely resolution of police-involved incidents.
- Member, Council for Court Excellence, Jury Project: Jury Service in the 21st Century, 2014
- Member, Board of Directors, Fairfax Water Authority, 2012 – present
Fairfax Water is Virginia's largest water utility serving one out of every five Virginians who obtain water from public utilities, which is approximately 2 million people. The water quality is excellent and consistently surpasses all federal and state standards.
- President, Co-Founder, Brain Injury Association of D.C., 2007 – present
The Brain Injury Association of D.C. is a non-profit organization devoted to assist persons suffering from a brain injury through prevention, research, education and advocacy.
- Member, Area Plans Review, Mt. Vernon, Virginia Task Force, 2010
- Member, Mt. Vernon, Virginia Visioning Task Force, 2010 – 2011
- Chairman, Public Safety Committee of Visioning Task Force, 2010 – 2011
- Member, Criminal Justice Advisory Board, Fairfax County, Virginia, 1994-1997; (Chairman, 1995-1997)
The Board reviews and coordinates all phases of planning for the Criminal Justice System.
- Chairman, Community Initiative to Reduce Youth Violence, Fairfax, Virginia, 1996-1997
Developed a comprehensive plan to combine public and private sector resources to coordinate efforts to reduce youth violence. To implement the plan, the Fairfax Partnership for Youth was created.
- Director, Fairfax Partnership for Youth, Inc., 1997-1998
An independent non-profit organization founded in May 1997, formed through a partnership of the public and private sectors, to reduce youth violence and promote positive youth development.
- Past Chairman of the Alexandria Red Cross Waterfront Festival
Formerly the largest outdoor fundraising event of the American Red Cross.