

# CHAIKIN SHERMAN CAMMARATA SIEGEL P.C.

Personal Injury Lawyers



## Washington, D.C. Office

1232 17th Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036

## Maryland Office

911 Silver Spring Avenue  
Suite 107  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

## Virginia Office

5673 Columbia Pike  
Suite 101  
Falls Church, VA 22041

Telephone:

**202.659.8600**

Outside DC:

**800.229.8384**

Fax:

**202.659.8680**

e-mail:

**siegel@dc-law.net**

Website:

**www.chaikinandsherman.com**

Attorneys available  
24 hours a day,  
7 days a week.

### Your Personal Injury Advocates

- Free consultation
- Home appointments
- No recovery, No fee.  
We do not get paid unless you do.



## A Road Well Traveled

*A message from Managing Partner Ira Sherman*



The earliest record I have of the beginnings of this law firm is Mr. Chaikin's handwritten ledger that set forth, on a monthly basis, the settlements of all of our clients' cases.

The first page of this ledger is dated January 1973, and it contains a list of eight settlements ranging from \$150 to \$900. Yes, the biggest settlement was \$900! Although I did not join Don Chaikin's law firm until April 1980, I know that a case that settled for \$10,000 would be considered a very significant settlement. Indeed, Mr. Chaikin's ledger reveals that the largest settlement the law firm had in 1973 was \$4,200. How far we have come! Now, this law firm often resolves cases through settlement or verdict for hundreds of thousands and even millions of dollars. Just this year alone, Allan Siegel tried a medical malpractice case in the District of Columbia, which resulted in a verdict of **\$17.1 Million Dollars. That is approximately ten thousand times more than the average settlement in 1973!!!**

When my career at the law firm began in 1980, Mr. Chaikin had already been President of the DC Trial Lawyers' Association, and we were a locally prominent firm that was often selected by leaders of the DC government to represent family members who were injured as a result of the carelessness of others. In 1994, I was elected to be President of the DC Trial Lawyers' Association. In 2008 Allan Siegel, and in 2015 Joseph Cammarata, were each elected to be President of the DC Trial Lawyers' Association. Thereafter, Joseph Cammarata and I founded the DC Brain Injury Association, an affiliate of the Brain Injury Association of America. Joseph Cammarata, Allan Siegel, and I have also all been selected to be "Super Lawyers," Washingtonian Magazine "Top Lawyers," Northern Virginia Magazine "Top Lawyers," and "AV Preeminent" lawyers (the highest rating available by Martindale-Hubble one of the oldest and most respected lawyer rating services).

Over the years, this local reputation, has led to the law firm, and its individual partners, being recognized by publications, organizations, and our peers on a national level. I was requested to serve on the Board of Directors of the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA), and I served as the Treasurer of BIAA for two of the seven years that I was on the Board.

Joseph Cammarata and Allan Siegel have expanded our national reach and the recognition we have received by our peers. Many of you know that CSCS has represented individuals with traumatic brain injuries for decades. Allan, Joe, and I have been members of the Traumatic Brain Injury Litigation Group, a group established by the American Association for Justice for lawyers who have a particular interest in understanding and representing individuals with brain injuries. I cannot be prouder of Joseph Cammarata, who will become Chairman of the Traumatic Brain Injury Litigation Group, this summer. Allan Siegel has also distinguished himself on a national level and will become Chairman-Elect of the American Association for Justice's Bus Litigation Group this summer. Undoubtedly, the outstanding success of the law firm and the individual partners have also been factors that resulted in US News and World Report naming Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C. as one of its "Best Law Firms" for Personal Injury in the Washington, DC geographic region.

I am filled with pride that we have the historical record of our humble beginnings, which makes our current stature so much more meaningful. We were not "born" with the proverbial "silver spoon," but instead, as a result of our dedication to each of the thousands of clients we have represented over five decades, we earned a special place in the local and national community of plaintiffs' personal injury lawyers. Through hard work and good fortune, we have achieved the American dream. Thank you all for the trust and confidence you placed in us.

We wish you a safe and healthy summer.



## Employee Spotlight:

# Sharice Foxx

If you call our office or come in the front door, you will likely meet **Sharice Foxx**, one of our front desk receptionists who has been with the firm of Chaikin Sherman Cammarata & Siegel, P.C. since 2018. Sharice also assists our pre-litigation group by preparing letters, obtaining medical records, and helping with anything that needs to be done. She is a great team player. Sharice is also responsible for making sure that all of our clients get birthday cards on their birthdays!

Sharice is a resident of Oxon Hill, and mother of a 14 year-old son and 11 year-old daughter. She has been working in the legal field for over a decade.

Sharice is also a native of the D.C. area, having attended Bell High School and Prince George's Community College. Although she is the consummate professional at work, Sharice is also a proud social butterfly. Sharice is also a foodie, and loves to go out to restaurants as well as cook at home.

It has been our pleasure to have Sharice with us. The next time you speak with her we hope you will express your appreciation for the valuable work she performs for all of our clients.



## Law Firm Receives Super Lawyers® Awards for 12th Consecutive Year

The 2022 Washington, DC Super Lawyers® annual list was featured in the Washington Post Magazine on May 22, 2022. Super Lawyers® does an annual survey every year that rates the top lawyers in every state and Washington, D.C.

This is the 12th consecutive year that Partners **Ira Sherman**, **Joseph Cammarata**, and **Allan M. Siegel** have been named Super Lawyers®. Partners Joseph Cammarata and Allan M. Siegel also both made the Washington, D.C. Top 100 list for the fourth consecutive year. Partners Cammarata & Siegel were 2 of only 11 personal injury lawyers to make the Top 100 list.

Partner **Matthew Tievsky** and Associate **Stephen P. Ollar** were both named Rising Stars.



## Claims Manager Corner

Melonie Mills

It is hard to believe that last year at this time I was in Georgia, preparing to relocate to Maryland. I recall feeling excited, but also apprehensive. I was excited that I had found what I deemed to be the perfect match! I was joining Chaikin Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C. (CSCS), a prestigious firm with lawyers with a combined 100+ years of experience. I was confident that my diverse collaborative background, coupled with my 24 plus years combined extensive experience in Claims Management, Personal Injury, Property & Casualty Insurance, Litigation Management, Disability Insurance, Public Health, Epidemiology, & Health & Policy Management would align perfectly with CSCS's best practices and mission of advocacy in obtaining impactful results on behalf of our clients. Although I was very excited about the start of my new journey, I was also a bit apprehensive about the transition from working for a larger firm in Georgia, to a smaller firm that services the DMV. Once I arrived at CSCS my apprehension quickly dissolved. I was very confident in the business structure and how client focused CSCS is from intake, to pre-suit settlement, to litigation. The firm's technology was up to date, which makes for efficient management of files. I was in awe of how the entire staff welcomed me.

I worked for three large insurance companies for over 16 years, and then I transitioned to a large plaintiff firm for 8 years in Georgia. Throughout my professional career, especially after I transitioned to the Plaintiff's side, I would often hear people have comparative conversations regarding larger size firms, versus smaller size firms. I thought it would be interesting to share with you my perspective on working with CSCS versus the larger firm that I worked with in Georgia.

The first thing that I noticed is that in a large firm you often have a high turnover, which can be frustrating to the client. CSCS does not have a high employee turnover. When you have a law firm that has experienced professionals that remain with the firm, it builds trust with our clients. They know we are their forever lawyers.

CSCS is a great place to work. The first admirable thing that I noticed after joining CSCS is that we have a multitude of repeat clients, and referrals. It always amazes me to hear a client, when asked "how did you hear about us" reply that they saw our reviews online. I have never seen a TV commercial or radio commercial for CSCS, yet our firm has a great standing in the community because of the reputation we have built based on our advocacy, and the impactful results we consistently achieve.

CSCS is the hallmark for excellence and truly exemplifies that it is not the size that matters, but instead the quality, caliber, and experience of the attorneys, claims managers, paralegals, and administrative support staff. CSCS lawyers speak to all clients in every case. This is done in collaboration with the Claims Manager. The great attention to detail that is given on each client's file places the case in excellent position when negotiating with the insurance adjuster to maximize our client's recovery.

I conclude with saying that I am truly excited to be a part of this amazing firm, and it feels good to be a part of a team in which the leadership is consistent, values our clients, and values our staff.



## Law Firm Obtains \$17.1 Million Medical Malpractice Verdict

On April 6, 2022 Partner **Allan M. Siegel** obtained a jury verdict of \$17,107,000 in the Superior Court for the District of Columbia. This was a wrongful death case that arose as a result of negligent treatment at the Washington Hospital Center's Women's Wellness Clinic. Our client's sister (the decedent) presented to the Washington Women's Wellness Center complaining of vaginal bleeding, which she had been experiencing for two weeks. She was seen by a nurse practitioner. Unfortunately, she had an ectopic pregnancy. An ectopic pregnancy is a pregnancy in which the fetus develops outside the uterus, typically in a fallopian tube. The fallopian tubes are not designed to hold a growing fetus. As the fetus grows, it will cause the fallopian tube to rupture. This will cause excessive bleeding, and will likely lead to death.

The nurse practitioner failed to diagnose the ectopic pregnancy, and sent the decedent home. She further instructed her to come back to the clinic to obtain follow-up bloodwork. The decedent did not understand the deadly nature of her condition and did not return to get the bloodwork. Unfortunately, the ectopic pregnancy ruptured on February 17, 2022, causing the decedent's death.

The jury found the hospital negligent and found that the nurse practitioner failed to properly inform the decedent of her potentially fatal condition. The jury awarded \$15,000,000 to the decedent's three minor children for loss of education, guidance, and support, \$500,000 for 30 minutes of the decedent's conscious pain and suffering, and \$1,607,000 for lost wages and lost household services.

While nothing can be done to erase this unnecessary tragedy, we are glad that we were able to obtain justice for this family, and provide financial support for these minor children.

---

## Stephen P. Ollar Wins Verdict in Montgomery County, Maryland

While large verdicts and settlements make headlines, many of the cases that the law firm litigates do not include catastrophic or permanent injuries. If you are injured as a result of someone else's negligence, rest assured the law firm will assist you, and will not back down until we obtain full and complete justice.

With that in mind, we congratulate Attorney Stephen P. Ollar on his recent Montgomery County, Maryland jury verdict of \$52,812. The case involved a rear-end motor vehicle collision where our client sustained injuries to her neck, back, and shoulders. She incurred approximately \$15,000 in medical bills. Though the Defendant admitted that he had caused the collision, his insurance company refused to make a fair offer. Refusing to yield, Attorney Ollar presented the jury with a compelling narrative of the enormous physical, emotional, and financial toll caused by this collision. The jury ultimately agreed and awarded a verdict two and one-half times the insurance company's final offer.

CHAIKIN  
SHERMAN  
CAMMARATA  
SIEGEL P.C.

Personal Injury Lawyers

*We care about you  
and those you love!*



[www.chaikinandsherman.com](http://www.chaikinandsherman.com)

202.659.8600  
800.229.8384

# Maryland And Virginia Change Laws to Enhance Underinsured Motorist Coverage

Maryland and Virginia have recently changed their laws to improve insurance coverage for auto policies issued in these states. If your car is insured in either state, you should be aware of these changes.

An underinsured motorist ("UIM") insurance policy is a type of insurance that can provide you additional insurance coverage in the event that you are injured by a driver who does not have enough insurance to compensate you for your injuries. Every UIM policy has a coverage "limit" which provides the maximum that it will pay out. Until recently, all UIM policies issued in Maryland and Virginia calculated coverage in the same way: you would only get UIM coverage to the extent the limit of your own UIM policy exceeded the limit of

the wrongdoer's liability insurance policy (e.g., if your UIM limit was \$100,000 and the wrongdoer's liability limit was \$30,000, you would get \$70,000 of UIM coverage in addition to the wrongdoer's liability policy of \$30,000).

However, in 2018, Maryland passed a new law that created "enhanced" UIM coverage. This enhanced coverage is now optional to you if you have a Maryland policy. With enhanced UIM, that amount of your UIM coverage is added to any liability coverage the wrongdoer had (so in the example above, you would get all \$100,000 in UIM coverage in addition to the wrongdoer's liability policy). This is called "stacking." This provides a huge benefit to people injured in car crashes, by providing more available insurance coverage for your

medical expenses, lost wages and pain and suffering. **However, most insurance agents and companies do not voluntarily advise customers of this new benefit, so you have to know to specifically ask that "Enhanced UIM" be added to your policy.**

Similarly, Virginia has passed a law to change all UIM policies so that their coverage is "stacked" in the same way. This will take effect in all policies issued or renewed after July 2023.

Please call us for a free insurance evaluation to make sure that you have the best insurance coverage you can afford. It can make a big difference in the amount you can recover in the event that you are injured.

CHAIKIN  
SHERMAN  
CAMMARATA  
SIEGEL P.C.  
Personal Injury Lawyers

*A referral is the greatest professional compliment we can receive. If you have a friend, neighbor, or family member who is in need of legal representation, please consider referring them to our firm. We will do our best to provide the highest possible level of service and deliver winning results.*



[www.chaikinandsherman.com](http://www.chaikinandsherman.com)

CHAIKIN, SHERMAN,  
CAMMARATA & SIEGEL, P.C.  
1232 17th Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036

PRESORTED  
FIRST CLASS  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
LANCASTER, PA  
PERMIT NO. 242

© Copyright 2022. Premier Print Marketing. Printed in the U.S.A. [www.PremierPrintMarketing.com](http://www.PremierPrintMarketing.com)

The information included in this newsletter is not intended as a substitute for professional legal advice. For your specific situation, please call the appropriate legal professional.



## CSCS Welcomes Associate Sonjay Singh

**Sonjay Singh** recently joined the firm as an associate attorney. Prior to joining CSCS, Attorney Singh practiced class action law in Pennsylvania, representing individuals harmed by defective products, physical and sexual abuse, privacy violations, and corporate negligence. In this role, Attorney Singh helped to achieve class-wide compensation from some of the nation's largest and most powerful corporate entities, including major automobile manufacturers, big tech firms, and telecommunication giants.

Attorney Singh attended Temple University's Beasley School of Law, where he was given the Trial Program Award and Eisenberg Scholarship as the outstanding graduate in civil trial advocacy and litigation.

Attorney Singh's experience litigating for plaintiffs across the country further strengthens our team, reinforcing our reputation as a premier personal injury firm in the D.C. area.