

# CHAIKIN SHERMAN CAMMARATA SIEGEL P.C.

Personal Injury Lawyers

WINTER | 2022

## Happy Holidays from CSCS!

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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.



## Is Bigger Always Better?

*A message from Managing Partner Ira Sherman*

Some people think bigger is always better. **We disagree!** Have you ever gone to Macy's, Target, or Giant and tried to find someone to help you?

Have you ever gone to an emergency room in a large hospital and sat there for hours, in pain and feeling lost, because no one knows you are there and no one is paying attention to you? Henry Ford invented the concept of mass-producing automobiles, not because they were better than other automobiles, but because he could get more of them off the assembly line faster, and by getting them out faster he made more money. Do you remember when doctors made house calls? That's when doctors sat in your home and spent the time with you to understand what was wrong with you and treated your condition until you were all better. Rich people do not fly on a commercial airline in coach, and the reason is that they don't think bigger is better. They sit in first class or take a private plane, rather than wait in crowded lines to clear security and get on a plane. Personal attention is a luxury. Clients of Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C. get personal attention – every single one of them.

We have been in our home-like townhouse at 1232 17th Street N.W. for over 50 Years! We provide our cellphone numbers so that we can be available to you 24/7. When you call us after you are injured, you are connected with one of our five lawyers and your own claims manager that will navigate you through whatever you need. The personal attention that we provide is not a luxury; it is in the soul of the law firm that began with Donald Chaikin. We have clients that have been with us for generations. They know we are their "lawyers for life." And why are they

secure knowing that? It is because we provide personal attention and we do so with partners that have been together for decades. We pride ourselves in maintaining our law firm in our townhouse and not expanding to get bigger. We were always there to greet you with a handshake, a phone call, and now a Zoom meeting, and we will always be there for you.

You may ask what is the common bond that has united Ira Sherman, Joseph Cammarata, and Allan Siegel together for decades. The answer is simple. We have chosen to represent people injured through no fault of their own because we care about anybody that suffers an injury, whether it is a rear-end collision with a client that fortunately recovers quickly, or a catastrophic injury, or even death. Together, we have resolved thousands of cases with injuries of varying severity. We have an excellent track record representing individuals whose claims may result in a settlement of \$50,000 or less, as well as clients that sustained horrible, lifelong injuries as the result of medical malpractice. In fact, this year our firm obtained a verdict in excess of \$17.1 Million on behalf of the family of a woman that died as a result of medical malpractice. We currently also have a case involving a catastrophic injury caused by the negligence of the operator of a tractor-trailer.

Our mottos, "We care about those you love" and "The Courtroom is our Battleground," represent the dedication and aggressive, creative lawyering we provide to every individual client we have, irrespective of the severity of the injury. We pride ourselves on being your law firm for life.

**www.chaikinandsherman.com**



## Employee Spotlight: Tynea Henderson

Tynea is one of our three extraordinary legal assistants, who helps our clients when their cases go into litigation. She is an invaluable asset to our lawyers and all of the clients who have the privilege of working with her.

Tynea has been in the legal profession her entire adult life. She graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Legal Studies from the University of Maryland in 2001, and immediately began work as a paralegal.

Tynea is the proud mother of four girls. She is a lover of food, flowers, all things Marvel, and Comicon conventions. But most of all, Tynea has a passion for helping those in need, making her work at CSCS all the more rewarding.

If your case happens to end up in litigation and you receive an e-mail or phone call from Tynea, know that she is here to help you obtain the best possible outcome for your case.

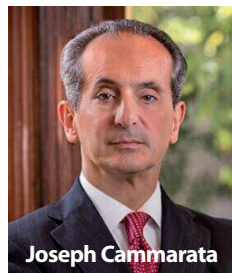
## Law Firm named *US News and World Report* "Best Law Firm" for the Fourth Consecutive year, and All Partners are Named "Top Lawyers" by Both *Washingtonian* and *Northern Virginia* Magazines



We are proud to announce that for the fourth consecutive year, Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C. was named a "Best Law Firm" by *U.S. News and World Report*, in the field of Personal Injury.

In addition, both *Washingtonian Magazine* and *Northern Virginia Magazine* recently named Partners **Ira Sherman**, **Joseph Cammarata** and **Allan Siegel** as "Top Lawyers" in their December 2022 editions, which are on newsstands now. These magazines compile these lists by asking other local lawyers to vote on who they believe are the "Top Lawyers" in the DC metro area in different areas of specialties. The lawyers with the most votes are included in these elite lists.

To be selected by all three of these publications is truly an honor, and demonstrates the stellar reputation the partners, and the law firm, have established in the community.

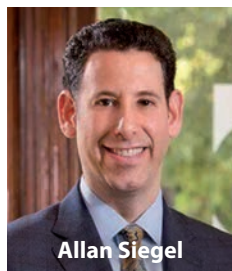


## Partner Joseph Cammarata Gets His Own Wikipedia Page



WIKIPEDIA  
The Free Encyclopedia

We are happy to report that Partner **Joseph Cammarata** now has a Wikipedia page. This is well deserved as Mr. Cammarata has gained local and national prominence. His career achievements include winning a unanimous United States Supreme Court case in which the Court held that we are all equal before the bar of justice and that regardless of position, power, or money, we are all on equal footing and deserve the same access to justice. Mr. Cammarata represented Paula Jones, who sued then President Clinton, who tried to dismiss the case because he was the President of the United States. The Supreme Court rejected that argument and allowed the case to proceed. That Supreme Court precedent has been used by other lawyers to advance cases against former President Trump. In addition, Mr. Cammarata was able to successfully litigate claims against Bill Cosby, highlighting his clients' alleged sexual assault and abuse by Mr. Cosby. We invite you to review the Wikipedia page and learn more about his achievements. The page can be accessed at: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph\\_Cammarata](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Cammarata)



## Partner Allan Siegel Wins \$700,000 Settlement

In most of our cases we are making claims that are covered by insurance. Unfortunately, there are many circumstances when the compensation our clients deserve far outweighs the amount of insurance available. However, we never leave any stone unturned in our quest to obtain complete justice for our clients.

To that end, Partner **Allan Siegel** recently obtained a \$700,000 settlement, in which the wrongdoer made a significant contribution of his own money. Our client suffered serious injuries. Mr. Siegel had an investigation of the at-fault party's assets conducted which revealed that the wrongdoer was going to be receiving a significant inheritance. Upon learning of the wrongdoer's expected inheritance, Mr. Siegel refused to accept the insurance company's policy limits offer of \$250,000, and our client was prepared to go to trial to obtain a fair verdict against the wrongdoer. However, facing the prospect of a jury trial, the wrongdoer's counsel requested that the parties attempt to settle the case by submitting to mediation. Ultimately, the wrongdoer agreed to contribute an additional \$450,000, above the insurance company's policy limits, bringing the total settlement to \$700,000, ensuring our client received fair compensation for his injuries.



## Partner Joseph Cammarata is Elected to Chairman of a National Traumatic Brain Injury Litigation Group

The lawyers at Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C. have been in the trenches fighting for clients who have suffered brain injuries long before many understood the seriousness of this type of injury. Many years ago, it was expected that if a boxer "had their bell rung" they would get right back in the ring or if a football player hit their head they would "shake it off." Back then, it was not universally understood that you could suffer a concussion (which is a traumatic brain injury) even if you didn't actually hit your head, but just from the force of your head being tossed around in a car accident. While these concepts were novel back then, we represented clients who had serious and sometimes life-long effects from this kind of head trauma, and obtained compensation for them, against all odds. Now the science has caught up, and it is well known that concussions are serious brain injuries, and they can be identified as separate, significant, life-altering events.

Based upon our experience in this area, we are often invited to teach other lawyers about brain injury. Partner **Joseph Cammarata** was a co-founder, with Partner **Ira Sherman**, of the Brain Injury Association of Washington, DC. In addition, Mr. Cammarata drafted legislation, which became the law in the District of Columbia, protecting youth athletes from concussion.

Mr. Cammarata's role in the brain injury community has led to his selection as Chairman of the American Association for Justice's Traumatic Brain Injury Litigation Group, which is comprised of other lawyers throughout the country dedicated to representing brain injury victims. Congratulations to Mr. Cammarata on this honor!

## Maryland Voters Increases the Amount of Damages Required for a Jury Trial

Maryland voters in the past election passed, by a significant margin, Ballot Measure Three, which increases the minimum amount of damages required to guarantee a right to a jury trial for civil proceedings from \$15,000 to \$25,000. While on its face, this may seem bad (it limits your right to a jury trial) it is actually a significant win for our clients.

Prior to this ballot measure, insurance companies could demand a jury trial where the amount requested was greater than \$15,000, which is a significant portion of all motor vehicle collision lawsuits. This would cause the case to be transferred to a different court, where the case would get heard by a jury. It takes a lot longer to get a jury trial, and the procedures related to cases where a jury trial is demanded are much more complex and expensive. Thus, insurance companies employed this tactic to both increase the litigation costs to injury victims and to delay the trial of the case. However, now with the passage of this new law, if a case is filed for \$25,000 or less, the case will not be transferred, and delayed. This new law makes it much more expeditious and less costly for us to get justice for our clients.

The ballot measure will not be a part of the Maryland Constitution until Governor Hogan certifies the results of the election and issues a Proclamation to that effect, which should happen in January of 2023.

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and those you love!*



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## The Honorable Stephanie Duncan-Peters and The Honorable Ebony M. Scott Join CSCS at Our Annual Holiday Party

Not many law firms can say that even one of their alumni went on to become a Judge. Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C. is proud that two of our lawyers have become judges. In 1992 the Honorable Stephanie Duncan-Peters became an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, and was later chosen to be the Presiding Judge of the Civil Division of the Court. More recently, the Honorable Ebony M. Scott, after serving as a Magistrate Judge, was elevated to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, following her nomination by President Biden. We were honored to have both Judges join us at our recently held Annual Holiday Party. It was wonderful to see them both, and celebrate the upcoming holiday season with them.

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.*



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**CHAIKIN, SHERMAN,  
CAMMARATA & SIEGEL, P.C.**

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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.

## Winter is Coming!

It is well known by Game of Thrones fans that the phrase "Winter is Coming" means something bad is going to happen. In real life bad things do often happen in winter – people slip and fall on ice and suffer serious injuries. The experts are predicting that this winter is going to be cold, and inevitably there will be snow and rain, which ultimately will turn to ice. Our property complex owners, shopping center owners, and other management companies, all owe us a duty to do all that is reasonable to keep us safe from the dangers of black ice.

Falls on black ice can cause serious injury, or even death if a person hits their head. We hope all of our clients stay safe this winter. But, if you or a loved one is hurt this winter as a result of a slip and fall on ice, on a property that you think was not properly maintained, we recommend that you call us to discuss your rights.

