

**JOSEPH CAMMARATA**  
**Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C., 1232 17<sup>th</sup> St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036**  
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**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 Taxation, 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**

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

**Practice Highlights**

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.  
[Clinton v. Jones, 520 U.S. 681 (1997)]
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 claimed they were sexually abused and/or assaulted by Mr. Cosby. The case settled to the satisfaction of each woman.
3. Hervey v. Virginia Neurosurgeons, et al. Part of a trial team successful in obtaining a verdict greater than the medical malpractice cap. This led to spearheading a legislative effort to prospectively modify the cap on malpractice awards. Jury verdict of approximately \$35.6 million was second largest verdict in Virginia in 2019.
4. Galloway v. Alexandria Transit Company, et al. Successfully represented a woman who, while crossing the street, was struck by a bus and became stuck under its tire and suffered catastrophic injuries. Jury verdict of \$4.5 million was the third largest in Virginia in 2015.
5. Loar v. Person, et al. Filed an emergency temporary restraining order which successfully prohibited the Loudoun County School Board from suspending a student and requiring his attendance at substance abuse counseling for his use of mouthwash in class. This case resulted in the Loudoun County School Board modifying its alcohol policy to eliminate its ambiguity and prevent inappropriate enforcement of it.
6. John Doe and Estate of Jane Doe v. Trucking Company X. Successfully represented, in the Circuit Court for Roanoke County, a man rendered a quadriplegic and the Estate of his wife who died, each as a result of their car being rear-ended by a tractor trailer. Despite only \$5 million in available insurance, the case was settled in 2024 in a confidential multi-million-dollar settlement with the trucking company and its owner paying into the settlement.

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7. Jane Doe, et al. 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 as part of a conversion to Judaism. 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.
8. Jane Doe v. Company X. Woman passenger in a motor vehicle suffered permanent, life-altering injuries in a head-on collision. In 2024, jury returned a verdict in excess of \$18.8 million. The case settled before the verdict was entered on the court docket.
9. Estate of James McBride Matter. Mr. McBride died as a result of security guards of a local hospital using excessive force against him as he sought to leave the hospital. The family of Mr. McBride and the hospital reached a resolution of the matter, without the filing of a lawsuit, and a wing of the hospital was named for Mr. McBride in his honor.
10. Group Home Litigation. Successfully represented families of developmentally disabled citizens of the District of Columbia in litigation against the District and its contractors for negligence and civil rights violations. The litigation led to reform in the group home system to improve care for developmentally disabled individuals and the placement of a permanent memorial to those who died.
11. Jane Roe 1, et al. v. Latin American Montessori 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.
12. 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, from a settlement or judgment against the District, 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

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### Professional Affiliations & Memberships

Past President, Trial Lawyers Association of Metropolitan Washington, D.C. (TLA-DC)  
Past Chairman, Traumatic Brain Injury Litigation Group, American Association for Justice  
New York, Maryland, District of Columbia and Virginia Bar Associations  
The American Association for Justice  
Virginia, Maryland, and District of Columbia Trial Lawyers Associations  
Fairfax Bar Association  
President, Virginia Chapter of National Medical Malpractice Advocacy Association

### Professional Commendations

Selected as 2026 Virginia Lawyers Hall of Fame Honoree by Virginia Lawyers Weekly  
Selected as Trial Lawyer of the Year for 2025 by the TLA-DC.  
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, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024  
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, 2021  
Named one of *U.S. News-Best Lawyers*® every year since 2019  
Martindale-Hubbell Lawyer Ratings: AV “Preeminent,” 1999-present  
U.S. Department of Justice, Outstanding Attorney Award, 1989

### Community Activities

- Member, Local Access to Justice Committee, April 2024 – present  
*Actively serving as a conciliator in Fairfax County Circuit Court Early Conciliation Program and member of the Self-Help Center subcommittee.*
- Commissioner, Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, and Use of Force Subcommittee Member, Fairfax County, Virginia, 2015 (Appointed by Chairman Bulova of the Fairfax Board of Supervisors)  
*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 21<sup>st</sup> Century, U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, 2014
- Member, Board of Directors, Fairfax Water Authority, 2012 – present  
(Appointed by the Fairfax Board of Supervisors)  
*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 – 2023  
*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.*
- Author, 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.*

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- Member, Area Plans Review, Mt. Vernon, Virginia Task Force, 2010  
(Appointed by Supervisor Hyland of the Fairfax Board of Supervisors)
- Member, Mt. Vernon, Virginia Visioning Task Force, 2010 – 2011  
(Appointed by Supervisor Hyland of the Fairfax Board of Supervisors)
- Chairman, Public Safety Committee of Visioning Task Force, 2010 – 2011  
(Appointed by Supervisor Hyland of the Fairfax Board of Supervisors)
- Member, Criminal Justice Advisory Board, Fairfax County, Virginia, 1994-1997; (Chairman, 1995-1997)  
(Appointed by the Fairfax Board of Supervisors)  
*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  
(Appointed by the Fairfax Board of Supervisors)  
*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.*
- Youth Baseball Coach, Pioneer Baseball League, Fairfax, Virginia, circa 1997-2002
- Member/Chairman, Alexandria Red Cross Waterfront Festival Committee, circa 1987-1995  
(Chairman 1991-1993)  
*Formerly the largest outdoor fundraising event of the American Red Cross.*