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WASHINGTON, D.C.

PERSONAL INJURY
LITIGATION - PLAINTIFFS

TIER 1
2025



Ira Sherman

Sometimes It's Okay to Brag

A message from Managing Partner Ira Sherman

I know it's usually impolite to brag, but today I just can't help it. I am bursting with pride and here's why:

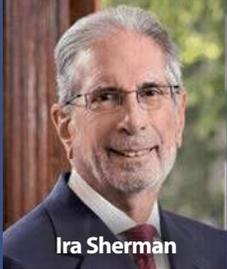
1. Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C. is the only law firm that has had all three senior partners elected to serve as president of the DC Trial Lawyers Association – **Ira Sherman** in 1993, **Joseph Cammarata** in 2015, and **Allan M. Siegel** in 2008. (**Donald Chaikin** also served as president of the DC Trial Lawyers Association in 1982).
2. Each of us have also been named "Super Lawyers" – **Ira Sherman** and **Allan M. Siegel** in every year since 2011, and **Joseph Cammarata** in every year since 2009. Partner **Stephen Ollar** has also been recognized by Super Lawyers as a "Rising Star" every year since 2022. We take particular pride that **Joseph Cammarata** and **Allan M. Siegel** have been named two of the top 100 lawyers in the Washington, DC metropolitan area by Super Lawyers, since 2019.
3. Washingtonian Magazine repeatedly recognized Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C.'s partners as "Top Personal Injury Lawyers" – **Ira Sherman** since 2018, **Joseph Cammarata** since 1997, and **Allan M. Siegel** since 2004. And the honors continue ...
4. US News and World Report® and Best Lawyers® identifies the Best Law Firms in the Country. Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C. as been identified in these rankings as a Tier 1 "Best Law Firm" in Washington, DC every year since 2020.
5. The "Trial Lawyer of the Year" is awarded by the Trial Lawyers Association of Metropolitan Washington, DC, (DC-TLA) by vote of the prior recipients of this award. In 1986, **Donald Chaikin** was named Trial Lawyer of the Year by the DC-TLA. Thirty-eight years later, **Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C. made history**. No other law firm has ever had two lawyers named "Trial Lawyer of the Year" by DC-TLA in two consecutive years. Partner **Allan M. Siegel** was named "Trial Lawyer of the Year" by DC-TLA in 2024, and Partner **Joseph Cammarata** was named "Trial Lawyer of the Year" in 2025. (see article on page 2). Having partners **Joseph Cammarata** and **Allan M. Siegel** recognized in successive years reflects not only their individual excellence but also our firm's collective commitment to the highest standards of legal advocacy and client representation.

These results are a reflection of the tireless work we put into every case, the trust our clients place in us, and the respect we have earned amongst our peers throughout the region and nationally. So, while I'm bursting with pride, each of you, our present or former clients, should each also have a sense of pride in having selected and trusting us during one of the most stressful times of your life. When you, or a loved one or friend, are searching for a qualified law firm because of an injury that was sustained as a result of the carelessness of others, please compare Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C. to any other law firm under consideration and I think you will find that none come close to matching the accolades and recognitions that have been awarded to this law firm and its partners for over 40 years.

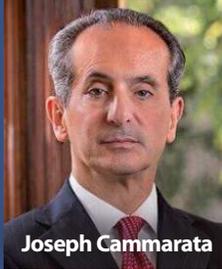
I wish you a safe and fun rest of the summer of 2025.

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Ira Sherman, Joseph Cammarata, Allan M. Siegel and Stephen Ollar All Receive 2025 Super Lawyers® Awards



Ira Sherman



Joseph Cammarata



Allan M. Siegel



Stephen Ollar

The 2025 Washington DC Super Lawyers® annual list was recently released.

Super Lawyers®, is a highly respected rating service that identifies outstanding lawyers across more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. The selection process is rigorous and multi-phased. It includes surveying lawyers in the geographical region, independent research evaluation of each candidate, and peer reviews. Only 5% of attorneys in each geographical region are selected to the Super Lawyers list, and only 2.5% of attorneys in that region are selected to the Rising Stars list.

For the 15th consecutive year Partners **Ira Sherman**, **Joseph Cammarata**, and **Allan M. Siegel** have been named to the elite DC Super Lawyers® list. This is also the 4th consecutive time Partner **Stephen Ollar** was selected as a Rising Star. To be eligible for inclusion as a Rising Star a candidate must be either 40 years or younger, or in practice for 10 years or less.

Partners Joseph Cammarata and Allan M. Siegel also both made the Washington, D.C. Top 100 list for the 7th consecutive year. The Top 100 list identifies an even more elite group of attorneys who have achieved the highest point totals for their respective geographical region.

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Joseph Cammarata Named 2025 Trial Lawyer of the Year



Joseph Cammarata

We are proud to announce that partner Joseph Cammarata, has been recognized as the 2025 Trial Lawyer of the Year by the Trial Lawyers Association of Metropolitan Washington, D.C.

The Trial Lawyer of the Year award is widely regarded as the most prestigious recognition in the DC legal community for trial attorneys. Recipients are selected through a rigorous evaluation process, and only attorneys who have demonstrated exceptional skill, integrity, and dedication throughout their careers are considered for this honor.

As a dual board-certified civil trial attorney, Mr. Cammarata has built his reputation on tenaciously representing clients who have suffered serious injuries due to others' negligence or intentional acts, never afraid to take on powerful opponents—including insurance companies, governmental entities, and even the President of the United States. He has won several high-profile cases over the years, securing tens of millions of dollars for our clients. In addition, he represented seven women against Bill Cosby for claims arising out of Mr. Cosby's alleged sexual assault and abuse of the women.

Mr. Cammarata is a leader in the legal community and the community at large. He served as President of the Trial Lawyers Association of Metropolitan Washington, DC. He is a volunteer conciliator for the Circuit Court for Fairfax County, Virginia. Mr. Cammarata co-founded the Brain Injury Association of D.C. and drafted legislation which now protects youth athletes from concussion.

His public service also includes serving on the Board of Directors of Fairfax Water, Virginia's largest water utility, and as a Commissioner on the Ad Hoc Committee on Police Practices in Fairfax County, Virginia, where he contributed to the Use of Force Sub-Committee.

Joseph Cammarata Wins Settlement of Policy Limits of \$1,250,000



Joseph Cammarata

Our clients were the parents of a young man killed in a tragic auto collision in Baltimore County, Maryland, who retained the law firm to bring a claim for their son's death.

The wrongdoer negligently attempted to turn his vehicle left in front of the young man's oncoming vehicle but did not clear the intersection in time without causing a collision. The wrongdoer claimed the young man was speeding and therefore was also a cause of the collision. In Maryland (as well as in Virginia and in most circumstances in DC), if the wrongdoer could prove that the young man caused or contributed to the happening of the collision, then the parents' claim would be eliminated.

After doing an investigation and negotiating, and without having to file a lawsuit, Partner **Joseph Cammarata** was able to convince the wrongdoer's insurance company that the wrongdoer was the sole cause of the collision, and that it had to pay to the young man's parents all of the available insurance money.

The insurance company relented and paid \$1,250,000 to our clients.



State Farm Insurance Company Pays \$100,000 More Than Its Policy Limits



Allan M. Siegel

Melonie Mills

The law firm recently settled an underinsured motorist case against State Farm Insurance Company ("State Farm") for \$400,000. An underinsured motorist case exists when the victim of a car crash has injuries that are worth more than the at-fault driver's insurance policy. In that situation, after we collect the full policy limits from the at-fault driver's insurance coverage, we can make a claim for underinsured motorist coverage against our client's insurance company.

Our client suffered multiple rib fractures, an elbow fracture, and an ankle fracture. The at-fault driver's insurance company paid their full policy of \$100,000. We then made the underinsured motorist claim against State Farm. We demanded that State Farm pay their full policy limits, which we believed to be \$400,000. After extensive negotiations, State Farm finally agreed to pay \$400,000.

That is when the plot thickens. After we accepted the \$400,000 on behalf of our client, State Farm claimed that they had made a mistake, and that their policy only provided coverage of \$300,000, and refused to pay the agreed upon settlement of \$400,000.

Senior Claims Manager **Melonie Mills** had documented the file to perfection to prevent the insurance adjuster from escaping its agreed upon obligation. At one point in the negotiations, the insurance adjuster had written a letter claiming that the insurance coverage was \$300,000, even though she had previously advised us that the policy limit was \$400,000. Ms. Mills immediately e-mailed the adjuster that she was mistaken, and confirmed that we had been advised the coverage was \$400,000. The insurance adjuster did not respond to Ms. Mills' e-mail but later offered \$400,000. Our client accepted the \$400,000 offer, and Ms. Mills promptly confirmed his acceptance, in writing. But then, State Farm withdrew the offer.

Partner **Allan M. Siegel** negotiated with multiple supervisors, moving up the corporate chain, until he could get someone who had authority to authorize a payment over the policy limits. Armed with the paper trail, so professionally created by our Senior Claims Manager, extraordinaire, Melonie Mills, Mr. Siegel was able to convince State Farm to capitulate and pay the full \$400,000. This was the first time in the history of the firm that an insurance company paid a settlement in excess of the policy limits, without litigation.

Important News for Social Security Recipients: Social Security Checks Go Paperless this Fall

Starting September 30, 2025 the Social Security Administration (SSA) will no longer issue paper checks to recipients. If you are a social security recipient, and do not already get your payments electronically you must take action immediately to ensure your benefits are not interrupted.

SSA offers two options. Recipients can either enroll in direct deposit with their bank or other financial institution or if you do not have a bank you can obtain a prepaid debit card, called Direct Express.

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*We care about you
and those you love!*



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Partner Allan M. Siegel Elected Treasurer of AAJ Brain Injury Litigation Group and Secretary of AAJ Trucking Litigation Group



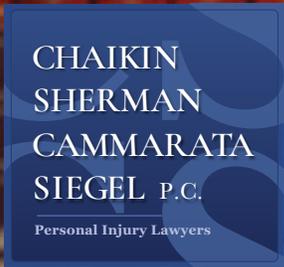
The American Association for Justice (AAJ) is a national organization which aims to promote justice and fairness for injured individuals and safeguard their right to a trial by jury. AAJ strives to strengthen the civil justice system through education and advocacy, ensuring victims can hold responsible parties accountable for negligence or misconduct.

AAJ has Litigation Groups that are member-led groups comprised of lawyers from across the country, that focus on specific areas of litigation. The lawyers at Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C. have historically been leaders of many of these groups. Partner **Ira Sherman** was the Chairman of the Cyanoacrylate Litigation Group;

Partner **Joseph Cammarata** was the Chairman of the Brain Injury Litigation Group; and Partner **Allan M. Siegel** was the Chairman of the Bus Litigation Group.

At the AAJ's Summer Convention in San Francisco, Partner **Allan M. Siegel** moved up the leadership chains of AAJ's two largest litigation groups, the Brain Injury Litigation Group, and the Trucking Litigation Group. He was elected the Treasurer of the Brain Injury Litigation Group, and the Secretary of the Trucking Litigation Group.

Mr. Siegel also was invited to lecture to both groups in San Francisco. He presented on Identifying Traumatic Brain Injuries at the Traumatic Brain Injury Litigation Seminar, and on Trucking and Bus Cases in Urban Environments at the Trucking Litigation Seminar.



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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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 Justin A. Turner

We are excited to announce that Attorney **Justin A. Turner** has recently joined our esteemed team of trial lawyers. Justin brings a wealth of experience and a proven track record of success in securing favorable outcomes for clients. He has over a decade of experience advocating for individuals who have suffered harm due to the negligence of others. Since beginning his legal career in 2014, Justin has successfully resolved over a thousand cases, earning a reputation for aggressive representation and unwavering commitment to his clients. Justin has extensive experience representing clients at every stage of the legal process—from initial investigation and negotiation, through litigation, and all the way to trial when necessary.

Justin is admitted in Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Virginia.