

CHICAGO'S

# BEST LAWYERS®

2011 EDITION

THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO LEGAL REPRESENTATION IN CHICAGO



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LAWYERS OF THE YEAR?

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THE WORLD'S PREMIER GUIDE

# CLIFFORD LAW OFFICES



Robert A. Clifford

**A**TTORNEY ROBERT CLIFFORD—FOUNDER OF one of the largest law firms in Chicago concentrating on plaintiffs' personal injury and wrongful death law—understands that sometimes obtaining justice means more than the dollar amount of a settlement.

**WHEN THE FAMILY MEMBERS OF THOSE WHO DIED** in the 1994 crash of American Eagle Flight 4184 decided they wanted an apology from the defendants in open court, Clifford, who was lead counsel in the case, ensured that the apology was stipulated as part of the record \$110 million settlement. "I go out of my way to make sure that the families of those injured or killed by negligent parties obtain the justice they need," Clifford says.

**CLIFFORD HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN NEARLY EVERY** major commercial airline crash of the last 30 years. He began his career working for the renowned Chicago trial attorney Philip H. Corboy, who he first encountered as a student at DePaul University. Corboy was speaking at one of his classes and after the lecture Clifford went to Corboy's office to ask if he could work for him. Corboy hired him and they practiced together until 1984 when Clifford left to start his own firm.

**TODAY, CLIFFORD LAW OFFICES FREQUENTLY TOPS** the charts in Illinois settlement surveys and Clifford has been recognized individually as one of the most successful personal injury attorneys in the country. In March, Clifford helped secure a \$1.2 billion settlement in a huge 9/11 lawsuit that enabled a group of insurance companies to recover some of the property damage claims they paid as a result of the attacks. The firm also recently helped secure an \$85 million settlement against Medline Industries, Inc. and The Medline Foundation for claims alleging that they had engaged in an illegal kickback scheme in violation of the False Claims Act. The settlement was among the largest for a False Claims Act case in which the government declined to intervene.

**CLIFFORD HAS BEEN SELECTED FOR INCLUSION IN** *The Best Lawyers in America*® annually since the publication's inception. He is also a member of the nation's most prestigious legal organizations, including the International Society of Barristers, the American College of Trial Lawyers and the exclusive International Academy of Trial Lawyers. Currently he is serving as the Illinois State Delegate to the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association and he was sworn in as President of the Chicago Bar Association in June. Clifford, who says that the most rewarding part of his work is helping people try to put their lives back together, is also involved in a number of community service projects.

SELECTED FOR INCLUSION IN  
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## THE GUIDE TO CHICAGO'S TOP ATTORNEYS

It's inevitable—at some point in your life, you're going to need a lawyer, and you won't always be able to predict when that need will arise. Whether you're starting a business or selling one, getting married or divorced, patenting your invention, litigating a contract, or buying a home—there is a talented and highly competent attorney listed in this guide who can help. Perhaps you or a family member is involved in an accident or accused of a crime. These are all serious matters for which you need first-rate legal representation.

*Chicago's Best Lawyers*® helps take the mystery out of locating a high-quality advocate to protect you, your family, your business and all other assets. The exceptional attorneys listed in this guide are only those attorneys listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*®.

These attorneys were nominated by and voted in by their peers. Lawyers cannot buy their way into this guide. They must earn a spot through exemplary legal work that attracts the notice of their colleagues. To remain on the list, they must be at the top of their game, year after year. *Best Lawyers*, the leading referral list in the legal profession, and ALM, the nation's leading legal journalism and information company, have teamed up to provide this invaluable resource for readers, whatever your legal needs may be. Lawyers in this guide are arranged by their legal specialty—from Administrative Law to Workers' Compensation Law—which makes it easy to find the professional advice you need.

Keep this comprehensive guide available for those times when you need a first-rate advocate to assist you. The lawyers listed in *Chicago's Best Lawyers* are eager to help.

## METHODOLOGY

This list is excerpted from the 2011 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*®, the preeminent referral guide to the legal profession in the United States. Published for more than a quarter of a century, *Best Lawyers*® lists attorneys in 79 specialties, representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia, who have been chosen through an exhaustive survey in which thousands of the nation's top lawyers confidentially evaluate their professional peers. The 2011 edition of *Best Lawyers*, which was published in November 2010, is based on more than 2.8 million evaluations of lawyers by other lawyers.

The method used to compile *Best Lawyers* remains unchanged since the first edition was compiled more than 26 years ago. Lawyers are chosen for inclusion based solely on a vote of their peers. Listings cannot be bought, and no purchase is required to be included. In this regard, *Best Lawyers* remains the gold standard of reliability and integrity in lawyer ratings.

The nomination pool for the 2011 edition consisted of all lawyers whose names appeared in the previous edition of *Best Lawyers*, lawyers who were nominated since the previous survey, and new nominees solicited from listed attorneys. In general, lawyers were asked to vote only on nominees in their own specialty in their own jurisdiction. Lawyers in closely related specialties were asked to vote across specialties, as were lawyers in smaller jurisdictions. Where specialties are national or international in nature, lawyers were asked to vote nationally as well as locally. Voting lawyers were also given an opportunity to offer more detailed comments on nominees.

Voting lawyers were provided this general guideline for determining if a nominee should be listed: "If you had a close friend or relative who needed a real estate lawyer (for example), and you could not handle the case yourself, to whom would you refer them?" All votes and comments were solicited with a guarantee of confidentiality—a critical factor in the viability and validity of *Best Lawyers* surveys. To ensure the rigor of the selection process, lawyers were urged to use only their highest standards when voting, and to evaluate each nominee based only on his or her individual merits. The additional comments were used to make more accurate comparisons between voting patterns and weight votes accordingly. *Best Lawyers* uses various methodological tools to identify and correct for anomalies in both the nomination and voting process.

Ultimately, of course, a lawyer's inclusion is based on the subjective judgments of his or her fellow attorneys. While it is true that the lists may at times disproportionately reward visibility or popularity, the breadth of the survey, the candor of the respondents, and the sophistication of the polling methodology largely correct for any biases. For all these reasons, *Best Lawyers* lists continue to represent the most reliable, accurate and useful guide to the legal profession in the United States.

*Best Lawyers* lists are available at [www.bestlawyers.com](http://www.bestlawyers.com). "Best Lawyers" and "The Best Lawyers in America" are registered trademarks of Woodward/White, Inc.

For more info go to [www.law.com/chicagobest](http://www.law.com/chicagobest)

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# Berger • Schatz

Matrimonial and Family Law Attorneys

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Berger Schatz is one of the largest and most respected law firms in the country for matrimonial and family law. Led by Michael J. Berger and Barry A. Schatz, who between them have over 50 years' experience practicing family law, the firm has the experience and expertise to handle complex divorce matters for its high-profile clients.

The firm's 38 attorneys are distinguished by a wide range of professional experience and by their passion for practicing law.

**"Attorneys at this firm genuinely like each other and enjoy working together for the betterment of our clients," says partner Michael J. Berger.**

Berger Schatz specializes in representing high net worth individuals and their spouses from virtually

every industry and profession, finding solutions to the most complicated financial matters, including the division of substantial assets, tax issues, asset and income tracing, and business valuations. The firm also finds innovative remedies for clients who previously received unjust results, given the equities of their marriages.

Its attorneys excel at negotiating and drafting strong premarital, postnuptial and settlement agreements that safeguard the client's rights and assets and protect against future litigation. Berger Schatz attorneys also handle child custody, visitation and paternity issues with skill and compassion.

Though the firm's niche is in Illinois, it also has developed a national following since its founding 25 years ago. "We have worked on many of the more well known cases in the city of Chicago, and our partners also have lectured throughout the country on business

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valuation concerns," Berger notes.

**"We are truly on the cutting edge of development in this area of the law and we take a lot of pride in that."**

The firm is a highly regarded resource for legal insight and education on family and matrimonial law issues; its attorneys are leaders in the community and regularly speak at conferences and seminars and publish articles on a wide variety of legal topics.

Berger has once again been selected as one of *The Best Lawyers in America*<sup>®</sup> and he has been included in the Illinois *Super Lawyers* and *Leading Lawyers* annually since 2005. In addition to *Best Lawyers*, *Leading Lawyers* and *Super Lawyers*, Berger Schatz attorneys, and the firm as a whole, have been AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell. Still, Berger says that he

most appreciates having created a firm with attorneys who genuinely want to see people receive a fair and equitable result. "The lawyers here really care," he says. "It is a client-first environment and always has been."

Partners, left to right: Marcelle R. Kott, Norman Ruber, Sharon S. Mobley, Mary J. Clark, Jason G. Adess, Michael S. Sabath, Barry A. Schatz, David P. Kirsh, Michael J. Berger, Leon I. Finkel, David H. Levy, Dina Warner, Andrew D. Eichner, Karen Rose Krehbiel, Myra A. Foutris, Claudia Gallo, Brian J. Blitz, Zora Ristanovic, and Debbie K. Lerner.  
Not pictured: Tracey A. Wertman.

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Standing From Left: Timothy M. Daw, Meighan A. Harmon, Mario R. Ventrelli, Claire R. McKenzie, Burton S. Hochberg, Donald C. Schiller, Carlton R. Marcyan, Karen Pinkert-Lieb, James R. Galvin, Eric L. Schulman, Sarane C. Siewerth, David H. Hopkins, Tanya J. Stanish. Seated From Left: Arnold B. Stein, Charles J. Fleck. Not pictured: Anita M. Ventrelli

**S**CHILLER DUCANTO & FLECK LLP IS THE largest matrimonial law firm in the country with a history of working on a number of precedent-setting cases in the divorce arena.

**"WE SET HIGH STANDARDS AND ALWAYS STRIVE** for excellence," says founding partner Donald C. Schiller. "Our niche is in the more complicated, upper-bracket cases, and we have remained very selective in deciding which cases to take on."

**THE FIRM REPRESENTS HIGH-INCOME CLIENTS** from the areas of business, sports, media, real estate and medicine. Though the firm practices in Illinois, it has achieved national recognition and its attorneys have been brought in to either handle or consult on cases from other states. With 43 lawyers, the firm has a variety of talent that can add value almost anywhere on cases involving complicated business or asset situations and substantial tax impacts. Over the years four chief judges from the Domestic Relations Divisions of Circuit Courts in the metropolitan area have chosen to become partners in the firm.

**"WE HAVE ALWAYS HANDLED OUR CASES WITH A TEAM** approach where we apply the best talents and skill sets to different functions within a case," Schiller says. "If you have a case where there are custody issues in addition to financial issues, you may have a lawyer on the case that is

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focusing more on the custody side, while a different lawyer deals with the financial aspect.

**SCHILLER FOUNDED THE FIRM 30 YEARS AGO** with Joseph N. DuCanto after reforms in legislation affecting family law prompted ideas about how a family law practice should be conducted. They decided to apply the techniques and skills used by larger firms to a boutique family law firm and their practice quickly grew. Within two years of its founding, the then chief presiding judge of the Domestic Relations Division of the Cook County Circuit Court, Charles J. Fleck, left the bench to join the firm, making it Schiller DuCanto & Fleck.

**SCHILLER ATTRIBUTES THE FIRM'S SUCCESS TO ITS** stability and the heavy investment it places in training its attorneys, which includes establishing in-house continuing legal education and mentoring programs. The firm's attorneys have received a wealth of recognition from publications such as *The Best Lawyers in America*®, *Illinois Super Lawyers*, *The Leading Lawyers Network*, *Martindale Hubbell Bar Register of Pre-Eminent Lawyers* and *Law Dragon Top 500*. The firm has also received a

number of awards for its pro bono work and is known for having been a pioneer in alternative dispute resolution. DePaul University has further named its family law center after the firm, in recognition of its continuing contributions to the legal community.

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**C**HRISTOPHER J. RENK, A SENIOR PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDER for the national intellectual property law firm of Banner & Witcoff, Ltd., views the law as a tool for achieving his clients' business objectives. "Too often in the legal profession, lawyers look at the litigation process as a sport for their enjoyment rather than as a tool to get results for their clients. I think it's very important that you listen to your clients and understand what they want from a given piece of litigation."

**CHRIS FOCUSES HIS PRACTICE ON LITIGATING PATENT, TRADEMARK,** copyright, trade secret, false advertising, and unfair competition cases. His interest in intellectual property law—which stems from his background as an engineer—was the reason he joined Banner & Witcoff, Ltd. in 1988. Since then he has successfully represented both plaintiffs and defendants as lead and co-counsel in jury trials, bench trials, and appeals. Chris attributes the fact that he has been with the firm for over two decades to its "collegial environment, interesting cases, and client-first attitude."

**HIS CASES HAVE INVOLVED DIVERSE SUBJECTS SUCH AS COMPUTER** software, product designs, electrical controls, internet content delivery, medical and surgical devices, heat transfer, distilled spirits, contact lenses, fuel injection systems, athletic footwear, golf clubs, and textiles processing. Chris emphasizes that every case requires unique solutions, and says that "to

get results for your clients as efficiently and effectively as possible, you need to have multiple tools in your tool bag."

**A STRONG COMMITMENT TO FULLY UNDERSTANDING HIS CLIENTS'** objectives has allowed Chris to achieve significant recognition in his field. He was selected for inclusion in the 2010 and 2011 editions of *The Best Lawyers in America*® and has been named to the *Leading Lawyers Network* annually since 2004. He was also included in *Illinois Super Lawyers* from 2005 to 2011, and was selected to their Top 100 list in 2005, 2009, 2010, and 2011.

**IN ADDITION TO HIS LITIGATION PRACTICE, CHRIS IS A FREQUENT** lecturer on various intellectual property issues and a contributing author of the *Patent Trial Advocacy Casebook* (2nd ed.), ABA, 2010, *Patent Litigation*, PLI, 2001, and *Patent Litigation Strategies Handbook*, BNA, 2000. He serves on The Sedona Conference Working Group on Patent Damages and Remedies. For the past 11 years he has served as an Adjunct Professor of Law at the Georgetown University Law Center teaching trial practice courses, and is currently teaching Patent Litigation II: Trial Simulation at Northwestern University Law School. "It's important to help students understand how the real world works," he says. "In return, they help you think about issues in ways that you might have closed your mind to."



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# DON SCHILLER OF SCHILLER DUCANTO & FLECK LLP

*On How the Firm Became a Chicago Family Law Powerhouse*

Originally intending to work as a personal injury trial lawyer after graduating from law school nearly 45 years ago, Don Schiller began work in his father's general practice law office, where he got his first taste of a few divorce trials. At the time, divorce attorneys typically worked as solo practitioners or merely shared office space with a couple of other attorneys. Schiller found that each attorney's cases were being siloed from the expertise of his or her colleagues, and saw a prime opportunity to reshape the practice into an entity of itself.

After striking out on his own and gaining some acclaim for his litigation ability, he merged with fellow attorney Joseph DuCanto, with the intention of forming a boutique high-asset divorce firm that operated like a large firm. "It was unusual for divorce lawyers to have financial skills back then. With both of us bringing business backgrounds to the practice, as well as my experience with litigation and Joe's experience with tax planning and settlements, we created a synergy that people liked, and we grew."

Soon after the merger, Charles Fleck, the chief presiding judge of the Domestic Relations Division of the Cook County Circuit Court and a former state legislator, left the bench and joined the firm as a new partner. With this addition, the attorneys became more and more involved in divorce reform and legislation. They saw the passage of no-fault grounds for divorce in Illinois, as well as other statutory reforms, and had been very active in what became the Illinois Marriage and Dissolution of Marriage Act.

As their reputation grew, so did their ranks, ranging from new associates and clerks to several former chief circuit court judges from nearby counties as well as Cook. According to Schiller, "It was quite an honor to have people of that caliber join us, and that kind of thing only endorsed our competence." Schiller himself began to take on increasingly high-profile, as well as high net-worth cases, finding a particular talent for representing professional athletes and their wives, and eventually becoming President of the Illinois State Bar Association from 1987-1988.

Now, Schiller DuCanto & Fleck LLP is the largest law firm in the country focusing exclusively on family

law, featuring 43 attorneys across three offices in Lake, DuPage, and Cook Counties. However hesitantly the firm grew, the founders are grateful that its size has enabled it to develop internal focuses, including the distinguished appellate department, which handles precedent-setting appeals for attorneys inside and outside of the firm. "We never really grew for the sake of growing. We didn't hire lawyers hoping cases would come. We grew reluctantly, as needed, and we started practicing more and more in the suburban courts, and now our additional offices are flourishing," he says.

Whereas two men originally sought to change the outward face of the family law practice, now they—and others at the firm—seek to change the formation of the practice itself. The firm's unique law clerk program employs law students after their first year of law school, providing them with part-time work, summer jobs, and a prime spot in the firm's seemingly perpetual hiring line; in return, the firm ends up with high retention rates and loyal members, some of whom have reached the level of senior partner. "By hiring primarily from within the law clerk program, the students really see what they're getting themselves into in a divorce practice, and we have the benefit of seeing the quality of their work so we can make fewer hiring mistakes," says Schiller.

A further watermark has been left on the legal culture of Illinois' young lawyers through the firm's support of DePaul University's family law center, the largest of its kind in the nation. Following Mr. Schiller and his colleagues' consultations and advice during the center's creation, it was named the Schiller DuCanto & Fleck Family Law Center. "We made a major commitment to them, and they made a major commitment to us in renaming it. We're very proud that a university like DePaul College of Law would feel comfortable bearing our name."



Standing From Left: The lawyers with the firm from the beginning, Arnold B. Stein, Charles J. Fleck, Joseph N. DuCanto  
Seated: Donald C. Schiller

**“WE NEVER  
REALLY  
GREW  
FOR THE SAKE  
OF GROWING.”**

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# BRUCE MECKLER OF MECKLER BULGER TILSON MARICK & PEARSON LLP

*Selected as One of Chicago's Best Lawyers by His Peers*

**A** trial lawyer by trade, handling high profile, complex litigation and defense, Bruce Meckler is perhaps best known for his work on legal audit cases, where he has assumed a role as one of the country's foremost legal audit attorneys and testifying experts.

Mr. Meckler discovered his unique bailiwick in the mid 1980s, when he got involved in the civil/criminal prosecution of a group of lawyers accused of fraud. When the lawyers were convicted, he was asked to help audit and eventually litigate over the massive attorneys' fees incurred. The moment his feet were wet, more cases followed, and a legal auditing practice had suddenly blossomed. "It's something that is important, with clients being asked to pay the kind of fees they are being asked to pay," he says.

Now, with the help of a team of nearly twenty attorneys, clerks, and support staff, Mr. Meckler has conducted or supervised more than 150 legal bill review audits involving over \$2 billion in legal fees, including his work in the recent 'Bratz Dolls' litigation, which looked at more than \$140 million of attorneys' fees. A truly neutral player, he works on both sides of the fence, and has testified numerous times in support of fees. "The need for quality lawyers that are not afraid to handle large attorneys' fees disputes is really great," he says.

Mr. Meckler was recently named to *Crain's Chicago Business* 2010 list of "Who's Who in Chicago Business", and is in the midst of a four-year term as a member of Illinois' nine-member Judicial Inquiry Board. The firm he co-chairs, Meckler Bulger Tilson Marick & Pearson, opened a new office in San Francisco in April.

INSURANCE LAW, LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW, PROFESSIONAL MALPRACTICE LAW

## MECKLER BULGER TILSON MARICK & PEARSON, LLP

**M**eckler Bulger Tilson Marick & Pearson LLP (MBT) is one of the nation's leading litigation firms with 100 attorneys practicing in Chicago, Dallas, Phoenix and San Francisco. The firm focuses in the areas of labor and employment, insurance and legal audit, as well as general litigation, professional liability and white-collar crime. MBT has achieved both national and Midwest tier 1 rankings from *U.S. News & World Report* for its insurance and employment law practices, and its legal audit group is the largest in the nation.

The firm represents an impressive roster of Fortune 100 companies, some of the world's largest insurance carriers and several prestigious universities. Fueled by continuous client demand, the firm recently expanded into the San Francisco market. "It's been very rewarding to watch our firm grow. By strategically augmenting our core group of lawyers, we've had great success in attracting new business as well as maintaining the majority of our clients who helped us open our doors in 1994," says Co-Chair Bruce Meckler.

Meckler has been selected for inclusion in the 2011 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*®, along with five other MBT partners: Brian Bulger, Mike Marick, Scott Seaman and Joe Tilson from the Chicago office and Bob Allen from the Dallas office. Meckler was also named to *Crain's Chicago Business* 2010 list of *Who's Who in Chicago Business* and he currently serves on Illinois' Judicial Inquiry Board and on The John Marshall Law School Board of Trustees.

Co-Chair Joe Tilson was recently selected as Chicago's "Lawyer of the Year" for labor and employment law by *Best Lawyers* and as one of the nation's "Most Powerful Employment Lawyers" by *Lawdragon*. Currently he serves on the American Bar Association's Council, the governing body of the ABA's Labor and Employment Law Section. "We've been able to grow and prosper in these challenging economic times because we are a mid-sized firm that offers large firm sophistication at much more affordable rates than our competitors," Tilson says.



Bruce R. Meckler



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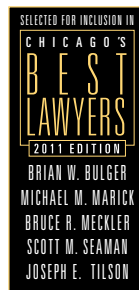
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For more than 35 years, Johnson & Bell, Ltd. has been one of the premier litigation firms in the Midwest. The trial experience of Johnson & Bell attorneys is wide-ranging and the firm's practice areas include business litigation, catastrophic injury, commercial transactions, construction, employment law claims, insurance, medical malpractice, municipality, product liability, professional liability, retail, toxic tort, and transportation.

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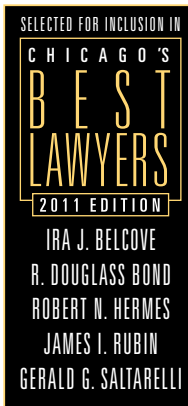
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Standing from left: Julie Rodríguez Aldort, David Winters, Randi Ellias, James A. Morsch, Karen M. Borg, Joseph P. Noonan, III, Mark A. Schwartz, Louis J. Aurichio, Andrew D. Shapiro, Kevin J. O'Brien, Jason S. Dubner, Michael A. Stick, Teresa Snider, Albert E. Fowerbaugh, Jr., Cheryl Tama Oblander. Seated from Left: Ira J. Belcove, Robert N. Hermes, James I. Rubin, Gerald G. Saltarelli, R. Douglass Bond. Not Pictured: Michael R. Hassan, Catherine E. Isely, Amy B. Kelley.

**S**INCE ITS FOUNDING IN 1980, BUTLER RUBIN Saltarelli & Boyd has remained focused on its core values—quality, fairness, trust and commitment. The needs of clients serve as the guiding force in an environment that promotes teamwork and true collaboration. The firm has built a national reputation for its work in the areas of reinsurance and complex business disputes, including antitrust, competition law and opt-out antitrust litigation, class actions, defense of corporate directors and officers, mortgage insurance, credit insurance and insolvency matters.



Rubin is a talented colleague who strives to achieve the best results for our clients," says partner Robert N. Hermes. "Practicing law at Butler Rubin provides each of us the distinct privilege to serve as trial counsel for sophisticated clients facing complex legal challenges."

**BUTLER RUBIN REPRESENTS OLD REPUBLIC INSURANCE**

Company and Republic Mortgage Insurance Company in a number of lawsuits and arbitrations around the country against banks in disputes concerning credit insurance and mortgage insurance. The firm also represents Liberty Mutual in a seminal case pitting the worker's compensation industry against AIG.

**"WE BEGAN OUR FIRST REINSURANCE MATTER MORE THAN 30 YEARS** ago and that single case developed into a complex, multi-faceted practice," says partner James I. Rubin. "Today, our reinsurance practice includes 12 partners, 10 associates and a significant number of paraprofessional staff."

**AT THE SAME TIME, THE FIRM BEGAN TO GROW ITS COMPLEX** litigation practice, strategically adding areas of service through the years to meet client needs. "The ability to have diversity in our practice is personally fulfilling for all of us, but more importantly it makes us better lawyers for our clients," explains partner Gerald Saltarelli.

**AT BUTLER RUBIN'S INCEPTION, A GROUP OF PARTNERS FROM ONE** of the nation's largest law firms set out to establish a more specialized and client-focused law firm. "Every lawyer at Butler

**WITH ITS 35 TALENTED ATTORNEYS AND EXTRAORDINARY CLIENT** service, Butler Rubin has achieved significant recognition in the legal industry. In BTI Consulting Group's 10th annual report, *The Survey of Client Service Performance for Law Firms: The BTI Client Service A-Team 2011*, the firm scored among the highest-rated law firms for its superior client service. In 2010, the firm was selected as the number one Illinois law firm for reinsurance matters for the fifth consecutive year by *Chambers USA*. Butler Rubin was also named among the "Best Law Firms" in the country by *U.S. News & World Report* in 2010. The strong partnership between the firm's lawyers and their clients is the key to Butler Rubin's success.



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**R**INELLA & RINELLA, LTD. IS ONE OF THE oldest family law practices in the country. Founded in 1932 by Samuel and Kathryn Rinella, this boutique divorce firm has an established reputation as a leader in the field of divorce litigation. When the Rinellas' son, Bernard B. Rinella, joined the firm in 1961, he made sure to continue the firm's tradition of superior client service, while bringing to bear his own extensive knowledge and experience.

**"I LEARNED DIVORCE LAW AT THE DINNER TABLE,"**

Rinella says. "I always knew I would go into family law, so I dual majored at the University of Michigan in psychology and political science and then went to DePaul Law School for my JD. This is now my 50th year practicing and I still enjoy the opportunity to take on different situations every day."

**RINELLA & RINELLA, LTD. HANDLES A MULTITUDE OF**

cases for clients who range from captains of industry and sports stars, to small-business owners, professionals and homemakers. The firm's attorneys practice in all areas of matrimonial law—including divorce, prenuptial and postnuptial agreements, judgment enforcement, custody and support actions, domestic violence, and parentage actions—and some have tried cases before the Illinois Supreme Court.

**THE FIRM HAS SUCCESSFULLY DEALT WITH MANY**

unique situations, including negotiating child support awards in high-wealth cases, valuation and division of complex estates, and invalidating prenuptial agreements. Its various achievements have attracted a number of notable clients, including members of such prominent families as Wrigley, Walgreens, SC Johnson and Pritzker. "We have the skill and the knowledge to give our clients an accurate assessment of what's involved in the evaluation of a closely held corporation or business," Rinella says, "We also have sources who are some of the best expert witnesses in the business."

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*The Best Lawyers in America*® annually since the publication's inception, and he has achieved an AV-rating from Martindale-Hubbell. In 1998, *Town & Country Magazine* named him one of America's top ten divorce lawyers, and in 2004 he was selected as "Fellow of the Year" by the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. Rinella has also presided as president or chairman over a number of prestigious professional associations.

**STILL, RINELLA SAYS THE FOREMOST BENEFIT OF**

practicing family law is being able to help people. In that regard he has established scholarships at DePaul University, the University of Michigan and the National Outdoor Leadership School. He is also President of the McGraw Foundation, which awards money to various charities, acts as Chairman of the Board for the Allendale School for Boys and Girls, and is the founder of the Bernard B. Rinella, Jr. Learning Center at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

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# 2011 LAWYERS OF THE YEAR

BEST LAWYERS HAS NAMED INDIVIDUALS AS LAWYERS OF THE YEAR IN CHICAGO, BASED ON THEIR PARTICULARLY HIGH LEVEL OF PEER RECOGNITION.

## Thomas Demetrio Corboy & Demetrio MEDICAL MALPRACTICE LAW

When tort reform hit Illinois in the mid-1980s, Thomas A. Demetrio was nothing but an active supporter and participant. With a greater burden of proof falling to the plaintiff, the number of lawsuits filed was drastically reduced, and the system was cleared for only the most serious cases that could show deviation from the standard of care. These are the cases that Mr. Demetrio fought to ensure reached the courtroom and are the only cases that he and his firm take on to this day, rejecting the majority of medical malpractice cases that come through the door.

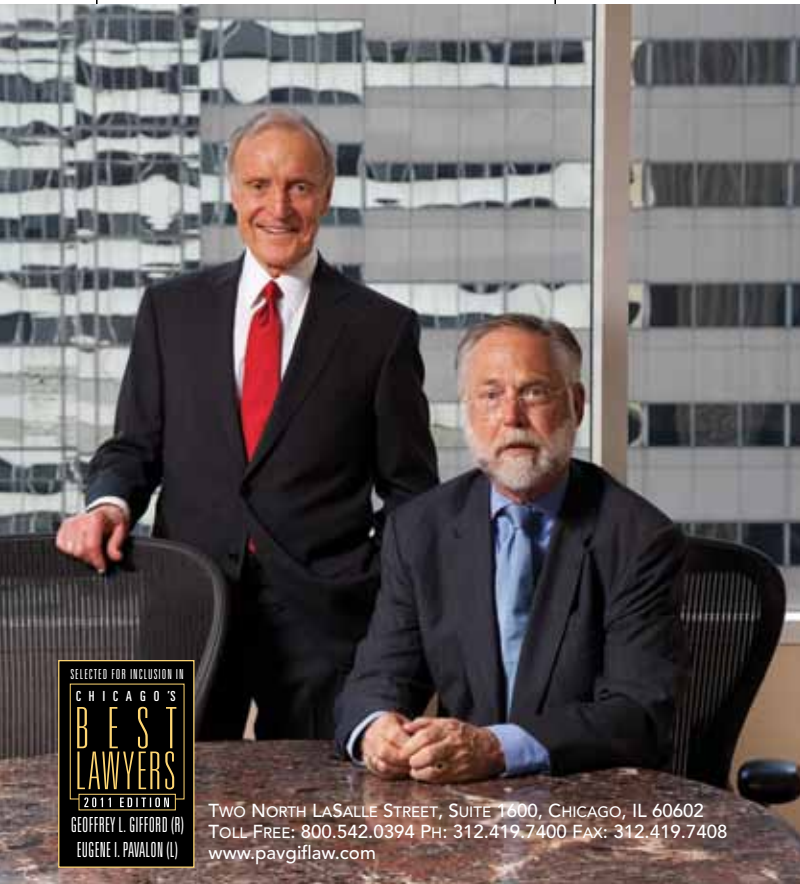


Now, nearly forty years into his practice, Mr. Demetrio has achieved the success that follows such careful selectivity, including the largest wrongful death settlement in Illinois (\$25.25 million), and the largest personal injury verdict ever upheld by the Illinois Supreme Court. His credibility within the industry reflects the respect he has for opponents, judges, and defendants themselves, especially in a state in which insurance companies are typically reluctant to settle, and where 80% of all medical malpractice cases determined by a jury are in favor of the health care provider. "We have a very good trial bar in Illinois, Cook County specifically. It's hard to get away with a specific view or legal argument, or to manipulate facts. Everything is done on a very professional level, and it's really a pleasure to practice here," he says.

Mr. Demetrio is a past President of the Chicago Bar Association and the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, and is a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers, the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, and the Inner Circle of Advocates.

## THE CHICAGO'S LAWYERS OF THE YEAR

- Admiralty & Maritime Lawyer of the Year:  
Warren J. Marwedel
- Antitrust Lawyer of the Year:  
Nathan P. Eimer
- Appellate Practice Lawyer of the Year:  
Hugh C. Griffin
- Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and  
Reorganization Lawyer of the Year:  
Francis X. Buckley, Jr.
- Bet-the-Company Litigator of the Year:  
Stephen R. Patton
- Collaborative Law: Family Lawyer of the Year:  
Carlton R. Marcyan
- Construction Lawyer of the Year:  
Ross J. Altman
- Corporate Governance and Compliance  
Lawyer of the Year:  
Charles W. Mulaney, Jr.
- Corporate Lawyer of the Year:  
Herbert S. Wander
- Non-White-Collar Criminal Defense  
Lawyer of the Year:  
Michael D. Monaco
- White-Collar Criminal Defense Lawyer of the Year:  
Charles B. Sklarsky
- Employee Benefits (ERISA) Lawyer of the Year:  
Herbert W. Krueger
- Environmental Lawyer of the Year:  
E. Lynn Grayson
- Family Lawyer of the Year:  
Charles J. Fleck
- Franchise Lawyer of the Year:  
Dennis E. Wiczorek
- Health Care Lawyer of the Year:  
Jack R. Bierig
- Information Technology Lawyer of the Year:  
Thomas J. Smedinghoff
- Intellectual Property Lawyer of the Year:  
Roy E. Hofer
- Labor and Employment Lawyer of the Year:  
Joseph E. Tilson
- Legal Malpractice Lawyer of the Year:  
James R. Figliulo
- Mass Tort Litigator of the Year:  
Todd A. Smith
- Medical Malpractice Lawyer of the Year:  
Thomas A. Demetrio
- Mergers & Acquisitions Lawyer of the Year:  
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- Product Liability Litigator of the Year:  
Bruce R. Pfaff
- Real Estate Lawyer of the Year:  
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Recognized for their contributions in and out of the courtroom, for 30 years, the lawyers of Pavalon & Gifford have focused their practice on personal injury and wrongful death cases involving medical malpractice, car and truck accidents, commercial and general aviation accidents, product and premises liability, nursing home neglect and complex commercial litigation.

Intensely client-focused, the firm devotes significant time to in-person meetings with clients to learn the nuances of the case and keep clients informed of its progress. Pavalon & Gifford lawyers have been involved in many landmark cases that have not only yielded multi-million dollar verdicts and settlements for the firm's clients but affect positive change as well, deterring future conduct that may cause similar injuries. Pleased with the compensation secured for injured clients, founding partners Eugene Pavalon and Geoffrey Gifford are most proud of the deterrence factor, which they consider "the greatest benefit to society."

The firm's founders have long served in leadership roles in several major professional organizations and been honored for their litigation prowess. Both Pavalon and Gifford have served as past president of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association and are members of the American College of Trial Lawyers and the International Society of Barristers. Gifford is the immediate past president of the Illinois Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates and has been consistently selected for inclusion in the Top 100 Illinois *Super Lawyers*. Pavalon is an elected member of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers and received the lifetime achievement award from the Association of Trial Lawyers of America (now the AAJ), of which he is a former president, and has been elected to The Inner Circle of Advocates, a membership organization limited to the top 100 plaintiffs lawyers in the country. Both Mr. Pavalon and Mr. Gifford have received the Leonard M. Ring Lifetime Achievement Award from the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association.

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The attorneys at Laner Muchin are highly experienced problem-solvers. Founded in 1945, the firm is one of the oldest and largest law firms in the country dedicated exclusively to the representation of employers in the areas of labor and employment law, employment litigation, business immigration and employee benefits.

"The firm prides itself on staffing cases very efficiently and really being bottom line sensitive," says Managing Partner, Joe Gagliardo. "We are relationship builders who understand how we fit into our clients' bigger picture, and we work continuously to promote their goals. We seek to resolve our client's problems, not make a living off them."

According to firm President, Carl Tominberg, the firm's creativity and pragmatism has helped it secure many high-profile clients such as the Trump Organization, the State of Illinois, the Chicago Bulls, the Chicago White Sox and Harpo Productions. Approximately, one-third of the firm's work results from retainer relationships with clients where the firm is under an extended agreement to provide ongoing services. Many of the firm's clients have been with the firm for 30 years or more.

A key to the firm's client loyalty has been its dedication to client service as exemplified by its unique Two Hour Commitment whereby the firm guarantees that every client phone call will be returned within two hours or less. "This type of institutional commitment is unheard of in the legal profession," says Joe Yastrow, the firm's Chief Marketing Officer, "No other firm we have encountered has ever attempted to duplicate it."

The firm's emphasis on unparalleled service has led to recognition for many of its attorneys in publications such as *The Leading Lawyers Network*, *Super Lawyers* and *Chambers and Partners*. In addition, Tominberg, Yastrow and Gagliardo, have been selected for inclusion in multiple editions of *The Best Lawyers in America®*, including the 2011 edition.



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As one of a select group of lawyers voted into Best Lawyers for two decades, Craig Tobin is recognized as one of the best trial lawyers in the United States. He represents clients in high-profile and often highly publicized criminal and civil matters. For more than 25 years, Tobin and his partners have recovered or protected hundreds of millions of dollars in clients' funds and assets. When Mr. Tobin left the elite Homicide Task Force at the Cook County Public Defender's Office in the early 1980s, he formed what is now the nationally recognized Chicago and Washington, DC—based trial law firm boutique Tobin & Muñoz ([www.barristers.com](http://www.barristers.com)). He was joined by former criminal court Judge, The

Honorable Robert J. Collins, whom *The Chicago Tribune* called 'the standard by which all other judges should be measured'. Former First Assistant Secretary of the United States Treasury (Clinton Administration) George Muñoz joined the firm soon after, leading the firm's national and international business practice. Muñoz is also a past-President of the United States Government's Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

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Pete Flowers concentrates his practice in the representation of people catastrophically injured by medical malpractice, defective medical devices/drugs, and automobile/truck crashes.

Over his career, Pete has recovered millions of dollars for his clients through trials and settlements. He's an Illinois Super Lawyer in the area of medical malpractice, a Leading Lawyer in Illinois, a member of both the Million Dollar Advocate Forum for resolving many cases in excess of \$1 million, and the Verdict Club. Pete belongs to many legal organizations including Illinois Trial Lawyers Association (President 2009-2010), AAJ, and Illinois State Bar Association (currently on Bar Foundation Board). Pete is admitted to practice in Illinois, numerous other states (including Massachusetts, Florida, and Pennsylvania) and many Federal courts.

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# KEVIN M. FORDE



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Kevin Forde's practice is limited to select litigation and appeals. In addition to his consistent listing in *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Kevin has been rated among Illinois Super Lawyers

(including two years in the top ten). His clients include individuals, major corporations and leading Chicago law firms. He is counsel to the Federal Judges Association and has represented the FJA in a number of courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court. He successfully argued in the U.S. Supreme Court for a group of federal judges who won a constitutional claim to cost-of-living adjustments, resulting in back pay awards of over \$10 million. He also successfully argued a similar case for Illinois judges. Most recently, he represented Chicago's new Mayor and former White House Chief-of-Staff Rahm Emmanuel, when his residency and right to seek the Office was challenged. The case was decided by the Illinois Supreme Court. Kevin is a past-President of the Chicago Bar Association and Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

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# WILLIAM A. LOWRY



## WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAW

William A. Lowry is a Shareholder and Managing Partner of Nyhan, Bambrick, Kinzie & Lowry, PC, a Chicago law firm with 32 attorneys. Bill was admitted to the bar in Illinois and U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois, in 1988. His areas of specialty are trial and appellate practice in Workers' Compensation and Employer Liability Law. He has authored "The Expansion of the Accidental Injury Concept in Repetitive Trauma Cases" *ISIA Bulletin* (January, 1989) and "Mental-to-Mental Stress Claims in *Illinois Bar Journal* (April, 1992) and has lectured at many seminars. He is on the Board of Trustees at Lake Forest College, Chicago Children's Museum and The Ancona School. He received his B.A. degree from Lake Forest College in 1984 and his J.D. degree from Loyola University of Chicago in 1987. Since then, he has joined the Board of Governors for Loyola School of Law Chicago.

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Brian J. McManus & Associates Ltd handles exclusively all serious work related accidents as well as serious injuries which occur outside the work-place. Brian J. McManus has handled numerous multimillion dollar personal injury claims which were tried to

verdict as well as numerous other cases which were resolved at various other stages of the litigation process. In addition, he has made numerous significant contributions to the development of personal injury law in the State of Illinois with celebrated Supreme Court and Appellate Court decisions. Mr. McManus has dedicated the majority of his work life to protecting the rights of the victims of all forms of negligence and remains determined to make sure the scales of Justice remain fair for all at this time in history when the pressure from Corporate America and the insurance industry to cancel the injured's right to civil justice is at its greatest height.

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# ARNOLD G. RUBIN



## WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAW

Arnold G. Rubin concentrates his practice in the area of workers' compensation law. Significant appellate court cases include *Forest City Steel Erectors v. Industrial Commission* and *Lakeside Architectural Metals v. Industrial Commission*. His member-

ships include CBA, ISBA, ITLA, WCLA, and ATLA. He has authored various articles for the Illinois Bar Journal and the Illinois Trial Lawyers Journal. He has lectured for the CBA, ISBA, ITLA, and IICLE. Mr. Rubin has been included in *The Best Lawyers in America*® since 1995. He is recognized as AV-rated in the 2011 Edition of *Martindale-Hubbell Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers*. Mr. Rubin was also named as the #1 Workers' Compensation Lawyer in Illinois for 2010 and 2011 based upon the surveys conducted by the Leading Lawyers Network.

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# MICHAEL F. TURANSICK



## IMMIGRATION LAW

Michael is the Managing Partner of the Chicago office of Fragomen, the world's leading corporate immigration firm. He has been practicing in the field of immigration and nationality law for over 25 years. Michael manages a diverse practice that it is com-

prised of individual, start-up, mid size, and large multinational companies encompassing a broad range of industry sectors, including automotive, consulting, manufacturing, finance, pharmaceutical, technology, telecommunications, professional services and consumer products. His work on behalf of clients includes advising on: PERM compliance strategies; the immigration consequences of Mergers & Acquisitions; Form I-9 and H-1B/LCA compliance; and strategic immigration program management. Awards: Listed in *The International Who's Who of Corporate Immigration Lawyers* and *Best Lawyers*®.

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FAMILY LAW

# KATZ & STEFANI, LLC

**K**ATZ & STEFANI, LLC IS A FAMILY LAW FIRM COMMITTED TO EFFICIENTLY HELPING CLIENTS resolve emotional family issues in a calm and dignified manner. Recognizing that divorce is "a very personal business," the firm's lawyers limit their case load, allowing them to give clients significant personal attention. "You need to be comfortable with your divorce lawyer and you need to know you can get in touch with him or her," explains founding partner Daniel R. Stefani. Combining their total of 37 years working in family law at some of the largest firms in Illinois, Stefani joined P. André Katz to form Katz & Stefani in 2008. Serving high profile and high net worth individuals in premarital and divorce matters, the firm's lawyers are particularly attentive to maintaining the privacy of these individuals. Its partners' strong business, financial, tax and accounting backgrounds provide a valuable resource for understanding the complexities of business valuations, employee benefits, retirement planning and other financial issues that arise in divorces involving high net worth individuals.

**ALTHOUGH SKILLED AND EXPERIENCED LITIGATORS, KATZ & STEFANI'S FOUNDERS BELIEVE THAT NOT** every case needs to be litigated. The firm's lawyers strive to resolve cases "in the conference room rather than the courtroom," utilizing alternative dispute resolution methods. Katz & Stefani lawyers are experienced in navigating the complicated waters of interstate and international custody disputes implicating the laws of multiple jurisdictions, the Hague Convention and the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Enforcement Act. Sensitive to issues of parental alienation, the firm works with mental health professionals to identify and address the issue as soon as possible. Katz & Stefani lawyers are also adept at negotiating and crafting both premarital and postnuptial agreements. The firm's 11-attorney roster includes a former public defender, partner David Ainley, and an experienced appellate attorney, partner Amanda Clayman, and an experienced litigator in high stakes divorces, partner Jacqueline Torshen. The firm is also proud to announce that Shawn Beresson has become a partner with the firm. Shawn has extensive experience in complex litigation relating to family and custody issues in divorce matters.

**BOTH KATZ AND STEFANI TAKE A LEADERSHIP ROLE WITHIN THEIR SPECIALTY, LECTURING AND PUBLISHING** frequently on the topic of family law. Stefani writes a regular column on family law for *Chicago Lawyer*® and Illinois House Speaker, Michael J. Madigan, has appointed Katz as Chairman of the Family Law Study Committee, tasked with rewriting the Illinois Divorce Statute which has now been submitted to Springfield.

P. André Katz  
and Daniel R. Stefani

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Standing From Left: Thomas M. Power, Sean M. Houlihan, Carolyn Daley Scott, Brian LaCien, Devon C. Bruce, Larry R. Rogers, Jr., Joseph W. Balesteri. Seated From Left: Thomas G. Siracusa, Joseph A. Power, Jr., Larry R. Rogers, Sr., Todd A. Smith

**P**OWER ROGERS & SMITH HAS A LONG HISTORY OF achieving record-setting verdicts and settlements in medical malpractice, wrongful death and personal injury cases. In the last three years, the firm has secured \$300 million in settlements and verdicts for its clients. In 25 years of practice, the firm's lawyers have handled cases involving construction and motor vehicle accidents, aviation and train accidents, brain injuries, medical malpractice, birth injuries, drug and product liability cases.

**THE FIRM'S 11 LAWYERS DO NOT SHY AWAY FROM THE MOST** difficult cases and are comfortable in the spotlight, having managed many high profile cases receiving local and national media attention. Among their many honors and awards Joseph A. Power, Jr., Larry R. Rogers, Sr. and Todd A. Smith were selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for 2010 and Power was also selected as the top personal injury and consumer lawyer in Best Lawyers. Power and Smith were both invited to join the Inner Circle of Advocates, whose membership is limited to the 100 best trial lawyers in the United States. Rogers was named one of the top 10 litigators in the nation for 1999 by *The National Law Journal*.

**THE FIRM'S COMMITMENT TO REPRESENTING CLIENTS FACING** serious and even catastrophic injuries is matched by a dedication to serving the legal profession as well. The firm's partners have served in leadership roles for both local and national professional organizations such as the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, the

Illinois Bar Association and the Association of Trial Lawyers of America.

**POWER ROGERS & SMITH'S SUCCESSES ARE NOTEWORTHY NOT ONLY** for the record-setting compensation obtained for clients in jury verdicts and settlements but also for the breadth of legal issues and injuries implicated. The firm's notable verdicts and settlements include:

- ▶ \$100 million settlement for a trucking case involving the deaths of six children
- ▶ \$55.4 million jury verdict in a medical malpractice brain injury case
- ▶ \$40 million settlement in trucking case
- ▶ \$20 million settlement for a 19-year old surgery patient suffering an air embolism and brain injury
- ▶ \$7.5 million jury verdict in case involving lack of informed consent
- ▶ \$18 million settlement in birth injury case
- ▶ \$7 million awarded in a defamation case
- ▶ \$11.5 million settlement in aviation-related case
- ▶ \$27 million jury verdict in product liability case
- ▶ \$18.5 million jury verdict for failure to diagnose a medical problem
- ▶ \$10.6 million settlement of psychiatric malpractice case

## POWER ROGERS & SMITH PC

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