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Welcome to *Philadelphia's Top Rated Lawyers*, a publication featuring local legal talent from the metropolitan area.

The attorneys featured here and in the accompanying online edition have all achieved the peer reviewed rating of AV Preeminent® by Martindale-Hubbell®, the company that has long set the standard for lawyer ratings. The AV Preeminent® rating is a significant accomplishment and demonstrates that a lawyer's peers have ranked them at the highest level of professional excellence.

Our online edition of *Philadelphia's Top Rated Lawyers*, accessible at law.com/philadelphiatoprated, includes the complete directory of all of the Philadelphia areas AV Preeminent® rated attorneys, listed by their practice areas.

In addition to insightful profiles on many Top Rated attorneys, this publication features articles on current trends in the law. As such, it is a valuable resource in finding top legal talent and making more informed legal decisions.

Sincerely,

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ZARWIN BAUM DEVITO KAPLAN SCHAER & TODDY, P.C.

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SINCE ITS FOUNDING IN 1960, ZARWIN BAUM DEVITO KAPLAN SCHAER & TODDY, P.C. has assembled some of the most knowledgeable and well-respected attorneys in the region to handle large-scale business transactions and high-exposure litigation matters. Managing shareholder Mitchell Kaplan attributes this growth to the firm's unique blend of legal expertise and business experience.

"BY OFFERING CLIENTS HIGH-LEVEL LEGAL representation that meets and in many cases exceeds their goals, we've been able to grow the practice from six or seven attorneys when I started here in 1982, to in excess of 65 attorneys 31 years later," says Kaplan, who, in addition to serving as the firm's managing shareholder for more than a decade, has spent his entire career at the firm.

WITH ITS ACCOMPLISHED LAWYERS AND EXTENSIVE resources, Zarwin Baum is able to provide effective business solutions across a range of industries for clients of all sizes, from some of the largest businesses in the region to small businesses and sole proprietorships. The firm's practice areas include commercial litigation and transactions, corporate finance, banking, estate planning and administration, taxation, mergers, environmental, employment, immigration, real estate, zoning and land use, and related litigation. The firm also defends businesses and individuals in casualty and professional liability matters.

"WE PRIDE OURSELVES ON OUR ABILITY TO HANDLE a variety of matters in a skillful yet efficient manner," Kaplan notes. "Business people are focusing more than ever on their bottom line, and our firm continues to deliver a cost-

effective product while ensuring that our clients benefit from a personal approach to their matters."

AS ONE OF THE REGION'S LEADING LAW FIRMS, Zarwin Baum includes 15 attorneys who are AV Preeminent® rated by Martindale-Hubbell®, the organization's highest rating for legal ability and ethical standards. The firm is also listed in Best's Directory of Recommended Insurance Attorneys, and many of its members have been selected for inclusion in Pennsylvania or New Jersey *SuperLawyers*. Additionally, and reflecting the reputation of the firm among its peers, three members of the firm are former chairs of the Real Property Section of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

BEYOND ITS LEGAL PRACTICE, ZARWIN BAUM HAS A reputation in Philadelphia for its commitment to improving the quality of life of the area's residents. Members of the firm regularly serve as leaders in a wide variety of civic and philanthropic organizations, and the firm is well known throughout the region for its many charitable endeavors, such as large-scale events benefiting the Ronald McDonald House, Easter Seals of Southeastern Pennsylvania, and Philabundance.

"CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF our firm's culture, and we have long been dedicated to contributing our time, energy, and economic resources to charitable causes," Kaplan observes. "Having been ranked among the top 25 most charitable companies in the region by the *Philadelphia Business Journal*, it's very satisfying to know that we have been recognized for our work in the community, as well as for our skill and expertise as attorneys."

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PHILADELPHIA'S TOP RATED LAWYERS

Philadelphia's Top Rated Lawyers helps take the mystery out of locating a high-quality advocate to protect you, your family, your business and all other assets. The lawyers in this comprehensive list are considered first-rate in their field and are available to help.

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KATS VAN DER VEEN & ASSOCIATES

PERSONAL INJURY, CRIMINAL, DIVORCE

FOR ATTORNEY MARINA KATS, FAIRNESS AND

justice are not just words; they are principles by which she lives her life. As the founder of Kats van der Veen & Associates, Marina ensures that everyone has access to fair representation. It is because of this mission that her firm takes the unusual position of accepting smaller cases in addition to much bigger ones. "Every client deserves aggressive advocacy," Marina says. "That's ultimately why I decided to be a lawyer—so that everyone has an equal opportunity to be heard."

BORN AND RAISED IN KIEV, UKRAINE, MARINA IS AN

American success story. After immigrating to Philadelphia in 1979, she enrolled in business school and then law school while working two jobs. "It was clear to me that the keys to success in America were education and hard work."

IN 1995, KATS OBTAINED AN LL.M. IN TRIAL ADVOCACY

(Masters of Law) from Temple University School of Law, an advanced degree held by less than one percent of all attorneys. That year, she founded the law firm of Kats van der Veen & Associates, which has since become one of the most well-respected law firms in the region, with offices in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York. "In the nearly two decades since we opened our doors, we have won multiple seven- and eight-figure awards for our clients, including a \$30 million result for the victim of a motorcycle accident, a \$10 million recovery for a child pedestrian struck by a tractor-trailer, and a \$3 million award for a nurse who sustained traumatic brain injuries in a motor vehicle accident, as well as many not-guilty verdicts in criminal cases."

INDEED, THE FIRM HAS SUCCESSFULLY REPRESENTED

clients before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and secured pardons for its criminal clients from the Pennsylvania governor. Its dedicated team of professionals—which includes members who are fluent in languages ranging from Russian and Ukrainian to Spanish, Italian, and Polish—is experienced in helping those injured by others' negligence and defending people accused of crimes. The firm also assists individuals and companies in the areas of real estate, immigration, Social Security, divorce, and family law.

ASIDE FROM HER LEGAL PURSUITS, KATS IS A

successful businesswoman, operating companies that focus on commercial real estate projects and venture-capital financial services. As a leader in the Philadelphia community, she is involved in a number of charitable and civic organizations. She is an appointed member of Albert Einstein Hospital's Board of Trustees and the Einstein Healthcare Network's Board of Overseers, as well as an elected Trustee of the Foreign Policy Research Institute and President of the Russian-American Chamber of Commerce. She is President of Temple University's President's Advisory Board, and has been bestowed the title of Dame by the



Marina Kats

Ecumenical Hospitaller Order of the St. John Knights of Malta. In 2008, Kats made history as the first Ukrainian-born candidate to ever run for U.S. Congress.

AS A TESTAMENT TO HER SUCCESS, KATS HAS BEEN

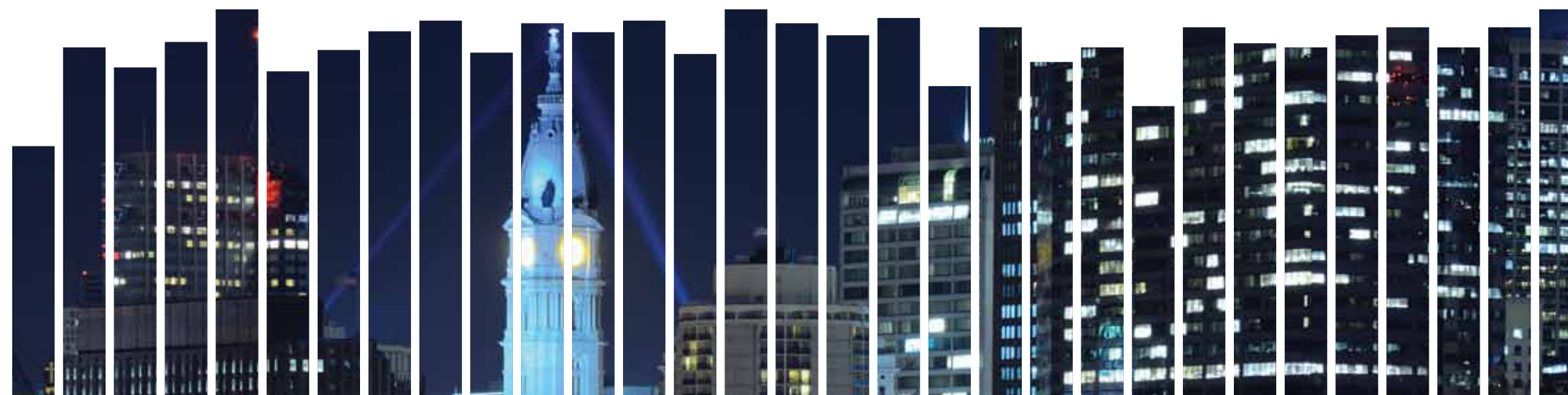
Preeminent® rated by Martindale-Hubbell® and included in *Pennsylvania SuperLawyers*. In March 2010, Kats was inducted into the Women's Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame by the Temple University League for Entrepreneurial Women. She has also been honored by former Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge as one of the "50 Best Business Women in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania," and as "Woman of the Year" by the YMCA.

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MARINA KATS



PHILADELPHIA LAW 2013



Settlements in the Sandusky sexual abuse case, lawsuits over a building collapse, design flaws at city schools, and LGBT-friendly reforms have made legal headlines in Philadelphia in 2013.

PHILADELPHIA LEGISLATION MAKE LGBT-FRIENDLY REFORMS

Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter signed legislation in October that provides sweeping reforms to make the city more Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender-inclusive.

The bill mandates that all new or renovated buildings owned by the city include gender-neutral bathrooms in addition to restrooms for men and women. The new law also gives tax credits to companies that provide LGBT-inclusive employee benefits. It grants new rights to same-sex couples, and it amends the city's nondiscrimination laws to include gender identity.

Nutter told NBC's local Philadelphia affiliate, "My goal is for Philadelphia to be one of, if not the most, LGBT-friendly cities in the world and a leader on equality issues." The bill's sponsor, City Councilman Jim Kenny, called it, "The next iteration of civil rights and freedom in the United States."

Philadelphia is the first city in the United States to offer tax credits to businesses that give employee benefits and office health care to workers' same-sex partners and their children. Under the new law, transgendered workers may now have access to health care including psychotherapy, hormone treatment, hair removal and gender reassignment surgery.

The bill strengthens the city's nondiscrimination ordinance, making it illegal to discriminate based on gender identity. City forms and websites will also now include input options for same-sex couples and transgendered people.

Pennsylvania is the only state in the Northeast that hasn't adopted marriage equality and offers no civil unions, domestic partnerships, or marriage options to gay couples. However, this new bill will extend medical and end-of-life decision-making to same-sex couples.

A federal lawsuit that challenges Pennsylvania's ban on same-sex marriage is pending, and the state's attorney general, Kathleen Kane, says she won't challenge the law. Meantime, Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett has filed legal briefs defending the antigay law.

Still, Democratic State Rep. Brian Sims of Philadelphia, the first openly gay candidate elected to the state legislature, celebrated his city's historic legislation: "This is a city that is truly respecting all its citizens. It is because of that respect that we are indeed a first-class city and we will continue to shine."

PHILADELPHIA SEES CHANGES IN MASS TORT LITIGATION

Philadelphia, which has traditionally been a center of mass tort litigation, is experiencing a slowdown in the number of new mass tort cases filed in the city's courts.

Judge John W. Herron, the administrative judge at the civil trial division of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, suggested two explanations for the decline: fewer new asbestos filings and an increase in resolved cases requiring no further court action.

Attorney Peter J. Neeson said he noticed the recent drop off in asbestos cases in Philadelphia and attributed it to better shipyard safety measures and mesothelioma's lengthy latency period. People exposed to asbestos decades ago may have died before developing the cancer.

"Mass torts are cyclical," says Sol H. Weiss, an attorney with Anapol Schwartz, in reference to the lull. Weiss, who handles complex litigation, said that which cases go to trial has a lot to do with

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lawmakers' actions in Washington D.C. He says one possible reason for the tort slowdown is the Federal Drug Administration's recent emphasis on proper warning labels for prescription drugs.

Weiss says that although the city is experiencing a slow down, it won't last forever. "There are still a number of mass torts that are in the federal system. There are peaks and valley, and right now we're in a trough."

WRONGFUL DEATH LAWSUITS FILED IN PHILADELPHIA BUILDING COLLAPSE

Two wrongful death lawsuits were filed in September following the June collapse of a brick wall onto a neighboring Salvation Army thrift store. The collapsed wall had been unsupported and was part of a building that was slated for demolition.

The collapse trapped 19 and killed six people, including 24-year-old Mary Lea Simpson, whose family filed the first wrongful death suit in September. The Simpson family's lawsuit blames the Salvation Army, collapsed building owner Richard Basciano, and the demolition contractors, for her death.

"Even a child playing with building blocks should understand that if you pile blocks up in a wall and you don't support it... it's going to fall,"

- STEVEN WIGRIZER

"Even a child playing with building blocks should understand that if you pile blocks up in a wall and you don't support it... it's going to fall," said Steven Wigrizer, who is representing the Simpsons. Wigrizer previously won a multimillion-dollar settlement against Basciano over the collapse of a garage in 1997.

Basciano and the Salvation Army had been feuding over demolition plans for months leading up to the collapse. He wanted access to the wall above the thrift store to begin demolition by hand. It appears that demolition had already begun when talk stalled—and before the dispute could be resolved.

"They went in there, didn't tell us, and started knocking things out," says Eric Weiss, a lawyer for the Salvation Army.

The Simpson suit faults the Salvation Army for remaining open during the demolition and Griffin Campbell and Sean Benschop for crafting a risky plan and starting work before they'd secured permits for demolition.

A second wrongful death suit was filed in mid-September by the family of Roseline Conteh, an immigrant from Sierra Leone and mother of eight.

"This collapse was caused by negligence, carelessness, recklessness, intentional misrepresentations, and conscience-shocking behavior," the suit says. It goes on to state that the defendants could have prevented the collapse and had ample warning that structural problems could hinder demolition.

Mariya Plekan, a 52-year-old woman who survived being buried in the rubble for 13 hours, also filed suit in September. Plekan lost both of her legs as a result of her injuries.

PHILADELPHIA SCHOOLS SUE OVER DESIGN FLAWS

The School District of Philadelphia filed 25 lawsuits in late July

against architecture and design firms. The suits cite millions of dollars worth of "design deficiencies" in plans for school district buildings.

The suits were filed in Pennsylvania's Court of Common Pleas, seeking damages on projects for the Capital Improvement Program. As part of the program, aimed at reversing two-and-a-half decades of "disinvestment" in school properties, architectural firms bid to rehabilitate and build new facilities for district buildings.

District spokesman Fernando Gallard says that in each case there were "deficiencies in the drawings and specifications" the firms prepared for the projects. He did not say what the deficiencies were or how they affected the school district buildings.

Gallard said in a statement that the district intends to pursue legal action aggressively. "The school district anticipates recovering up to \$2 million as a result of these suits," he said.

The lawsuits came as part of a savings initiative that generated \$33 million for the district in July. The Philadelphia school system was looking to close a \$304 million budget deficit, which resulted in cuts to programs, extracurricular activities, and the layoff of 4,000 teachers, administrators and support staff.

Though the district did not disclose what it hoped to do with the money, \$2 million could represent the salaries of 50 of the district's 290 laid-off secretaries, who make an average of \$38,448 per year according to district pay data.

In October, Pennsylvania's Gov. Tom Corbett released \$45 million in state funding for the embattled Philadelphia School District, which allowed for the return of 400 teachers and administrators.

PENN STATE REACHES SETTLEMENT WITH 26 SANDUSKY VICTIMS

Penn State University has reached a \$59.7 million settlement with 26 sexual abuse victims in the case of Jerry Sandusky, the university's former assistant football coach.

"The Board of Trustees has had as one of its primary objectives to reach settlements in a way that is fair and respects the privacy of the individuals involved," Chair of the Board of Trustees Keith Masser said in a statement. "This is another important milestone in accomplishing that goal."

University President Rodney Erickson said in a statement, "We hope this is another step forward in the healing process for those hurt by Mr. Sandusky, and another step forward for Penn State."

Attorney Ben Andreozzi, who represents nine of the victims, said he was pleased with the settlements. "No amount of money can compensate for what these young men have gone through," he said. "But Penn State has given them the resources—financially and counseling—they need to help them recover."

The university has said that no part of the settlement will be funded with student tuition, taxpayer funds, or donations. The school will make up the difference between expenses not covered by insurance with revenue from interest on loans made by the school.

The school has already spent more than \$50 million in costs related to the Sandusky scandal, including lawyer fees, public relation expenses, and new sex abuse policies.

There are six remaining claimants whose cases Penn State has rejected as being without merit. In June 2012, Sandusky was convicted of 45 criminal counts of abuse over the course of 15 years and is currently serving a 30- to 60-year prison sentence.

A number of young men testified that Sandusky showered with them and in some cases groped or had sex with them. Sandusky has admitted to showering with the boys, but vigorously denies wrongdoing. He is currently pursuing appeals in the cases.

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO CLASS ACTION LAWSUITS

A personal injury class allows you to participate in a group lawsuit to recover damages for an injury. The cost of litigation is shared by the entire group, so it becomes reasonable for an attorney to take the case. Class action lawsuits are particularly effective in forcing large companies to change the way they do business.

Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure controls the creation of class actions filed in federal court. The Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 allows an attorney to use federal class action rules in state court if any of the plaintiffs live in a different state from where the action is filed.

PERSONAL INJURY CLASS ACTIONS MUST BE CERTIFIED

The court must allow appropriate lawsuits to be turned into a class action. A judge determines if a class action is a fair and efficient way to handle a large number of potential cases. The plaintiff's lawyer must

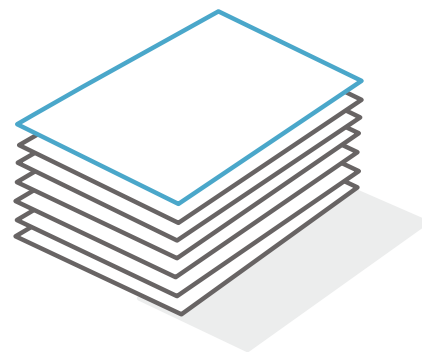
show that the case and the plaintiff are good representations for the injured group. If a judge agrees, he certifies the class and allows the class action to proceed.

POTENTIAL PLAINTIFFS CAN OPT OUT

If you are part of the group that has been injured, you must opt out of the class action if you want to sue on your own. Opting out tells the court that you do not want the results of the lawsuit to apply to you. If you fail to opt out of the class action, you lose the right to sue on your own behalf.

MASS INJURY CASES

Mass injury class actions are a more complex type of personal injury group litigation. Mass injuries are typically cases where large groups of people have been injured by a defective drug or product, such as defective breast implants. It can be hard to use a class action to resolve mass torts because indi-



vidual personal injuries will differ. It can be impossible to determine the size of the settlement needed to compensate plaintiffs who may develop injury symptoms in the future.

Once started, the case could take more or less time to resolve than an individual lawsuit. Much depends on the defendant and how hard it fights the class' claims. A case may go on for years. A judge or jury may decide who wins, but quite often class actions end with a settlement.

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SHELLER, P.C.

WHISTLEBLOWER QUI TAM, MASS TORTS, PRODUCTS LIABILITY: MEDICAL DEVICE & PHARMACEUTICAL

Over the past fifty years, Stephen A. Sheller's dedication to consumer protection and socially conscious litigation has touched on causes ranging from the civil rights movement to voting rights and more. As the founder of Sheller, P.C., he continues to fight for plaintiffs nationwide in pharmaceutical and medical device product liability, mass torts, and whistleblower qui tam cases.

"Steve has always championed the underdog," says Brian J. McCormick, Jr., a managing partner at the firm. "These whistleblower cases continue that philosophy because we're advocating for people who are trying to right a wrong, often against a large corporate entity."

In the past four years alone, Sheller has been counsel in four of the largest whistleblower cases in U.S. history, helping to recover more than \$6 billion for the U.S. government. The most recent is a \$2.2 billion settlement against Johnson & Johnson over illegal marketing of the antipsychotic drug Risperdal. The firm is also heavily involved in the recent \$2.5 billion settlement for patients injured by DePuy hip implants.

"Our major purpose has always been to do the right thing. That's why we take cases that the public will benefit from as well as our clients," Sheller notes.

This philosophy also drives Sheller to give back through the Sheller Family Foundation, establishing the Stephen and Sandra Sheller Center for Social Justice at the Temple University Beasley School of Law in Fall 2013. Sheller has also written the book *A Nation Betrayed: A National Trial Lawyer Reveals How Greed is Crippling Our Country And Destroying Our Democracy*, to be released in 2014.



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 JAMIE L. SHELLER



ANTHONY (TONY) BARATTA

AUTO ACCIDENTS, BRAIN INJURY,
MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

He specializes in cases involving serious bodily injuries and death, including brain injuries, from motor vehicle and work accidents and dangerous property conditions. Tony has also obtained significant compensation for victims of medical malpractice.

Check out his blogs on barattarussell.com to learn more about how Tony can help you or your loved ones:

- Texting, the New Drunk Driving
- How to Protect Yourself from a Medical Mistake
- How to Prove Post – Concussion Symptoms Are Real
- The 5 steps I take to win your Medical Malpractice Claim

A Philadelphia native and graduate of Temple University's School of Law, Tony has also been selected to Philadelphia Super Lawyers each year since 2008. He is a member of the American Trial Lawyers Association, Traumatic Brain Injury Litigation Group as well as the American Association for Justice Medical Malpractice Group.

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FRANCIS J. CATANIA

MUNICIPAL LAW, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Francis J. Catania is the managing partner of Catania & Parker, LLP. He represents Pennsylvania municipalities, municipal authorities, and school districts in all areas of governance and operations. He also assists private clients in meeting their compliance obligations with local, state, and federal governments, as well as in appearances before administrative agencies and boards. He has directed his firm's tax practice for more than 20 years and had previously practiced as a Certified Public Accountant. For every year since 2004, he has received the Martindale-Hubbell highest peer review rating of AV® Preeminent for both legal ability and ethical standards. His current public service includes serving as chairman of the Delaware County Redevelopment Authority, the Delaware County Economic Development Oversight Board and the Delaware County Authority.

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EDWARD F. CHACKER

PERSONAL INJURY, MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

Edward Chacker, a past Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association (1999) and former President of the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association, is recognized as one of the outstanding trial lawyers in Pennsylvania. Mr. Chacker has a well-earned reputation for handling his clients with concern, and he is capable of both negotiating an excellent settlement or trying the case to verdict. Mr. Chacker also lectures frequently, with a special emphasis on trial techniques. He has also appeared on numerous radio and television shows, discussing a wide range of subjects.

Admitted to practice before the Pennsylvania bar, as well as federal courts in Pennsylvania and New York, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, and the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, Mr. Chacker graduated from the University of Toledo College of Law and Temple University. His many speaking appearances include presentations at Temple University and the Roscoe Pound Institute. Mr. Chacker is a current Mediator and Arbitrator for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia. He has served on the board of directors for numerous legal and charitable organizations and has served as President of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation in 2003. Mr. Chacker is also a member of the Pennsylvania and American Bar Associations, the Pennsylvania Bar Institute, and the American Association for Justice.

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LOUIS COFFEY

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION,
CONSTRUCTION LAW, COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

Former senior partner of a national law firm handling complex, multi-party transactions. Created first land condo in PA to facilitate phased development of a suburban office park. Created first expandable and contractible NJ condo to facilitate phased development of several hundred townhomes. Law practice includes all aspects of finance, design, development, construction and operation of sports and entertainment facilities, including leases with professional sports teams, concessionaire and vendor contracts. Creation and operation of partnerships, joint ventures and disputes, limited liability companies, corporations, eminent domain proceedings, acquisition and disposition of commercial real estate and businesses and entity governance and governance board disputes. Neutral arbitrator and mediator in complex real estate and commercial disputes and major construction claims. Expert witness. Business consulting, small businesses. Selected for inclusion in the *The Best Lawyers in America*® from 2009-2014. Fellow, College of Commercial Arbitrators; International Mediation Institute Certified.

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REORGANIZING WHEN FILING UNDER CHAPTER 11 BANKRUPTCY

Businesses in dire financial trouble don't necessarily have to close up shop and go out of business. You may be able to save your business, keep operating and get financial relief at the same time.

The basic idea is simple: It is better for everyone to let you keep operating and reorganize your business affairs than to simply liquidate a business. Learn some of the basics of Chapter 11 bankruptcies to see if you can use it to save your business.

REORGANIZING YOUR BUSINESS

If you can come up with a plan showing how reorganizing your business affairs will get your business out of the red and into the black, Chapter 11 may be the answer.

When your business files for bankruptcy, the business's property becomes property of the bankruptcy estate. Any collection activities pending against the business are automatically stayed. The automatic stay gives you and your creditors some time and

breathing room. You can use, sell or lease the business's property. You can even look for financing to continue its operations.

THE PLAN

You have the right to propose a reorganization plan for the first 120 days after the case is filed. The plan does many things, but it mainly sets out the details for repaying your creditors. The bankruptcy trustee appointed to your case usually forms a committee of your creditors who vote on your plan.

The basic idea during the plan negotiation process is for you and most of your creditors to come up with a plan that has a realistic chance of success. In other words, one where most if not all of your creditors are repaid, at least some portion of your debts, and the business continues operations.

If the plan is confirmed—it takes court approval—you come out of the bankruptcy



usually with much lower debts and a new "reorganized" business.

PROTECTION FOR CREDITORS

Protecting creditors and making sure they're treated fairly is one of the goals in any bankruptcy. Your creditors may ask the court to dismiss or throw out your case if they think it was filed in bad faith or think there's no chance of a successful reorganization plan.

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WEIR & PARTNERS LLP

BUSINESS, BANKRUPTCY, CIVIL LITIGATION

A leader in business, banking, and commercial law, Weir & Partners is committed to finding practical, cost-effective solutions for its clients' complex legal challenges. Walter Weir, Jr., the firm's managing partner, notes, "While we're experienced trial lawyers, we treat our clients' issues as practical problems requiring prompt, efficient, and economical resolutions."

Weir & Partners represents a panoply of business, banking, and commercial interests. The firm's banking practice group handles complex commercial litigation, secured lending, creditors' rights, and bankruptcy matters for major financial institutions. The firm's business group handles corporate and real estate transactional matters, airport/aviation and energy related matters, as well as general corporate representation. The firm also represents municipalities and governmental agencies, and handles white-collar criminal investigations.

"We're relationship lawyers committed to our clients' long term interests," Weir explains. "We're invested in our clients' success and, in turn, our clients are invested in ours." The firm has grown from 15 to 30 lawyers during the past five years.



Standing, from left: Stephen Holden, Marc J. Zucker, Bonnie R. Golub, Daniel B. Markind, Jennifer Hiller Nimeroff, Joel S. Solomon, Susan M. Verbonitz, Brett Datto, Carolyn C. Lindheim
Seated, from left: Steven E. Angstreich, Walter Weir, Jr., Kenneth E. Aard

Fifteen of its attorneys are AV Preeminent® rated by Martindale-Hubbell®, and many are rated as SuperLawyers.

In addition to having offices in Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, Weir & Partners' lawyers are licensed in the District of Columbia, New York, Florida, and North Carolina. The firm's lawyers have tried cases in state and federal courts, and argued cases in intermediate appellate courts and the Supreme Courts of PA, CA, CT, NY, FL, SC, RI, MA, TX, IL, MD, DE, MN, and NJ. The firm represents clients in business affairs throughout the U.S. and in foreign countries.

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MICHAEL J. DIAMONDSTEIN, ESQ.

CRIMINAL LAW, WHITE-COLLAR LAW

Attorney Michael J. Diamondstein is a member of the Pennsylvania, New Jersey and federal Bars who has handled in excess of 20,000 criminal cases in state and federal courts throughout the U.S. He has defended high-profile, media-sensitive cases as well as serious but unreported criminal cases. He has secured acquittals and dismissals for hundreds of his previous clients. He is well respected in the legal community as he routinely represents clients who have been referred to him by judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers and fellow attorneys.

Mr. Diamondstein's vast experience and demonstrated skill have led him to be named as one of the Top One Hundred Pennsylvania Trial Attorneys by the National Trial Lawyers Association and have made him qualified to handle death penalty cases under Pennsylvania Rule 801. He has been picked by *SuperLawyers* since 2010. This same level of experience and skill enables him to provide the highest standard of representation for anyone accused of crimes, under investigation or recently arrested.

Michael J. Diamondstein is a lifelong resident of the Philadelphia metropolitan area. A graduate of Ithaca College, Mr. Diamondstein attended Widener University School of Law, from which graduated *summa cum laude*.

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SHARON N. HUMBLE, ESQ.

REAL ESTATE TAX LAW

Sharon Humble has worked with Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP for over 23 years. She heads up this national firm's Philadelphia office as its Managing Partner and is in her 9th year serving on the firm's national Management Committee.

Ms. Humble has collected over \$305 million in delinquent real estate tax revenues assessed by the City and School District of Philadelphia. Her work has gotten over 11,000 vacant, blighted, and abandoned homes into the ownership of responsible owners and back on the City's revenue-producing tax rolls.

Ms. Humble is admitted to practice law in Pennsylvania and Texas. She is also admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court; the U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit; and the U.S. District Court, Eastern, Western, and Northern Districts of Texas. In 1991, she received the American Jurisprudence Award by Lawyers Cooperative Publishing for Excellent Achievement in Constitutional Law, and she served as a teaching assistant for Constitutional Law in 1993-94. She has published numerous scholarly articles and annotations which have been cited as authority in fourteen law review articles and one book.

She represents other regional clients as well, managing their business and legal needs through her Philadelphia office.

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E. DOUGLAS DISANDRO

PLAINTIFFS' PERSONAL INJURY, PRODUCTS LIABILITY, ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Principal and founder of DiSandro & Malloy, PC, E. Douglas DiSandro has been representing personal injury claimants for 30 years in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School and of the Widener University School of Law. He has achieved numerous multimillion-dollar recoveries for injured victims and is a certified member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum.

He has received the distinct honor of being named a Pennsylvania *SuperLawyer* based on the independent survey of peers and industry leaders within the legal community, most recently being selected in 2006, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012. Only the top five percent of Pennsylvania lawyers receive this distinction.

He is rated AV® Preeminent, the highest rating possible from Martindale-Hubbell, which evaluates attorneys' legal ability and ethical background based on evaluation by their peers. A past board member of the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association and the Italian Lawyers Justinian Association, he serves as a mediator privately and as a Judge Pro Tem for the Philadelphia Court System.

He is licensed to practice in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, United States Supreme Court, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and the United States Court of Appeals.

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LAMM LAW

CREDITORS' RIGHTS, BANKRUPTCY, EQUIPMENT LEASING, TRANSACTIONAL LAW, BANKING AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Lamm Law's Creditors' Rights, Workout and Bankruptcy practice includes representation of financial institutions, asset-based lenders, real estate brokers, equipment lenders and lessors and other businesses in matters involving small ticket and middle market financing.

Our Creditors' Rights, Workout and Bankruptcy professionals are distinguished by our industry knowledge and dedication to acting with speed, diligence and detail. We work closely with our clients as an extension of their team to maximize recovery in the most cost-efficient manner.

Other areas of practice include: Business Transactions & Commercial Finance, Commercial Litigation, Employment Law, Intellectual Property and Real Estate.

Back row: Stephen Levin, Anthony L. Lamm, Andrew Unterlack

Front row seated: Deirdre Richards, Lyndsay Rowland

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BUYING AND SELLING COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

Commercial real estate transactions are typically more complex than residential transactions. They often involve large sums of money and increased liability for both parties. Unlike a residential transaction where basic consumer protection is provided to the buyer, the law takes a neutral approach to its treatment of commercial transactions. Courts will hold the parties to the terms of any sales agreement - absent illegality or fraud.

PROPERTY VALUATION

A large part of buying and selling commercial real estate is the process of determining a value for the property. By nature, real estate is a unique product that may have no exact sales comparison. For example, a buyer may be looking to purchase a movie theater in an area where there is no other theater that has sold to establish a market value for the property. Further, commercial property often has an income component

that adds to the value of the property, and typically has a current and future income stream that must be factored in to the sales price. A professional valuation expert can help set a price for the property.

SALES NEGOTIATION AND DUE DILIGENCE

Buying and selling commercial real estate is typically subject to intense negotiation. Commercial buyers must investigate the transaction thoroughly before making a decision. During the sales negotiation, the buyer has leeway to determine facts that impact the value of the property and attempt to gain concessions from the seller to offset any problems.

ASSUMING LIABILITY

Another important aspect of buying and selling commercial real estate is the potential transfer of legal liability to the new owner. If commercial property is found to violate certain laws, it can be subject to gov-



ernment regulation. The current owner is responsible for resolving this regardless of who initially created the hazard.

LOSS OF LIQUIDITY

Commercial real estate transactions typically tie up large sums of liquid assets. Owners can have trouble with tenants and vacancy rates that affect their ability to make financing payments on the property. Commercial real estate purchases can come with long-term risks which must be evaluated prior to making the purchase.

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SILVERANG, DONOHUE, ROSENZWEIG & HALTZMAN, LLC

CIVIL LITIGATION, COMMERCIAL, REAL ESTATE



Seated, from left: Kevin J. Silverang, Kelly Anne Donohue
Standing, from left: Mark S. Haltzman, Catharine E. Sibel,
Philip S. Rosenzweig

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Silverang, Donohue, Rosenzweig & Haltzman, LLC is a commercial law firm that provides sophisticated representation in real estate and business transactions and commercial litigation. With two attorneys who have been AV Preeminent® rated by Martindale-Hubbell™—Kevin Silverang and Mark Haltzman—as well as lawyers who have been included in *Pennsylvania SuperLawyers*, the firm is able to offer clients big firm expertise in a more intimate setting.

“We understand that our clients require an individualized, business-centric approach to solving their problems, and our firm’s philosophy is to provide that service in the most efficient way possible,” says Silverang, who has more than 30 years of experience in commercial law. “Ultimately, our practical business approach is the reason we have been able to establish many enduring client relationships.”

The firm handles real estate transactions and commercial litigation throughout the country. Its diverse client base includes lenders, developers, real estate equity funds, closely-held corporations, and entrepreneurs. The firm also represents landlords and tenants in leasing transactions and has particular expertise in the areas of tax credits and finance.

“We address all of our clients’ real estate and business needs by finding pragmatic business solutions to our clients’ problems,” Silverang explains. “By deploying our skill sets as problem solvers in complex matters, we have consistently helped our clients consummate their transactions and realize their business and litigation objectives.”



MAURICE R. MITTS

COMPLEX COMMERCIAL LITIGATION,
BANKRUPTCY, CREDITORS' RIGHTS

Maurice is nationally known for his relentless commitment to his clients and for creative solutions. He litigates in state and federal courts

around the country and has had highly publicized successes for financial institutions, bankruptcy trustees, and public and private corporations and their officers. Maurice has extensive experience with litigation involving complex commercial transactions, funds transfers, payment systems, and business bankruptcies.

Maurice understands the unique needs of his clients and develops dynamic solutions for their legal problems whether their needs involve creditors' rights proceedings, enforcement of payment obligations, or other business litigation services. Clients from across the country have sought his innovative approach to litigation and dispute resolution. His commitment to a potent presentation of his clients' rights has earned him considerable acclaim and recognition from his colleagues, adversaries and numerous courts. Maurice has received an AV Peer Review Rating®, the highest level of professional excellence in the Martindale-Hubbell system and has been named a Super Lawyer for eight years by Pennsylvania *SuperLawyers* magazine.

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JEFFREY B. ROTWITT

REAL ESTATE FINANCE, VENTURE CAPITAL,
PRIVATE EQUITY

For over 40 years, Mr. Rotwitt has practiced corporate and real estate law, first as a managing partner of a major Philadelphia firm and now

on his own as he pursues a myriad of entrepreneurial ventures. He has extensive experience in various roles as sponsor, counsel or investor in many specialty or trophy real estate developments, private equity funds, joint ventures and start-up companies.

Mr. Rotwitt founded Sun Center Studios, Pennsylvania's newest state-of-the-art entertainment and feature film production facility in suburban Philadelphia where he is currently the President and Chief Executive Officer.

Mr. Rotwitt received his Bachelor of Arts degree, *magna cum laude*, from the University of Pennsylvania and his Master of Business Administration with a concentration in Finance from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Mr. Rotwitt also graduated from Penn's School of Law, where he was awarded the degree of Juris Doctor. He has served as an adjunct professor at Penn's School of Law teaching graduate courses in entrepreneurship.

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GERALD S. STANSHINE

CRIMINAL LAW; PERSONAL INJURY, PLAINTIFF

Gerald Stanshine focuses on criminal defense and personal injury. He has successfully represented clients in high-profile matters. Gerald

has appeared on WPVI's (channel 6) Action News: Issues and Answers and has been a guest faculty member with the National Institute for Trial Advocacy. He has spoken before and given advice to various Pennsylvania governmental agencies and commissions. He is a former Arbitrator for the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. Gerald is lead counsel to the F.O.P. in Philadelphia for police officers in Internal Affairs investigations and disciplinary hearings. He has been selected for Pennsylvania Super Lawyers for six consecutive years and has been selected to the National Trial Lawyers' Top 100 Trial Lawyers for 2011, 2012, and 2013. He has also been selected by the American Society of Legal Advocates as a Top 100 Criminal Defense Lawyer in Pennsylvania for 2013. Gerald is proud to have also been rated AV Preeminent® by Martindale-Hubbell (its highest rating) and selected for *Philadelphia's Top Rated Lawyers* in 2012, 2013 and for 2014.

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BRIAN L. STRAUSS, ESQUIRE

NURSING HOME ABUSE & NEGLECT,
MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, PERSONAL INJURY

With over 30 years of legal experience, Brian Strauss is one of the most respected trial attorneys in the areas of nursing home abuse, medical malpractice and serious personal injury. Brian has been most recently involved in trials that have helped create the law for the protection of the elderly in nursing home abuse matters. Experienced attorneys who trust his judgment often refer cases to Brian to assist their clients. Brian is dedicated to helping those people that need it the most. He takes great care in providing his clients with personal attention and getting them the justice they deserve in even the most difficult cases.

Brian's attorney rating of AV Preeminent® represents professional excellence held by less than 5% of attorneys in the U.S. denoting the highest accolade an attorney can receive for legal ability and ethical standards generated from anonymous evaluations of attorneys and judges.

If you or your loved one suffered serious injuries in Pennsylvania or New Jersey, contact Brian at (215) 259-8233 or Brian@brianstrausslaw.com for a free consultation.

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CHALLENGING A WILL MAY LEAVE YOU WITH NOTHING

Challenging a will is difficult, but it can be done. You can challenge a will if facts indicate that the will was not properly made or was the result of fraud, mistake, or improper influence on the person who made the will—referred to as the “decedent” after death.

A valid will requires that the decedent possessed “testamentary capacity,” sometimes referred to as having a “sound mind,” at the time the will was made. The decedent must also have met the state’s minimum age requirement. Challenging a will on the basis of capacity typically requires showing that the decedent did not understand the nature and extent of the property or the identity of natural heirs. Typically, such a challenge requires medical evidence showing mental impairment.

A challenge of undue influence means the decedent did not make the will of free choice, but solely due to the improper influence of another person. A common situation

that leads to such a challenge is where a lone sibling cares for an infirm parent, and the caregiver sibling receives a greater portion of the parent’s estate than other siblings. This is particularly true if the parent has changed his will while under the care of the sibling and if this fact was kept secret from the other siblings.

FRAUD OR MISTAKE

A will can be challenged for fraud, such as when pages have been inserted after the decedent signed the will or the decedent’s signature is forged. If the will was not executed properly, with only one witness signature when two are required, for example, the will can be challenged as invalid. Sometimes a will that has been previously revoked is mistakenly (or purposefully) submitted for probate. This version will be rejected when the superseding will is provided.

You challenge a will by filing an appropriate petition in the state probate court that



has control over the decedent’s estate. The type of petition, the basis for the challenge, and the likely results depend on the state law where the court is located. Each state’s law has its own rules, which can differ.

Challenging a will because you believe your inheritance should be greater involves a risk of violating the “no-contest clause.” If you fail, the will is valid and the no-contest clause will prevent you from receiving the inheritance left to you. State law varies regarding the conditions under which a no-contest clause is valid.

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FOX ROTHSCHILD LLP

BUSINESS & COMMERCIAL, TAXATION, TRUSTS AND ESTATES

Jerald David August, Co-Chair of the Taxation & Wealth Planning Department at Fox Rothschild LLP and a nationally recognized tax lawyer, advises clients on the tax impacts of structuring international and domestic business transactions. He also advises high-net-worth individuals, both U.S. citizens and non-residents, on estate planning matters. He is further engaged in tax controversy and litigation matters.

August, who graduated from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, received his law degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and his LL.M. in Taxation from the New York University School of Law. After practicing tax law for 10 years in Palm Beach, he was admitted as partner in the Miami firm Steel Hector & Davis in 1986. In 1988 he founded his own firm, a tax law boutique, which in 2005 merged with Fox Rothschild, a national law firm with more than 500 lawyers in 18 cities across the country.

August, who grew up in Wynnewood and is a proud alumnus of Lower Merion High, centers his practice at Fox Rothschild in Philadelphia and resides in Haverford, Pennsylvania, with his wife Susan. He also practices at the firm’s West Palm Beach office and maintains a residence in Jupiter, Florida.

He is an active member of the American Law Institute and has published numerous articles on federal taxation for national law journals. August has frequently spoken on matters of federal taxation for the American Law Institute, the Tax Section of the American Bar Association, the New York University Federal Institute on Taxation, the NYU Graduate Tax Law Program, and the Tax Sections of the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Florida Bar Associations. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Business Entities, a national tax publication, and the former Editor-in-Chief of the Tax Lawyer, a preeminent tax law review. He has been selected for inclusion in Super Lawyers and The Best Lawyers in America for many years. He also publishes a blog on Federal Taxation at Fox Rothschild’s website.

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JERALD DAVID AUGUST



ROBERT F. ZIELINSKI

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY,
INTERNET LAW, TECHNOLOGY

The Law Offices of Robert F. Zielinski is a specialty law firm providing guidance on legal matters relating to patents, (specializing in medical devices), trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, e-commerce, licensing and related litigation. Located in Philadelphia and admitted to practice in New Jersey, we regularly advise a wide range of regional, national and international clients including established publicly traded and privately held companies, innovative tech start-ups as well as individual inventors, authors and artists.

Our patent experience includes medical devices, pharmaceuticals, toys, telecommunications, food processing technologies, industrial packaging and labeling, plastics manufacturing, networks and RFID tracking devices. Our trademark expertise includes trademark clearance, prosecution, licensing, UDRP domain name dispute resolution and litigation.

Past departmental chair of WolfBlock, LLP's intellectual property and information technology practice. Martindale-Hubbell AV rated® and AVVO 10.0 Superb. PA Super Lawyer and an ALM Philadelphia Top Rated Lawyer.

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JEFFREY ZUCKER

FRANCHISE, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY,
COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

Jeffrey has been representing clients in business-related matters for over 25 years—first as an ac-

countant and for the past 20 years as an attorney. Jeff concentrates his practice on franchise and distribution-related transactions, litigation and pre-litigation counseling, and also handles general commercial matters. He frequently represents franchisors and manufacturers in litigation regarding trademark, post-termination covenants and related issues. He also assists franchisors and other business clients in reaching effective, common sense solutions to day-to-day problems.

Jeff has been selected by his peers to receive the "Super Lawyer" designation for franchise law in Philadelphia Magazine every year. Jeff is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Brookfield Schools, a private nonprofit group of schools which offer educational and clinical services to students with emotional needs.

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Mr. Messa, the firm's founder, is an advocate of American Board of Trial Advocates and a member of the Premier Trial Lawyers. He has obtained more than 10 verdicts and settlements over \$10 million, one over \$100 million and more than 60 over \$1 million.

Mr. Heleniak, a trial lawyer for over 30 years, is Board Certified as a Civil Trial Specialist by the National Board of Trial Advocates. He has obtained multiple verdicts and settlements exceeding \$1 million, including a \$2.15 million birth injury verdict affirmed by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

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HEALTH INSURANCE FRAUD RAISES INSURANCE COSTS FOR EVERYONE

Fraud involves lying about something or deceiving someone for gain. The gain is usually financial. Health insurance is a complex system that opens the door for many types of fraud. Anyone who defrauds an insurance company is subject to a wide range of penalties, from charges under federal health care statutes to embezzlement and theft. The U.S. Attorney's Office prosecutes insurance fraud crimes.

WHO PAYS FOR INSURANCE FRAUD?

Insurance fraud pushes up the cost of everything you buy and use. How? Consider the following scenario.

Every company providing goods or services pays for insurance as a cost of doing business. As a result of insurance fraud—the insurance company must raise rates. To cover the increased cost of insurance, the company must charge you more for goods and services. Bottom line; insurance fraud makes everything more expensive for ev-

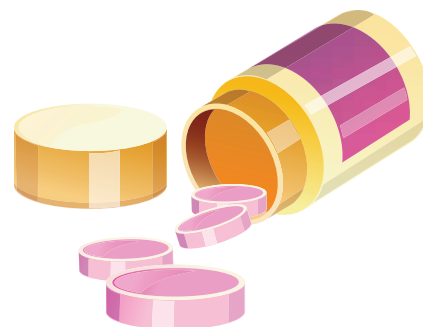
erybody. Insurance fraud is not simply a problem for insurance companies, it's a problem for all of us—everybody loses and everybody pays. Insurance fraud also diverts resources from law enforcement and fire services.

PATIENT FRAUD MAY SEEM INNOCENT

A patient can commit insurance fraud without understanding its seriousness. For example, a person might give an insurance card to an uninsured friend or relative because that person badly needs to see a doctor, but can't afford it. Although it might seem like a kind thing to do, it's still fraud committed against the insurance company, and both the insured and the friend would be liable. Health insurance fraud also occurs when a patient uses benefits to fill forged prescriptions.

INSURERS CAN BE GUILTY OF FRAUD

Most states require that insurers have



licenses in order to do business, but occasionally unscrupulous insurers can slip around the licensing process. When they do, they may collect your premiums but be unable to pay your claims. This is consumer fraud. You could find yourself responsible for significant medical bills. If this happens to you, speak with an attorney to explore your options—more specifically, an insurance lawyer.

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NastLaw attorneys combine over 90 years of complex civil litigation experience. We provide our clients with experienced, confident representation to guide them in the most difficult cases.

Our Firm's focus is on complex civil litigation, including pharmaceutical litigation and antitrust litigation. Firm founder Dianne Nast brings decades of complex litigation experience to the firm. Ms. Nast has been recognized by Courts across the country for her skill and leadership in complex litigation.

ANTITRUST LITIGATION

NastLaw attorneys are nationally recognized for their antitrust experience and have been appointed to significant leadership positions in some of the largest antitrust cases. Our lawyers have successfully litigated dozens of major antitrust cases to protect consumers and ensure fair competition for businesses.

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Our attorneys are known for taking leadership roles in mass tort litigation. NastLaw attorneys currently hold court-appointed leadership roles in several major pharmaceutical and medical device cases.

OUR PROMISE

NastLaw attorneys fight for victims - our clients can be assured they will receive vigorous and aggressive representation. This work is our passion, and we are dedicated to helping consumers and institutions defend their rights when harmed by large corporations.



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SOME MEDICAL DEVICES CAN HURT MORE THAN HELP

Most people trust that medical devices used to treat medical issues are safe. They expect that they will feel better after the device is used, not worse. But sometimes medical devices may be defective or used for unintended purposes, which can make medical problems worse or even create new ones. If this ever happens, one has the right to seek damages from the manufacturer, hospitals, or doctors who are at fault.

MANUFACTURERS STRICTLY LIABLE

Most jurisdictions hold medical device manufacturers strictly liable for any injuries one suffers as a result of the use of their products. These might include a faulty pacemaker, heart valve, prosthetic knee, trans-vaginal mesh, or any other device. For medical device lawsuits, one may argue that the specific medical device was defective in that it was manufactured improperly, or that all of the medical devices are flawed because of a design flaw. When many people are affected, they

can join together to file a mass tort.

Convincing a jury that a manufacturer's medical device was designed or manufactured improperly isn't enough to win a case. The plaintiff will also need to show that the device was the reason for your injuries. Lawyers for the manufacturer may try to blame the injuries on something other than the medical device, so there is the need to be prepared with as much evidence as possible.

DOCTOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

It is possible that a device did not cause your injury, but rather a doctor's error or decision to use it in ways in which it wasn't intended. In this case, one may want to sue your doctor instead of the manufacturer, claiming that the doctor was negligent to use such a device. To prove negligence, it must be proven that the doctor failed to exercise great care or sound judgment. However, a jury must be convinced that the device was the cause of the injury.



MONETARY DAMAGES

A personal injury lawsuit involving a medical device can provide you with money damages that cover the cost of obtaining medical treatment for your injuries; wages you lost or will lose because of the injury; and amounts for your emotional distress, physical pain, and inconvenience.

QUESTION FOR YOUR ATTORNEY

- Can I still sue even after a manufacturer has recalled a defective medical device?

AS SEEN ON



DeNITTIS OSEFCHEN P.C.

CLASS ACTIONS, PERSONAL INJURY, CONSUMER FRAUD

DeNittis Osefchen, P.C. is a premier firm in New Jersey and Pennsylvania litigating matters throughout the country ranging from high profile national class actions to catastrophic personal injury cases.

LANDMARK CASES Over the years, the firm has earned a reputation by taking on big companies that put corporate profits ahead of consumers' health and well-being. The groundbreaking class actions cases DeNittis Osefchen has litigated have resulted in landmark decisions on previously untried issues involving construction defects, false advertising claims, wage and hour violations, real estate vendor overcharging, gas utility safety issues, and fraudulent product sales.

"Our philosophy is that we can maximize results for our clients by accepting a limited number of cases and thoroughly preparing every case for trial – so that we are never forced to settle," says managing partner Stephen P. DeNittis. With this approach, the firm has achieved precedent setting results for its clients.

BROAD EXPERIENCE The attorneys at DeNittis Osefchen, P.C. have over 49 years combined experience in complex areas of catastrophic personal injury and class action litigation and have obtained numerous multimillion-dollar settlements and verdicts in cases involving defective products, medical malpractice, automobile accidents, premises liability, construction defects, environmental pollution and consumer fraud. In fact, in the last 10 years alone, they have recovered more than \$80 million for consumers.

The attorneys at DeNittis Osefchen, P.C. are no strangers to recognition for their excellence in the profession. They have been named South Jersey's Top Attorneys by *SJ Magazine* and *South Jersey Magazine* in the areas of Products Liability, Personal Injury and Class Actions. They have also been recognized by *SuperLawyers* and *Law and Politics* magazines for the years 2006 through 2013.



From Left: Shane T. Prince, Stephen P. DeNittis, Joseph A. Osefchen

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Steven A. Berkowitz, attorney and mechanical engineer, concentrates his practice in construction law consulting contractors, engineers, owners and construction associations in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York, helping his clients with the bidding process, claims, contract formation, construction litigation and labor issues.

Mr. Berkowitz is general counsel to the South Jersey Mechanical Contractors Association and the South Jersey Building Contractors Association.

In addition to his practice Mr. Berkowitz is an arbitrator appointed to the prestigious American Arbitration Association panel of neutrals.

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Marc G. Brecher is the managing partner of Wapner, Newman, Wigrizer, Brecher & Miller. For the past 28 years, Mr. Brecher's practice has been devoted to representing victims of medical negligence. He has represented clients throughout Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. He has extensive experience representing children who have suffered brain injury during the labor and delivery process from trauma or lack of oxygen. He also has experience in cases involving failure to timely diagnose cancer and other medical conditions and intra-operative errors. For the last six years he has been selected by the National Trial Lawyers to Top 100 Trial Lawyers and has held Martindale-Hubbell's highest AV rating® for lawyer excellence for more than 15 years. In addition, he was recently elected to a three year term on the Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association.

JOSEPH CAGNOLI, JR.



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Trial lawyer Joseph Cagnoli, Jr. represents individuals, corporations, and public entities in product liability, toxic tort/environmental, and municipal/public entity liability matters. He serves as national coordinating counsel for several clients and has litigated in state and federal courts in multiple jurisdictions including Pennsylvania, California, Texas, and Delaware.

A leading attorney in oil and gas/hydrofracturing matters, Mr. Cagnoli frequently speaks and publishes on this emerging area of environmental litigation. Mr. Cagnoli also has significant experience representing manufacturers of vehicles and commercial and industrial equipment in product liability and toxic exposure matters involving benzene, asbestos, and other substances.

A Pennsylvania native, Mr. Cagnoli received his law degree from the Widener University School of Law (Harrisburg) and his undergraduate degree from Dickinson College. He is a member of the Pennsylvania and Philadelphia Bar Associations.

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Nialena is consistently recognized as one of the top federal criminal lawyers in Philadelphia and as a strategic, sincere, and relentless advocate who is unafraid to take Robert Frost's "less traveled by road" in defending her controversial clients (i.e. alleged mobsters, Arab Americans, a powerful Senator, doctors, lawyers, CEOs, high-level federal government officials) in high-profile, complex federal criminal cases. Repeatedly honored as a "Top 100 Trial Lawyer" by *The National Trial Lawyers*, Nialena was also recently featured on the *SuperLawyers* cover in *Philadelphia Magazine* and in a *SuperLawyers* article entitled "Fierce," where she was described as not only "going the extra mile" in fighting for her clients, but also as being a "chief, not an Indian" who made her reputation early on in the Merlino federal mafia trial by being unafraid to break ranks when "arrayed against a coterie of high-powered attorneys drawn from the old boys network of lawyers" in order to best represent and protect her client.

MICHAEL ANTHONY DeFINO



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A *Summa Cum Laude* graduate, Phi Beta Kappa member and 1978 graduate of Villanova University School of Law, Michael Anthony DeFino has tried a multitude of high-profile cases reported by CBS, NBC, FOX, CNN, ESPN, ABC, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Philadelphia Daily News*, *Chicago Tribune* and *New York Times*.

Mr. DeFino is the lone attorney to secure an acquittal for his client in one of the most complex multi-defendant federal criminal cases in Philadelphia's history. He has represented a plethora of civil clients in medical malpractice and personal injury suits and obtained several multimillion-dollar settlements.

Mr. DeFino has appeared before every level of state and federal court in Pennsylvania and is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court. He has served as a senior officer of the Pennsylvania Disciplinary Board.

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William A. Denmark is the managing shareholder of Jacoby Donner P.C. Mr. Denmark maintains a multi-disciplinary practice concentrating in construction, real estate, and business law.

Mr. Denmark assists clients in the preparation and negotiation of construction contracts, sales/purchase agreements for real estate and businesses, financing documents and lease agreements. Mr. Denmark also prepares buy-sell agreements for company principals, employment agreements for key personnel, and provides estate and business succession planning services.

Mr. Denmark has lectured at seminars on construction law, business succession planning, and trade association law and governance. Mr. Denmark graduated with an A.B. *magna cum laude* from Cornell University, where he was admitted to Phi Beta Kappa. He earned his law degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Law.

E.L. HANNAWAY

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E. Lawrence Hannaway has been a civil trial lawyer for over 30 years. He has had numerous seven figure settlements and verdicts. He graduated with honors from George Washington University Law School from which he also received an LL.M. on full scholarship as a Teaching Fellow.

After that he became a Trial Lawyer at the United States Department of Justice in Washington D.C. He was a partner at two plaintiffs' law firms until 1985 when he decided to become a sole practitioner.

Since that time he has accepted matters in the civil area in personal injury and otherwise. He has been and continues to be a member of the national Bar of Preeminent Lawyers.

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FRANCIS X. NOLAN

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Mr. Nolan is a former Naval Reserve (JAGC) captain and presently a civilian personal injury attorney who has recently completed 50 years of service to his clients. He would like to thank them for placing their trust in him and permitting him to serve their needs.

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MEL STAFFIN, ESQ.

Mr. Staffin is a principal in the law firm of O'Neill, Bragg & Staffin, P.C. which he co-founded in 1993. He is a graduate of Temple University School of Law (J.D., 1982) (L.L.M. Taxation, 1987). He is also a Certified Public Accountant. He concentrates his practice in real estate and tax matters, focusing on the representation of owners, developers, investors and property managers involved or participating in affordable housing developments and projects, including those generating tax credits (e.g. Federal low income housing tax credits and rehabilitation tax credits), utilizing various Federal, state and local financing, rental and other subsidy and assistance programs and involving the participation of or partnership with state and/or local housing agencies and authorities.

Also serving as a principal in the firm is Gary L. Bragg (gbragg@obs-law.com) who concentrates his practice in general business and transactional matters.

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Robert M. Diorio, in practice for over 35 years, concentrates in Wills and Estates, School and Municipal Law, and Family Law. He has served numerous governmental entities, including the Delaware County Prison Board, Delaware County Services for the Aging (COSA), the Pa. Secretary of Education, and numerous school districts and municipalities.

With extensive litigation experience, Mr. Diorio has also served as a Support Master, Custody Conciliator, and as a Director and Officer of the Delaware County Bar Association. He is listed in the Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers, and retains a 10.0 Avo rating.

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Steven F. Fairlie has been named one of the Top 100 lawyers in Pennsylvania by *Philadelphia Magazine*, recognized in the National Trial Lawyers Top 100 Trial Lawyers, featured in *Newsweek* and awarded the prestigious AV Preeminent® rating by Martindale-Hubbell®, which designates preeminent lawyers based upon legal ability and ethics. Fairlie has handled some of the largest cases in the Philadelphia suburbs, including the largest drug case in the state, a case involving more than \$50 million in disputed land transactions, and cases involving the Death Penalty, Repressed Memory and Battered Woman's syndromes. Fairlie chairs the Montgomery County Criminal Defense Committee and is a member of its Judiciary Committee. He is a frequent lecturer for various statewide organizations.

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Stan has over 40 years experience in trust law, estate planning, pre-immigration planning and tax law with an emphasis on international trust transactions. Before going into practice for himself, Stan was a partner at a large Philadelphia-based law practice, where he focused on domestic and international tax and estate planning.

He is a member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners. Stan is admitted to practice in Pennsylvania and South Africa and is a published author and speaker on international tax and estate planning. He holds a law degree in income tax and estate planning from Temple University School of Law and earned his bachelor of commerce degree, bachelor of laws degree and higher diploma in South African tax law from the University of the Witwatersrand.

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My criminal defense practice is about helping people in trouble. I have been defending people charged with crimes for more than 35 years and have represented criminal defendants in more than 250 jury trials. My entire practice is dedicated to defending adults and juveniles charged with crimes.

I represent both adult and juvenile criminal defendants in Bucks County and throughout southeastern Pennsylvania, as well as in federal criminal cases in Pennsylvania.

I have been selected as a *Pennsylvania SuperLawyer* and am AV Peer Review Rated® through Martindale-Hubbell®. I am a former president of both the Bucks County Bar Association and Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and served on the federal Criminal Justice Act panel for more than 25 years.

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Howard Bruce Klein is a leading trial lawyer and legal educator. He practices in his own firm in the areas of white-collar criminal defense and civil enforcement actions. He has successfully represented individuals, corporations, chief executive officers, and employees of corporations in the full range of economic and white-collar criminal cases, including healthcare, pharmaceutical litigation, antitrust, securities, tax, financial institution fraud, racketeering, public corruption, etc. Formerly, he was a Partner and Litigation Department Chairman of Blank Rome, LLP and Chief of the Criminal Division of the Philadelphia U.S. Attorney's Office. A graduate of Georgetown Law School, he is listed—for white-collar crime—in *Chambers USA (Band One)*, *The Best Lawyers in America*, *Superlawyers*, and *U.S. News & World Report (Tier One, Philadelphia)*.

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JAMES J. OLIVER is a senior partner in the firm Oliver & Caiola. He has practiced law in Philadelphia and the surrounding suburban counties in state and federal courts since 1970. Mr. Oliver has been instrumental in receiving multimillion-dollar verdicts in product liability, business, and international cases. He is a trial attorney in the areas of personal injury, products liability, medical malpractice, and insurance law. He has held various committee posts in both the Pennsylvania and Montgomery County Bar Associations.

He is active in the Association of Trial Lawyers of America and has been designated an Advocate by the National College of Advocacy.

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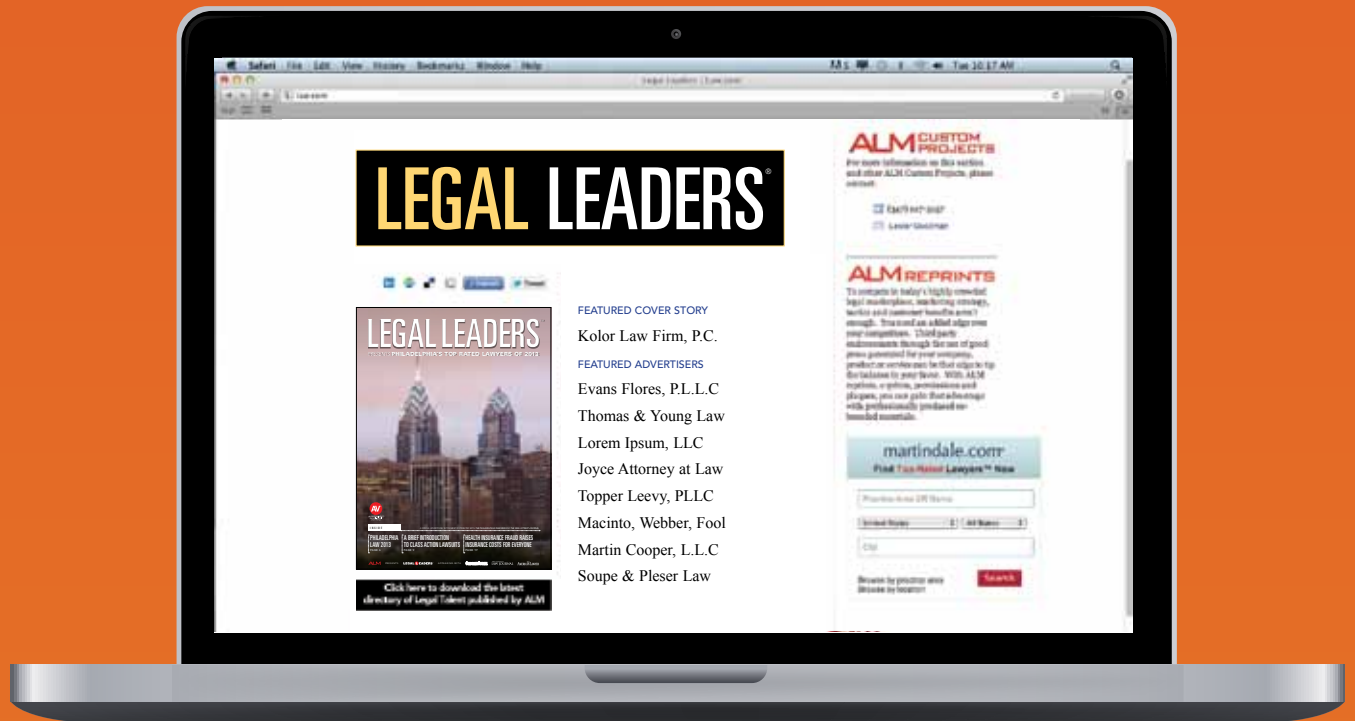
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