

D.C. Attorneys Make Lead Gift Supporting Brain Injury Research

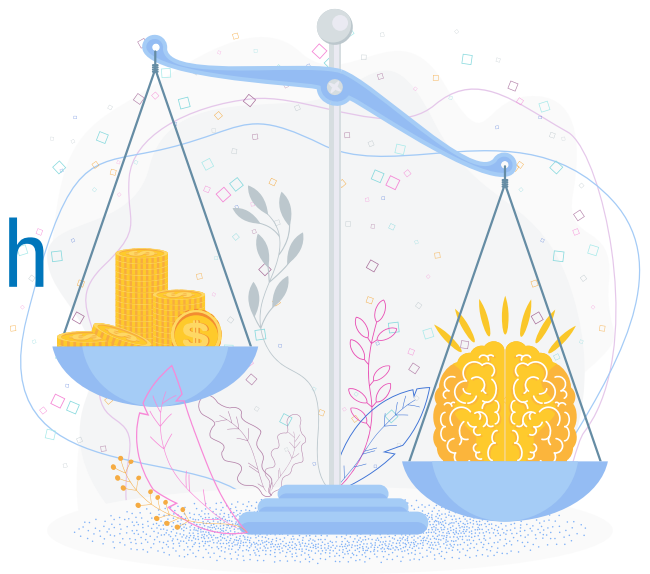
By Robbie Baker, Vice President & Chief Development Officer, Brain Injury Association of America

Ira Sherman is no stranger to recognizing a need and doing something about it. During childhood, he was first introduced to a community of developmentally disabled adults while helping his aunt and uncle host Saturday night socials at the local YMCA. After starting his career as a trial lawyer, he gravitated toward a focus on individuals impacted by developmental disabilities and traumatic brain injury (TBI).

Mr. Sherman and his law partners have been making a positive impact on the brain injury community for more than 25 years. With the firm's focus being on people



Ira Sherman, partner at Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C



with developmental disabilities and TBI, Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C. has touched thousands of lives in service of their clients while investing time as volunteer leaders at both BIAA and the Brain Injury Associations of Washington, D.C. and Virginia. Mr. Sherman served on the BIAA Board of Directors for seven years and as the organization's treasurer for two of those years. Mr. Sherman and Joe Cammarata founded the BIA of Washington, D.C., and Mr. Cammarata currently serves as its president.

This fall, the firm announced plans to make a \$25,000 gift to the Brain Injury Research Fund, which recently completed its first year supporting researchers who are seeking cures for chronic brain injury. The fund makes seed grants of up to \$25,000 to researchers and grants of \$5,000 to support young scientists completing their doctoral work. The benefits of the fund are twofold: investing in the most promising science to increase discovery, and recruiting the best and brightest investigators to specialize in brain injury. Mr. Sherman and his partners hope that this gift inspires others to make a contribution to the fund. "Every grant made by the Fund has the potential to turn on an engine that will ultimately take us down a road to provide relief from symptoms associated with having sustained a TBI," says Mr. Sherman.

The concept of giving back is at the firm's core who routine asking themselves, "Are you making a difference in the community in which you live and work?" To that end, the partners have supported causes that have meaning to their clients and to them

both professionally and personally, including awarding college scholarships, aiding victims of domestic violence, pursuing efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, and supporting the brain injury community.


“We know the impact that TBI has on the individual and know the necessity to provide support to organizations who are often the bedrock that the individual with TBI turns to for help. Reliable, trustworthy support – that’s what BIAA provides,” explains Mr. Sherman. For these reasons, Sherman and his partners were compelled to do more. “It is a source of pride for us,” says Mr. Sherman, “BIAA supports individuals along the entire spectrum of brain injury. No one with a brain injury will feel diminished because the impacts on them are significant but may not be demonstrable to others. All with brain injury are served the same way with resources, advocacy, and now research.”

Sherman and others on the BIAA Board of Directors identified an unmet need when making a commitment in 2019 to establish the Brain Injury Research Fund. For 40 years, BIAA has advocated for appropriations to fund

brain injury research. In doing so, the organization is well-suited to directly fund projects. Mr. Sherman wants others to know that the Brain Injury Research Fund creates “fertile ground for people who want to recognize the need” for research and that monetary contributions can make a measurable difference.

The commitment made by Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C. goes well beyond their giving of time and energy, notes BIAA President/CEO Susan Connors. “We are deeply grateful to Ira, Joe, Allan, and the entire firm for this very generous gift and for their ongoing leadership at BIAA and in their local state associations,” says Susan Connors. “Their unflinching commitment to individuals with brain injury and their families is remarkable and truly appreciated.”


For more information about the Brain Injury Research Fund or becoming a Research Champion, please contact Robbie Baker, Vice President and Chief Development Officer, at (703) 761-0750 ext. 648 or rbaker@biausa.org. You can also download our research brochure at biausa.org/supportresearch. ●



The only thing preventing discovery of brain injury cures is a lack of funding.

Imagine a world where we learn how to heal the brain, where people do not live with the lifelong effects of brain injury, and where, rather than accelerating a disease, we can stop it in its tracks.

BIAA is working to better understand brain injury through its Brain Injury Research Fund. Learn more at biausa.org/research.

 **BRAIN INJURY RESEARCH FUND**
A program of the Brain Injury Association of America