WASHINGTON DC'S
BEST LAWYERS®
2009 EDITION

GLENN LEWIS
BATTLING FOR MARITAL ASSETS

HOW DC AREA FIRMS GIVE BACK

THE FIGHT TO IMPROVE EMERGENCY SERVICES

LAWYERS OF THE YEAR

A SPECIAL ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT TO THE WASHINGTON POST
Not so long ago after teaching a seminar on family law, Glenn Lewis greeted a young participant wishing to share an observation drawn from recent periodicals promoting leading DC, Virginia and Maryland matrimonial lawyers. When describing a recent high profile or otherwise significant case, no less than six “top” lawyers had selected a case where Glenn Lewis was the opposing lawyer. Mr. Lewis thanked him for sharing the factoid and then paused to consider: Through a storied career with many hundreds of cases remaining quite memorable by any standard, this seemed to put his body of work into a new frame: what other attorneys consider the highlight of their year or even career, Mr. Lewis considers another day’s work.

Once again and more than ever, this anecdote merely underscores the obvious: The Lewis Law Firm is the go-to divorce and family law firm for the national capital area. The firm is first stop for high-net-worth and complex divorce needs; for matters of challenging and mind-bending complexities; or highly sensitive issues regarding child custody; paternity; property distribution or just begging for creative, caring solutions and passionate attention. Ever true, this is amply evidenced today by Mr. Lewis’ current representation of Washington D.C.’s top athlete; its’ favorite local TV news anchorman; one Presidential hopeful; several network and cable White House correspondents; national journalists for Time and Newsweek and those from virtually every section of The Washington Post and beyond. As in the past, more judges and divorce lawyers seek firm representation; indeed, the firm is so often approached

“In every case, the more you look, the more there is to see.”
by both spouses in high end or high profile marriages or relationships, they constantly work to improve an already highly sophisticated system for early detection of conflicts of interest.

**True to their namesake’s regard** as top trial lawyer and one of the first two lawyers to see if a lawyer is divorcing, The Lewis Law Firm team is passionate in counseling clients, discerning and pursuing proper objectives and staying laser focused on mission. They foreswear common mistakes of trying to employ cookie cutter formulae or pigeonholing cases early on. “Our experience is that every case and family is truly unique and different. Always, the more you look, the more there is to see; the more you learn and know,” says Mr. Lewis. “Listen and ask; listen and ask . . . the process strongly promotes successful resolutions and client satisfaction.”

**The firm includes a gifted blend** of senior and young associates groomed in Mr. Lewis’ tough love fashion, plus 25-year paralegal Jackie Robinson and former BBC broadcaster and senior paralegal Kim Clarkson. Mr. Lewis describes Greg Nugent, his partner of ten years, as simply “the nicest guy and smartest trial lawyer I’ve ever known.” A former Chicago murder prosecutor and highly-respected DC area divorce practitioner, Mr. Nugent ably manages the firm’s DC and Maryland groups alongside Mr. Lewis, applying his special version of the Lewis brand with passion, compassion, strategic insight and excellence, in the courtroom and negotiation alike.

**Superlatives abound for rising star associates** Aaron Christoff, Nupur Bal, and Donte Bugg. This elite group already excels in completing complex missions with highly favorable results; where Mr. Lewis sees the right fit, they often bring it home themselves, against lawyers with bigger names and many more years in practice. Mr. Lewis parrots a current Presidential campaign when bragging about this trio, emphasizing how judgment, character, skill and dedication with fewer years of highly intense training and experience, can more than best a big reputation and years of experience.

**Lewis winds up describing his “boss,”** long-time administrative assistant Susie Burke. Calling her “our secret weapon,” he smiles, saying, “Susie keeps us all on track and the trains running on time! Everyone loves her, clients most of all.”

**In 2004, Mr. Lewis became the eighth and youngest recipient of the Virginia State Bar Family Law Section’s Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2006, he was honored with the Virginia Law Foundation’s Gardener G. DeMallie, Jr. Continuing Legal Education Award for “enhancing the profession with his commitment and achievement in legal education and his outstanding and unquestionable integrity, professionalism, achievement, contributions, and commitment to excellence in the law.”

**Early this year in Williamsburg,** Glenn Lewis was roasted on completing his term as President of the Virginia Bar Association. Braving a snowstorm to surprise Mr. Lewis, Fairfax Circuit Chief Judge Dennis Smith offered good natured ribbing and heartfelt words of appreciation to his long time colleague and friend. Similar remarks came from Fairfax Judge Terry Ney, himself a past VBA president who first suggested that Mr. Lewis offer himself for VBA leadership. Moved to reflect back over more than twenty years of his distinguished voluntary service as a bar leader, educator, television host and producer, writer, pro bono attorney, legal theorist and activist, Mr. Lewis smiled at his bride and life partner, Kimberly, who graciously reminded him of his promise, to finally take a break. He laughed and heartily agreed.

**Glenn Lewis relishes his current mission** to finally pare down outside activities. Now completing the VBA Board stint, he has also taken extended leave from teaching positions at George Mason Law School. Feeling reanimated, he is again fully immersed in what he loves best: law practice, clients and colleagues, full-time! One of few remaining outside “vices” is his current service on George Mason University’s Board of Visitors, at behest of Virginia Governor Tim Kaine.

**He also retains his prestigious perch** as a mediator with the highly respected McCammon Group. Yes, oh, Lewis still devotes a few days a year teaching lawyers about family law; trial and ethics issues, as just last week in a sold-out recent developments seminar, for his twentieth straight year.

Mr. Lewis was cited in *Washingtonian* magazine as the top trial attorney in Virginia, as selected by his peers; the same peers also named him as one of the top two divorce lawyers in the Washington Metropolitan Area that they would personally go to if they were getting a divorce. It’s no wonder he was featured as the region’s elite family law attorney in *Washington Business Journal’s “The Doyen of Divorce” piece.*
A Comprehensive Guide to the Area’s Top Attorneys

Washington DC’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 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 Incisive Media 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.

Whether you’re starting a business or selling one; getting married or getting divorced; patenting your invention; litigating a contract; or buying a home—there is a talented and highly competent attorney listed in here who can help.

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

**Methodology**

This list is excerpted from the 2009 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 78 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 2009 edition of Best Lawyers, which was published in November 2008, is based on more than 2.4 million evaluations of lawyers by other lawyers.

The method used to compile Best Lawyers remains unchanged since the first edition was compiled more than 25 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 2009 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. Each year, half of the voting pool receives fax or email ballots; the other half is polled by phone.

Voting lawyers were provided this general guideline for determining if a nominee should be listed among “the best”: “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 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.

A boutique firm with big firm capabilities, Regan Zambri & Long has been called “DC’s top personal injury boutique” by Washingtonian Magazine. The firm is able to maximize the recovery for its clients by riding on a longstanding reputation in the legal community and an unmitigated history of success, tackling referrals from large corporate firms with the same gusto and service used when approaching other cases. “We are aggressive, dedicated lawyers,” says senior partner Patrick M. Regan. “We will not be out-worked, out-fought, or out-spent.”

No matter the size of the verdict or settlement, Mr. Regan knows the relationship with a client must extend beyond affidavits and courtrooms. “I want to get a sense of who they are, and want them to have an opportunity to get to know me. If it’s not a good fit, I won’t accept representation,” he says. It’s this dedication to individual needs that sets Regan Zambri & Long apart in the legal world. The firm recognizes the importance of every case it accepts. To this end, leading national legal ethics watchdog The Ethics Scoreboard named Mr. Regan as an “ethics hero”, declaring him “a lawyer who can stand up as an ethics role model”.

The firm routinely wins multi-million dollar verdicts and settlements for victims of medical malpractice, wrongful death, birth injuries, defective products, automobile collisions, consumer fraud, and other serious injury matters. In recent years, the firm has seen the addition of two experienced trial attorneys, Mr. Regan’s own induction into the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers and the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, and the election of partner Salvatore J. Zambri as President of the Trial Lawyers Association of Metropolitan Washington, D.C. In one of the practice’s most noteworthy accomplishments, Mr. Regan was lead counsel in the lawsuit between the family of David Rosenbaum and the District of Columbia, in which the Rosenbaum family forwent any monetary settlement in exchange for the District’s agreement to enact significant reforms in the provision of emergency medical services.

He and the other attorneys at the firm will also go to bat for the proverbial little guy. “We have the resources, the skill and the commitment to level the playing field for our clients,” says Mr. Regan. It’s advocacy at its best.

**RZL**

**Regan Zambri & Long, PLLC**

1919 M Street, NW, Suite 350

Washington, DC 20036

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Until 1976, Jack Olender was a hard-working young malpractice/personal injury trial lawyer who was virtually unknown outside the trial bar and his family. The turning point was his win of the first multi-million dollar obstetric malpractice verdict in the country. His client was a little girl with cerebral palsy. Since then, he and his law firm have won or settled more than 200 cases upwards of a million dollars each. Many of the cases have been for children who suffered cerebral palsy from labor and delivery mistakes.

In that 1976 trial which resulted in a $2.5 million verdict, one of the key expert witnesses for the little girl was Dr. Robert Chabon, then a practicing pediatrician. Dr. Chabon, now a lawyer as well as a pediatrician, is of-counsel to the firm and helps screen and prepare cases.

The Malpractice Law Firm represents, on a contingent fee basis, people catastrophically injured and families of people killed by substandard medical care. There is no fee unless the firm obtains a settlement or collects on a jury verdict or court judgment.

All five members of the Malpractice Law Firm—Jack Olender, Harlow Case, Sandra Robinson, Melissa Rhea and Karen Evans have been selected by their peers for inclusion in Best Lawyers in America®. They all are AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell, which is that organization’s highest ranking. They all have been elected “Trial Lawyer of the Year” by the Trial Lawyers Association of Metropolitan Washington, D.C., except for the newest member of the firm, Karen Evans, who is a registered nurse as well as a lawyer. For ten years, she was a defense lawyer for physicians’ and hospitals’ insurance companies before coming to the firm in 2000.

Mr. Olender, who is the only plaintiff’s malpractice/personal injury lawyer named by the Legal Times as one of “The 90 Greatest Washington Lawyers of the Last 30 Years”, founded the practice to run not just as a business, but as a mission, and each member of the firm begins a case by placing themselves firmly in the shoes of the client. He sums up the firm’s mission: “I believe we are successful because our team is dedicated to achieving justice for our injured clients and their families to help repair their lives. We try to combine heart with our legal and medical skills. You’ve got to have the heart and the work ethic to really do a case right and do right by your client. We are lawyers who care.”

The Malpractice Law Firm lawyers give back to the community by serving as officers and board members of a number of non-profits. They serve the legal community with leadership positions in local and national trial and bar groups and are at the forefront of efforts to protect the civil justice system from destructive legislation.

Firm Fact:

Jack Olender won the nation’s first seven-figure ($2,500,000) obstetric case in 1976, and is widely known throughout Washington, D.C. as the “King of Malpractice”.

The Malpractice Law Firm Lawyers give back to the community by serving as officers and board members of a number of non-profits. They serve the legal community with leadership positions in local and national trial and bar groups and are at the forefront of efforts to protect the civil justice system from destructive legislation.
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With 33 years of limiting its Northern Virginia practice exclusively to family law, marital separation, divorce, and post-divorce issues, the eleven attorneys at Shoun, Bach, Walinsky & Curran, PC, know the best way to deal with personal issues is not to treat them impersonally.

Whether dealing with opposing counsel or with clients’ spouses, the firm conveys the courtesy, professionalism, ethical approach, and respect for the human condition that all too often are lost in the course of legal proceedings. The firm’s four partners selected by their peers for inclusion in Best Lawyers in America®, Robert E. Shoun, Edward J. Walinsky, Gerald R. Curran and Albert M. Bonin, and their other law firm colleagues, understand that accepting the responsibility of taking a case means offering the client nothing less than the resources of the entire firm. This allows each client to take advantage of the concentrated knowledge of the firm’s individual members.

The attorneys at Shoun, Bach, Walinsky & Curran, PC are an esteemed group. Mr. Shoun is a Duke Law School graduate and a Fellow of the Virginia Law Foundation—an honor that is limited to one percent of Virginia practitioners. Mr. Walinsky is a former officer of the Fairfax Bar Association, has presented seminars throughout Virginia and has served as chair of the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Board of the Virginia State Bar. Mr. Curran is a University of Southern California Law graduate and has a reputation as a relentless litigator—a quality that has set him apart as a courtroom presence to be reckoned with. Mr. Bonin is a past-Chapter President of the prestigious American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and has lectured nationally and internationally on all aspects of family law.

The attorneys at Shoun, Bach, Walinsky & Curran, PC are prepared to do whatever it takes to bring a just resolution to their cases. While preferring a negotiated settlement to litigation, the attorneys of this firm understand that sometimes the courtroom is the only venue in which clients can receive the resolution they rightfully deserve. As Mr. Curran notes, “We strive to be a resource for all of our clients, to present them with the best range of outcomes based on the law and facts at hand. Experience, judgment, and discretion interact to achieve that outcome.”
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**ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE**

- Search for attorney-client privilege documents or communication related to the case.
With professional journals lamenting the “vanishing trial” and the disappearing art of the trial lawyer, partners Steve Webster and Aaron Book are starting to look a little old school—and they appear to like it that way. The partners at Webster Book have handled a wide range of cases, from commercial litigation to professional liability matters to their most recent trial as co-counsel with a prominent DC firm, a federal white-collar criminal case that resulted in a hung jury on all counts.

Webster’s work as a public defender, Book’s service with the Office of Government Ethics, and their years of work together at a large firm handling complex litigation give these partners a diverse set of skills in sizing up a case early, candidly communicating and managing the risks of litigation, and, if necessary, vindicating their clients’ rights in the courtroom. Their practical approach has gained them recognition from Washingtonian magazine, which twice named Book as one of Washington DC’s “Top Lawyers,” and Virginia Business Magazine, which named Webster as one of Virginia’s “Legal Elite.” According to these partners, advising a client early in the process on the likely outcome of litigation, and ultimately whether or not to take a case to trial, is where the trial lawyer’s experience is essential. Says Book: “If you haven’t faced and managed the challenges of a trial on a fairly regular basis, it’s difficult to offer a client sound advice on that critical decision.”


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Since a young age, Baltimore attorney Paul D. Bekman has found himself in David-and-Goliath courtroom battles. “I tried two jury trials before I was a lawyer for a month, which is something that would never happen today,” remembers the 62-year-old partner at Salsbury Clements Bekman Marder & Adkins. “Here I was this little 26-year-old lawyer who had cases against some of the best defense trial lawyers in the state.”

Now in his fourth decade of practice, the personal-injury attorney has been selected by his peers for inclusion in Best Lawyers in America® for 20 years, served as president of the state’s bar association and trial lawyers association, and accumulated countless multi-million dollar verdicts and settlements. After starting out primarily handling personal injury and medical-malpractice cases, Bekman now also practices in maritime law and products liability, with most of his cases involving catastrophic injuries.

His array of recent cases spans from a $15 million settlement he earned in New York for a young doctor whose misdiagnosis led to the amputation of his legs and complete contracture of his hands to a “modest” $300,000 award for a woman injured in an elevator. “The question arose as to what is the standard of care that is owed to a passenger in an elevator in the state of Maryland,” says Bekman. “Sometimes you do things which may not be monetarily the biggest but they have an effect on the law.”

While hard work and perseverance have served Bekman well over the years, he believes his rapport with jurors has also contributed to his success. “Jurors are very, very astute in evaluating people,” says Bekman. “And I think that the lawyers that tend to do the best are not necessarily the most glib, but the ones that are the most sincere and can identify with their clients.”

Eighty-three-year-old attorney Jacob A. Stein has a unique approach to the practice of law. “I send up an ecumenical prayer every day at 4:30 for what is called new business,” jokes the tenured attorney. But it seems less religion than resourcefulness that has led to Stein’s stellar 60-year law career, earning the personal injury attorney honorary doctorate degrees, lawyer of the year accolades and distinguished alumni awards from his alma mater, George Washington University. For two decades, Stein has served as adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law School, and has authored a regular column for The Washington Lawyer since 1991.

A prolific writer, Stein has penned numerous books, ranging from The Law of Law Firms to Legal Spectator & More, a collection of personal essays and cultural observations. But it was his first book — The District of Columbia Tort Case Finder — that set the neophyte attorney apart from the crowd. “All the lawyers who tried plaintiffs’ cases and all the lawyers who defended cases immediately bought the book,” says Stein. “And in no time every judge had a copy.”

With thousands of cases under his belt, Stein has been involved in the biggest case of all time—the Watergate cases.”

In 1970, I was involved in the biggest case of all time—the Watergate cases.”

— Jacob A. Stein
Best Lawyers has named three individuals as Lawyers of the Year in the Washington DC area, based on their particularly high level of peer recognition.

Stein says his is a ‘pike practice’—
“I’ll take anything that comes down the pike!”
But it is one historic case that stands out in his mind after all these years of practice.
“In 1970, I was involved in the biggest case of all time—the Watergate cases,” recalls Stein, who defended lawyer Kenneth Parkinson against charges of conspiring to hinder the investigation. “Everyone in the case was convicted except for him.”

Thomas W. Williamson, Jr.
Williamson & Lavecchia
PERSONAL INJURY LITIGATION (Virginia)

Asked about the key to his success, personal injury attorney Thomas W. Williamson, Jr. has a simple response: “insomnia.”
“I think anybody that succeeds as a trial lawyer just has to allow themselves to be consumed by the subject matter of the case,” says the 58-year-old partner of Richmond’s Williamson & Lavecchia law firm.
Specializing in medical-malpractice and complex product liability cases, Williamson has been a trailblazer since the 1980s, when he scored the area’s first seven-figure verdict in a med-mal case. Over the years, he has continued to rack up multi-million dollar verdicts and settlements for his clients.
A graduate of the Virginia Military Institute and the University of Richmond’s T.C. Williams School of Law, Williamson was named in Richmond Magazine by his peers as the top lawyer in his practice area, and has been also been selected by his peers for inclusion in Best Lawyers in America®.
The former president of the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association, Williamson says he is best known for his work in McMann v. Tatum, a dental malpractice case that established the parameters for what is allowed in expert testimony, an area that Williamson has lectured on extensively.
“For all of my career, I have wrestled with expert witnesses,” says Williamson. “In modern tort litigation, to paraphrase Reggie Jackson, experts are the straws that stir the drink.”
One of Williamson’s most memorable experiences, however, wasn’t a win but a loss, where the parents of his deceased client later gave him a treasured piece of Russian art.
“It was a favorite of their daughter’s,” he remembers. “When you’re not successful in a case and a client still thinks that highly of you, that’s a very special feeling.”

—Iannie Greeley
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There is a notable passion the lawyers of Katz, Marshall & Banks – a boutique employment law firm specializing in discrimination, sexual harassment, and whistleblower cases—bring to their representation of individuals who have been wronged in the workplace.

The firm recognizes the unsettling and troubling effects workplace disputes have on the lives of their clients, and acts as zealous advocates on their behalf. The firm’s attorneys have advised and successfully represented thousands of employees in obtaining compensation and equitable treatment in the workplace, tailoring a winning strategy to meet the needs and objectives of each client. Firm clients are kept in the loop every step of the way, and firm attorneys work swiftly to move cases forward so that timely and successful outcomes are achieved.

The firm is also committed to ensuring maximum protection for individuals who risk their careers to expose issues impacting the health and safety of the public, as well as reporting “red flags” about the financial soundness, or lack thereof, of corporations at which they’re employed. As the need for the protection of nuclear, environmental, and Sarbanes-Oxley whistleblowers has become more urgent, the firm has developed expertise and an exceptional reputation in this area. Its work in protecting those who stepped forward to question Fannie Mae’s accounting practices led to a major overhaul of the corporation and the largest financial restatement in history.

“We feel strongly that our clients must be given outstanding representation and legal protection at the time they come forward to lodge a whistle-blowing complaint. These issues may go far beyond the interests of a single client—in many cases, the safety and security of the public is involved,” says Debra Katz, a founder of the firm. Debra, along with fellow partner Lisa Banks, was selected for inclusion by her peers in Washington DC's Best Lawyers®.
GLENN LEWIS INVOLVED IN BATTLE OVER MARITAL ASSETS

Listening to famed Washington DC family law attorney Glenn C. Lewis recount an average day’s work is akin to watching the tale unfold on a popular televised legal drama.

This story is certainly no exception, with its wealthy heiress, its high-powered lawyer, claims of infidelity, and hundreds of millions of dollars at stake upon the dismantling of a 20-plus-year marriage that had produced a handful of children.

Certainly Lewis, who is known for his cross-examination skills, doesn’t shy away from an opportunity to tangle in the courtroom. His firm’s client roster reads like a Washington DC “Who’s Who” list, with parties ranging from senators and the press to professional athletes and judges.

In this case, Lewis found himself in the unenviable position of representing a woman whose previous legal team had already offered a significant settlement, which was rejected by the husband as insufficient.

“We walked into a case where our team had offered millions of dollars, and they said we’ll see you in court,” says Lewis, calling the two-year-long legal battle one of the most unique cases he’s ever handled, with an outcome that was “unthinkable.”

Though client confidentiality necessitates discretion on Lewis’s part, he casts his client as an extremely successful businesswoman and mother who fell prey to a controlling and domineering husband who, over time, convinced her to transfer greater amounts of her inheritance into shared assets. In addition to millions of dollars in inheritance monies, the woman had numerous real estate holdings and assets related to the business. However, the greatest threat in the case was the opposing counsel’s contention that the woman’s assets stood to earn more than $200 million in the future.

“He was alleging that the money was marital property,” Lewis says.

The husband’s claims pointed not only to allegations of infidelity between his wife and a co-worker, but to her inability to care for her children due to emotional issues. In addition to seeking in excess of $30,000 a month in alimony, the husband sought sole custody of the couple’s children in response to his wife’s alleged emotional impairment.

In preparation for the important temporary custody and support hearing, Lewis spent two days deposing the husband to chip away at his claims against his wife.

“Our first big battle was making a judge question his story from the onset,” says associate Aaron J. Christoff, who assisted Lewis on the case.

“We considered that a bogus claim,” Lewis says of the wife’s emotional issues. “We wound up succeeding in keeping him from ever being able to have our client examined by anyone because it was just a witch hunt.”

Instead, Lewis argued that any of his client’s perceived weaknesses were the result of an oppressive marriage.

“We alleged that the stress that she suffered or the distress she suffered based on how he treated her in their relationship was a self-fulfilling prophecy—that he wore her down and then complained that she lacked capacity, when in fact her only disability was that she was living with him,” Lewis says.

Additionally, the husband claimed that his parental duties had negatively impacted his ability to earn a living as a lawyer, and that his wife’s extraordinary work demands precluded him from fully committing to his work obligations. Lewis argued that the husband’s claimed “negligible” income was his own doing, and that discovery had proven that he had many outstanding legal fees—some in the six-figure range—that he simply failed to collect from clients.

“He was devaluing his potential income and his career worth,” says Lewis, calling the husband a feigned “martyr.” “I think he tried to present himself as a sympathetic figure and it clearly didn’t fly.”

After more than a dozen hearings, innumerable motions, and extensive subpoenas, the case settled immediately prior to the issues being brought to court. The final award was approximately $1 million, inclusive of property and cash—a far cry from the original settlement offer proposed by the woman’s previous legal team.

“It was the type of outcome that other lawyers represented to the client wasn’t possible,” says Lewis. “We improved her position more than fivefold.”

The husband’s claims for both alimony and direct child support were denied, which Lewis calls a “huge win for our client.” Most importantly, the heiress gained joint custody of her minor children and control over her family assets.

“Our client is a fabulous mother and a fabulous business woman,” says Lewis. “And we believed in her completely.”

– Jeannie Greeley
Environmental Law

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With more than sixty-five years of combined experience, Ilona Grenadier and Arlene Starace have exhibited the legal expertise, good judgment, and common sense needed to handle simple to very complex domestic cases.

These two, partners in the firm of Grenadier, Anderson, Starace & Duffett PC, understand not only the legal and financial issues involved in their cases but also the intangibles which affect their clients and ultimately the outcome. It is important, they note, to not only comprehend the complex financial and custodial issues, but also the emotional situation which many clients endure during such a process. Both believe that family law attorneys must look not only to the present but also have the foresight to consider future ramifications and impacts of any settlement litigation outcome.

Both lawyers have been selected for Washingtonian magazine’s “Top Lawyers”, have been selected by their peers for inclusion in Best Lawyers in America®, and are AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell. Ms. Grenadier is a Fellow in the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, and Ms. Starace also practices collaborative family law. The firm has a reputation for competency and professionalism, cemented by their indisputable record both in mediated settlements and the courtroom. Taking team approaches to cases, the firm’s attorneys build upon each other’s strengths and knowledge to serve clients in all aspects of domestic relations cases, including divorce, support, equitable distribution, custody, and pre- and post-marital agreements. The firm limits its practice to Virginia.
If you ask law students why they want to become lawyers, most will tell you their primary reason is altruistic: they hope to help people and to make a difference in the world. Yet when these students graduate and step into the real world, they often find legal work is far less about social justice or even helping the average guy than about transactions, contracts, and other work for major corporations, a far stretch from the philanthropic goals that drove them into the profession.

How can they reconnect to their humanitarian impulses? For many lawyers, the best way is through volunteer work.

Last year, hundreds of local lawyers and law firms provided free legal aid to more than 15,000 indigent and low-income clients through one or more pro bono programs administered or connected with the Washington DC Bar Pro Bono Program, a voluntary affiliate of the Washington DC Bar. These lawyers offered assistance in a wide variety of areas, from custody cases to social security matters; from representing the homeless and people with AIDS to assisting veterans applying for military benefits. In a landlord-tenant law program, more than 4,000 tenants and landlords got free legal advice at a resource center staffed each day by area lawyers at a local courthouse. Similar centers have been launched for probate court and to help people avoid losing their homes for failure to pay taxes. Through the program’s community economic development project, more than 200 community-based, non-profit companies and other small businesses receive free business and legal advice from some of the city’s top corporate lawyers.

What drives lawyers to volunteer work? “Many feel it’s a professional obligation,” says Maureen Syracuse, director of the Washington DC Bar Pro Bono Program. “It’s part of our ethical rules that we’re supposed to make legal services available to those who can’t afford it. Others are motivated by a desire to give back. Many lawyers went to law school with the intention to make a difference in the world, but when they get out, there aren’t a lot of opportunities to do that on a full-time basis. And law school is extremely expensive, so many find they have to work where they can make enough money to pay off their law school loans.

“But in the back of their minds there’s always the desire to use their skills to redress wrongs and help people,” she continues. “Pro bono gives them a chance to make a difference. I can’t tell you how many times I’ve had a lawyer tell me how it was the most rewarding or heartwarming experience they’ve had.”

In addition to the bar’s pro bono program, there are many other organizations that offer free legal services to qualified individuals. Anyone in the Washington DC area looking for free legal advice for civil cases can find a variety of resources at www.LawHelp.org.

More than 100 Washington DC-area law firms run their own pro bono programs, often in conjunction with the Washington DC Bar, and provide a wide range of legal services.

Several years ago, McDermott Will & Emery, an international law firm with more than 215 lawyers in their Washington DC office, signed on to the American Bar Association’s Pro Bono Challenge, pledging to donate 3 percent of its lawyers’ time to volunteer work. Upwards of 70 percent of the firm’s lawyers participate, including staffing the landlord-tenant resource center one day each week, providing legal and practical advice to small businesses, handling political asylum cases, and representing clients on death row. The firm has a special focus on children’s rights including providing legal aid to abused and neglected kids.

“There’s recognition at McDermott, Will and among most of our partners that being a lawyer is a privilege, not a right, and a special privilege,” says Guy Collier, chair of the firm’s pro bono committee and vice president of the Washington DC Bar’s pro Bono committee. “And with that comes an obligation to extend legal services to those parts of the community that can’t really afford them.”

Increasingly, many clients including corporations expect their lawyers to give back to the community, he adds. “So it’s a classic win-win,” Collier says. “It’s the right thing to do and it’s meeting a need in the community—and, our clients expect us to do it.”
Greenspun, Shapiro, Davis & Leary achieves excellence litigating criminal and civil matters in state and federal courts. Over the years, the firm has tackled some of the Washington D.C. metropolitan area’s most high-profile cases. After being asked to represent John Allen Muhammad, better known as “The D.C. Sniper,” attorney Peter Greenspun said, “Everyone deserves the right to justice.” Attorney Jonathan Shapiro has handled the defense of Jim Nicholson, a CIA Station Chief charged with espionage, as well as the defense of Brian Regan, an NSA employee also charged with espionage.

Earning the respect of the legal community by defending individuals in difficult and often complex cases, the firm routinely represents clients on criminal charges ranging from murder to minor traffic violations in state and federal courts. Beyond criminal offenses, Greenspun, Shapiro, Davis & Leary’s expertise also includes personal injury, medical malpractice, small business litigation and domestic matters. The firm is a dedicated and innovative litigation team committed to obtaining the best results for their clients, employing the latest technology to evaluate and organize evidence and legal issues and developing a meticulous and effective plan of action. The attorneys of this Martindale Hubbell “AV” rated firm have been heralded as premier litigators in Washingtonian magazine’s Top Lawyers, The Legal Elite and The Best Lawyers in America®.
We measure our success by the lives we change.

Karp Frosh
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Ron Karp and Brian Frosh met in junior high school almost 50 years ago. The other partners at the firm have been friends and colleagues for decades. Being advocates for their clients is serious business. They are bound by a common goal: To measure their success by the lives they have changed and improved. “Changing and positively affecting people’s lives is the best source of gratification any professional can receive,” says managing partner Ron Karp.

It’s this shared goal that has allowed the attorneys at Karp, Frosh, Lapidus, Wigodsky & Norwind—including seasoned partners Larry Lapidus, Lee Norwind, Jeff Wigodsky, Phil Kessel, and Jack Gold—to achieve million dollar settlements for their clients. All major cases are handled by a team of lawyers, each of whom is able to bring different strengths to the table. Over half of the firm’s cases are referred by attorneys who trust Karp Frosh to represent their clients, and members of the firm have not only been named among the Best Lawyers in America® but have also been recognized for their legal prowess in Washingtonian Magazine and Super Lawyers.

Visit the firm’s website and click on the button marked “Do I Have a Case?” to chat with the firm’s attorneys. The firm now has full time offices in all three area jurisdictions.

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Al Adelman is a nationally recognized leader in healthcare law, engaging exclusively in the practice of hospital and health care law for over 30 years. He serves as general counsel to several acute care hospitals in Maryland and as special counsel for numerous hospitals on the east coast. Although his primary focus is medical staff bylaws and governance, credentialing, peer review and related hearings, and hospital-physician relationships and transactions, he regularly advises clients regarding issues related to governance, compliance, patient care and consent, HIPAA, risk management and liabilities, fraud and abuse and Stark issues, regulatory matters such as investigations by licensing or regulatory authorities and tax exemption issues. Al is a principal editor and author of the Peer Review Hearing Guidebook and one of two faculty members for the AHLA Peer Review Hearing Officer Training Program. He served as President of American Health Lawyers Association 2005-2006 and has made numerous presentations to hospital governing bodies, medical staffs and at national conferences.

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BARRY J. NACE

Personal Injury Litigation, Medical Malpractice, Drug Products Liability, Toxic Torts

Barry J. Nace, founder and senior partner of Paulson and Nace, is one of the few attorneys in Metropolitan Washington who is Board Certified in Medical Malpractice and Civil Litigation. For over 30 years he has successfully tried and settled million dollar malpractice cases in the Metropolitan Washington area as well as West Virginia, and has achieved the highest medical malpractice and product liability jury verdicts in the District of Columbia. His career has been marked by his toughness, thorough preparation and results. He has continuously served the legal community with his time and talent, including President of The Association of Trial Lawyers of America (previously called The American Association for Justice), President of the Trial Lawyers Association of the District of Columbia (on two occasions) as well as serving on the District of Columbia’s Medical Malpractice committee.

Currently, Mr. Nace is President of the National Board of Trial Advocacy. He was named one of the 2008 Top 100 Super Lawyers in the Washington, D.C. area and has consistently been selected by his peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America® for Washington, DC. He is a member of the prestigious International Academy of Trial Lawyers as well as The American Law Institute.

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HERMAN M. BRAUDE

Construction Law

➤ Bachelor of Science, Cooper Union, New York, New York 1961 in Civil Engineering. Won Charles Goodman Award, Humanities.
➤ Law Clerk to the Honorable Senior Judge Samuel Whitaker 1964-1965, United States Supreme Court Master, sitting on the United States Federal Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit and United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.
➤ Lecturer in “Construction Law” 1975-1985, George Washington Law Center, Washington, DC.
➤ Author of some twenty various papers and articles on Construction Law and Government Contracts.

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TINA L. SNEE

Personal Injury Litigation

Tina Snee, founding member of Tina L. Snee & Associates, a boutique civil litigation firm, has been practicing law in DC, VA and MD for over 20 years. She has been selected by her peers for the second year in a row for inclusion in the the Washington DC area’s Best Lawyers, and was previously voted one of the Virginia Legal Elite in 2006. She is also distinguished as AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell. Her career includes over 200 jury trials, as well as success at the appellate level in state and federal courts. She has also negotiated a large number of beneficial settlements through arbitration and mediation. Individuals and businesses seek out her representation in civil litigation throughout the metro area.

“I am lucky to have a profession I very much enjoy, whether the case is a simple automobile accident or a complicated business dispute. Success in litigation or settlement takes hard work, thorough preparation, and once in the courtroom, experience and agility.”

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In 1979, A. Hugo Blankingship, Jr. and John A. C. Keith recognized that a small group of highly motivated, talented lawyers could practice law at the highest levels without succumbing to the pressures of high billable hours and bureaucracy that plague many big firms. This year, seven of their colleagues—David J. Gogal, Paul B. Terpak, Peter S. Everett, Robert J. Stoney, Mark A. Towery, John F. Cafferky and Mary McGowan—join Hugo Blankingship and John Keith for being recognized by their peers and selected for inclusion in Best Lawyers in America.

“Twenty years ago, fresh out of law school, I chose to work at Blankingship & Keith because of its reputation for providing excellent service—and results—for its clients,” David Gogal recalls. “That reputation has continued to grow as we have added leading lawyers in a variety of disciplines.”

Blankingship & Keith has 16 partners (27 lawyers overall) handling virtually every aspect of civil practice, including commercial litigation, education, local government, eminent domain, personal injury and products liability, zoning and real estate, trusts, estates, creditor’s rights, business and tax, from its offices in Fairfax and Prince William counties. In keeping with its depth of talent, members of Blankingship & Keith are recognized as the best in their field in seven different disciplines.

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For 25 years, the lawyers of Schochor, Federico and Staton, PA have worked tirelessly to help victims recover financially and emotionally from medical mistakes—including misdiagnosis, negligent care and surgery, and medical mismanagement. The partners are recognized leaders in the medical negligence field, and have earned the highest respect of their clients, judges, and peers in the legal profession.

The “A” Team: The Firm was founded by Jonathan Schochor, Philip C. Federico, and Kerry D. Staton—all three have been selected by their peers for inclusion in Best Lawyers in America® and have been variously listed in Who’s Who in the World, Who’s Who in American Law, Super Lawyers, Martindale-Hubbell’s Bar Register of Pre-Eminent Lawyers, The Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum, and other reference works.

A Winning Formula: The Firm utilizes an extensive and systematic approach to the investigation and preparation of medical negligence cases. They have a full-time team of highly qualified medical investigators and lawyers, and at least two lawyers try every case. Clients have access to their entire legal team, all of whom share the same goals: to successfully obtain full compensation for victims of malpractice in order to meet their financial needs; provide the highest quality of life; and restore dignity.

Jonathan Schochor is the managing and founding partner of the firm, as well as a past-President of the Maryland Trial Lawyers Association and a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates. He has been the Maryland State Delegate and Governor to the American Association for Justice, has taught and lectured both locally and nationally in the fields of medical malpractice, medical negligence and trial law, and has testified before the Maryland State Legislature on issues regarding medical malpractice.

Philip C. Federico is a senior and founding partner of the firm and is admitted to practice in the Supreme Court for the United States. He is a member of the American Association for Justice, the Maryland Trial Lawyers Association, and the American Judicature Society, serves as a faculty member of the Maryland Institute for Continuing Professional Education of Lawyers, Inc., and has testified before the Maryland State Legislature on issues regarding medical malpractice.

Kerry D. Staton is a senior and founding partner of the firm and has served on the Board of Governors of the Maryland Trial Lawyers Association. He is a Fellow of the Maryland Bar Foundation, a member of the American Bar Association, the Trial Lawyers for Public Justice, the American Judicature Society, and a permanent member of the Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference. Additionally, Mr. Staton is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates.

Firm Fact: The firm has had a number of notable cases, including the establishment of a cause of action for the fear of AIDS in the State of Maryland, and the closing of a hospital’s in vitro fertilization program after proving that the director was misrepresenting the hospital’s success rates in order to lure in more women as patients.
While skill and experience are a given, the thing that sets a good defense attorney apart from the rest of the crop is conviction. “One needs an ingrained desire to confront authority, and to champion the underdog. You also need a gut hatred for injustice,” says John Kenneth Zwerling, the senior partner at criminal defense firm Zwerling, Leibig & Moseley P.C.

Lack of experience is not a concern for 38-year veteran Mr. Zwerling, who has been selected by his peers for inclusion in Best Lawyers in America®, a member of the Virginia State Bar Association’s Governing Council and founding president of the Virginia Association of Criminal Lawyers. He also served 12 years on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and is regarded as an expert in the area of Fourth Amendment search and seizure law and Fifth Amendment issues. Working alongside similarly respected colleagues, Mr. Zwerling represents parties in complex grand jury, trial and appellate advocacy, including notable trials of The Church of Scientology United States v. Mary Sue Hubbard et al. and International Space Brokers, Inc. v. AON Corporation, Inc.

All of the attorneys at Zwerling, Leibig & Moseley P.C. take a strict team approach to all major cases, guaranteeing that at least two attorneys are assigned to each case and attend all hearings and trials. As lawyers have come to increasingly rely on juries in the protection of citizens, the firm’s selective caseload and careful approach ensure that no detail goes overlooked.
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“\nThe most important thing is that, as litigators, we should be solving problems. The bottom line is, have you helped your client solve their problems? Have you made it better?"
On the evening of Jan. 6, 2006, David Rosenbaum, a 37-year veteran reporter for the New York Times who’d recently retired, was out for a post-dinner walk in his Northwest Washington neighborhood when two thugs jumped him, brutally beat him with a pipe, robbed him, and left him in a heap on the sidewalk.

Emergency personnel arrived at the hospital. The case against the hospital from the city’s emergency technicians and negligence both in the care he received before he finally received emergency brain surgery. Two days later, he died.

Rosenbaum's two children, Daniel and Dorothy Rosenbaum, filed a $20 million lawsuit against the District of Columbia and Howard University Hospital because one of the drivers had personal business in that area. As a result, Rosenbaum didn't arrive in the emergency room until an hour after the ambulance was dispatched. At the hospital, no one assessed him for neurological injuries, and he sat in a hallway moaning and vomiting for an hour and a half before a physician examined him. There were more hours of delay before he finally received emergency brain surgery. Two days later, he died.

Rosenbaum’s children, Daniel and Dorothy, filed a $20 million lawsuit against the District of Columbia and Howard University Hospital, alleging negligence both in the care he received from the city’s emergency technicians and at the hospital. The case against the hospital settled for a confidential amount in December 2007.

In a highly unusual move aimed at providing better care for all the District’s residents, Rosenbaum’s family dropped their lawsuit against the city in exchange for a comprehensive plan to overhaul the district’s emergency services department.

“The effect of the family’s willingness to make this agreement with the city was a top-to-bottom overhaul in the way emergency services are provided to every single citizen in the district,” says Patrick M. Regan, of Regan Zambri & Long in Washington, DC, who represented the Rosenbaums. “This is as monumental a change as you could possibly imagine.”

Regan praised Washington, DC Mayor Adrian M. Fenty, who took office shortly after the lawsuit was filed in late 2006. Before the mayor was sworn in, the family met with him and proposed a resolution to the lawsuit: they would drop the multi-million-dollar lawsuit if the city agreed to completely re-evaluate how it provided emergency services. The family asked that a task force of national leaders in emergency services be convened, devise a plan to improve services, and then implement the plan. The mayor readily agreed, and the task force was created and began meeting monthly during the spring of 2007.

A statement from Mayor Fenty’s office said, “In the wake of this tragedy, the city and the Rosenbaum family were able to find a resolution that will help to prevent this again. No amount of money will bring Mr. Rosenbaum back, but the new implementations will hopefully mean another family will not suffer the same loss.”

The task force issued a report in the fall of 2007, and the city began implementing the changes almost immediately, Regan says. “This was not something where a politician sets up a commission and then moves on and forgets about it. Mayor Fenty was engaged, involved, determined to move this forward. And it’s continuing today.”

One proposal, for example, was to overhaul the hierarchy of the emergency services system, which is within the city’s fire department. Before the new plan, the department’s leadership was comprised almost exclusively of firefighters, and emergency workers quickly hit a career ceiling. Since they were unlikely to be promoted, experienced EMTs typically quit and turnover was high. The new plan, in addition to improving training for emergency personnel, also altered the promotion system so there are incentives for EMTs to remain, and requires that all firefighters be cross-trained as EMTs.

It’s these kinds of changes, designed to make the emergency services system more effective, which would have made a difference for Rosenbaum, his family believes. Had Rosenbaum received prompt and appropriate treatment, Regan says, he probably would have survived the mugging. “He had a very treatable head injury,” Regan says. A subdural hematoma, as the injury is called, is potentially fatal. But a common and simple medical procedure, in which a hole is drilled in the skull to release blood, results in complete recovery in 95 percent of patients, Regan says. Time is of the essence, however. “He should have been at an emergency room in 10 to 15 minutes, and at most it would be another 15 minutes before he would have had the hole drilled,” Regan adds.

Regan, who was recently inducted into the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, has been practicing since 1980. He received no fee for representing the Rosenbaums against the district, nor did his client receive any financial benefit. “This was a situation where everybody put aside the monetary issue and did what was best,” Regan says.
RIGNAL W. BALDWIN, JR.

Alternative Dispute Resolution, Personal Injury Litigation, Civil Litigation

Rig Baldwin is a trial attorney in the areas of business litigation, professional liability and products liability. He also serves as an arbitrator and mediator for the federal and state courts, and is a member of ADR Maryland, an organization of active trial attorneys certified for alternative dispute resolution. He has been recognized as one of the top 1% of the trial attorneys in the United States by induction as a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, and has been selected by his peers for the American Board of Trial Advocates and for inclusion in the Martindale- Hubbell Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers. He is the former Chair of the Maryland State Bar Association Judicial Appointments Committee and former Chair of the Professionalism Committee.

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Jane C. Bergner, a former tax trial attorney with the United States Department of Justice, represents clients in a wide array of practice areas:

- Estate and Gift Tax Litigation
- Estate and Tax Planning
- Tax Controversy Litigation
- Tax Counseling

She has extensive experience in the federal tax controversy, tax audit, tax collection and tax litigation assistance before the Internal Revenue Service, and in the courts. Ms. Bergner is a Fellow of the American College of Tax Counsel, and is admitted to the Bar of the District of Columbia. She is a member of the firms Taxation Section, as well as that Sections Tax Audits and Litigation Committee. She is the author of several nationally recognized tax articles on controversy, litigation and procedure. Ms. Bergner is included in the directory, The Best Lawyers of America.

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Barbara Camens has over 25 years of wide ranging experience in the practice of labor and employment law, ERISA, employee benefits law and ERISA/employee benefits law. She represents labor organizations, employees, employee benefit plans, and non-profits and is a strong advocate in court, in arbitration and before administrative agencies. Ms. Camens speaks frequently around the country on employment topics, is a skilled legal advisor and has negotiated many successful contracts and settlements for her clients. She holds an appointment, by the joint United States Women Lawyers in America and one of the 100 Most Influential Women Lawyers in America for 2013, as well as that of a lawyer for the Commonwealth on personal injury, trial practice, and evidence.

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Practicing law in Northern Virginia for more than 24 years, Thomas J. Curcio has built his practice around personal injury law, focusing on clients who have been damaged by their attorneys through legal malpractice and those who have been damaged by their attorneys through legal malpractice and those who have been damaged by their attorneys through legal malpractice and those who have been damaged by their attorneys through legal malpractice and those who have been damaged by their attorneys through legal malpractice and those who have been damaged by their attorneys through legal malpractice and those who have been damaged by their attorneys through legal malpractice and those who have been damaged by their attorneys through legal malpractice and those who have been damaged by their attorneys through legal malpractice and those who have been damaged by their attorneys through legal malpractice and those who have been damaged by their attorneys through legal malpractice and those who have been damaged by their attorneys through legal malpractice and those who have been damaged by their attorneys through legal malpractice and those who have been damaged by their attorneys through legal malpractice and those who have been damaged by their attorneys through legal malpractice and those who have been damaged by their attorneys through legal malpractice and those who have been damaged by their attorneys through legal malpractice and those who have been damaged by their attorneys through legal malpractice and those who have been damaged by their attorneys through legal malpractice and those who have been damaged by their attorneys through legal malpractice and those who have been damaged by their attorneys through legal malpractice.

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Since 1974, Mr. Elliott has practiced in all areas of immigration law, including deportation defense, federal court litigation, business, work and family visas, and citizenship. He is the co-founder of the law firm of Elliott & Mayock LLP with offices in Washington and San Francisco. He is best known as a vigorous defender of his clients in removal proceedings and successful litigation of immigration-related cases in federal court. Mr. Elliott advises major law firms on complex immigration cases and has regularly taught deportation defense strategies to immigration lawyers for many years. He has consistently obtained the AV-ranking from Martindale-Hubbell since 1989, which is their highest peer review ranking.

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Family-law attorney Sharon Lieblich focuses her practice on traditional client representation and litigation in the counties of Fairfax, Loudoun, Alexandria, Arlington, and Prince William. Her firm opened a second office in Lansdowne in Loudoun County in the Fall of 2006. She is a Fellow of the American (and the President Elect of the Virginia Chapter) and International Academies of Matrimonial Lawyers and a member of the American Bar Association, the Virginia Bar Association, the American Trial Lawyers Association, and the Alexandria and Fairfax County Bar Associations. Ms. Lieblich is a highly regarded lecturer and frequently speaks on topics pertaining to matrimonial law. She also delivers the annual family law update at the Virginia State Bar convention.

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Wendy Kahn has represented the interests of employees and of labor organizations for more than 30 years. Her practice—like that of her colleagues at Zwerdling, Paul, Kahn & Wolly, PC—encompasses negotiations, arbitration, litigation, appellate advocacy and general counseling in employment related matters including constitutional rights, employment discrimination, collective bargaining, labor standards, and other labor and employment laws. Ms. Kahn has extensive experience representing, on both an individual and a class basis, healthcare employers—including physicians and university employees (including faculty members). She is a member of the Council of the ABA’s Section on Labor and Employment Law, and has published and spoken on state and local government collective bargaining, EEO law, pay equity and work family issues. She is an award recipient from the Women’s Legal Defense Fund and The Women’s Law Center of Maryland, Inc.

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Rod Leffler is an experienced trial lawyer who has tried hundreds of civil and criminal cases in state and federal courts throughout the United States. He is a former Assistant Commonwealth’s Attorney for Fairfax County and served as a substitute judge for 18 years throughout Northern Virginia. Mr. Leffler is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and has been called “The Man to See” in Northern Virginia by Legal Times. He has also been named one of “Virginia’s Legal Elite” by Virginia Business magazine and has been selected by his peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America®.

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A graduate of Brown and Georgetown Law, Fred Tansill is a past Chair of the DC and Virginia State Sections on Wills, Trusts and Estates. For 10 years, he has been selected by his peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America® and has been named in Washingtonian magazine as one of the best local lawyers. His practice focuses on tax-oriented business and estate planning for entrepreneurs and owners of closely held businesses, as well as professionals and executives. Mr. Tansill handles probate and estate and trust administration and disputes in all three local jurisdictions, marital agreements, domestic partnerships, and complex financial matters. Betty Thompson, the principal, has practiced more than 30 years and has earned a powerful reputation for her knowledge of the law, her commitment to lead by example and her dedication to influencing and improving the laws of the Commonwealth.

Our attorneys have the expertise to mediate, negotiate and draft family law agreements of every kind. Betty Thompson is known for combining an accurate legal mind with careful attention to detail resulting in quality legal representation.

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The arc and imprint of Chip Yablonski’s forty years of legal practice are reflected in the more than one hundred reported cases in which he has appeared in both state and federal courts in every corner of the Nation successfully representing plaintiffs and defendants in cases involving employment-related disputes and litigation involving high-dollar outcomes. Prospective clients who are involved in disputes with substantial public-interest or monetary issues are urged to email all relevant background information before arranging a consultation.

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With over three decades of legal experience, Kenneth M. Trombly’s law practice focuses on cases involving traumatic brain damage, wrongful death or other catastrophic injury. Designated one of the D.C. area’s “Super Lawyers” by Law & Politics magazine in 2007 and 2008, he is a Past-President of the Trial Lawyers Association for the D.C. Metropolitan Area, the current President of the D.C. chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates, and a former Co-Chair of the D.C. Bar’s Injury Law Section. Mr. Trombly is licensed in the District of Columbia and in Maryland, and has been AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell (its highest rating) since 1989.

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It goes without saying that most people working through domestic relations issues would prefer to resolve their problems as discreetly and expeditiously as possible.

The attorneys at The Susan Hicks Group, a Virginia practice that offers a multitude of family law services, understand their role during their clients’ time of crisis is to keep a balanced view of the situation; provide needed reality checks; and offer guidance throughout this difficult period.

The firm handles varied family law matters ranging from complex equitable distribution cases involving business valuations to volatile custody cases. While each case is unique, the firm operates under the premise that achieving resolution without litigation is almost always optimal for the client. If it becomes apparent that trial is a necessity, the attorneys in the firm are prepared to take the case from the trial court through the appellate courts.

All of the firm’s attorneys are experienced negotiators and appear regularly in court. Susan, herself, is a seasoned trial attorney who has practiced for over 23 years before numerous courts in Virginia. The group members’ trial and negotiating skills allow them to act as honest assessors of a client’s realistic options and vigorous advocates for their client in the court room.

“It is always rewarding to me when people are able to look back at the process and feel it was not as horrendous as they had feared, and that I was able to help them get through it,” says Ms. Hicks, a Fellow in the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and former Chair of the Virginia State Bar Family Law Board of Governors.
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“I think we have the most talented group of trial lawyers in the state.”

Paul Bekman  E. Dale Adkins, III  Stuart Salsbury  Dan Clements

A commitment to excellence, well-honed courtroom skills, and stores of experience are just a few of the traits that Salsbury, Clements, Bekman, Marder & Adkins, LLC (SCBMA) extend to those affected by catastrophic injuries and wrongful deaths. A plaintiff’s trial firm to the core, the attorneys at SCBMA have taken more than 500 jury trials to verdict, and list five past-presidents of the Maryland Trial Lawyers Association, three members of the American College of Trial Lawyers and four members of the American Board of Trial Advocates amongst their ranks. “I think we have the most talented group of trial lawyers in the state, all of whom are able to relate to people and convert the complex to the simple and understandable in the courtroom,” says managing partner Paul D. Bekman.

With four of their attorneys selected by their peers for inclusion as Best Lawyers in America® and a deserved reputation for competence, the firm is often the first stop for other attorneys who need advice or joint representation for their cases.

Paul Bekman is a tenacious personal injury trial lawyer who was selected as the Best Lawyers® “Personal Injury Litigator of the Year” for Baltimore for 2009, an award given to those individuals who receive a particularly high level of recognition from fellow attorneys in their jurisdiction and specialty. His dexterity in the courtroom has resulted in numerous multi-million dollar awards, and he is an outspoken leader of the Bar who currently serves as a Regent of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Stuart Salsbury’s more than thirty years of trial lawyer experience keeps him in a state of constant readiness to enter the courtroom, and his litigational prowess resulted in one of Maryland’s highest recoveries for a brain-injured child.

Dan Clements is a former Assistant U.S. Attorney who has demonstrated his courtroom skills in more than one hundred jury trials with multiple million dollar verdicts.

E. Dale Adkins, III spent decades defending doctors and hospitals in medical malpractice cases, and now channels this intimate familiarity with the evaluation and defense methods used by insurance companies into his representation of the plaintiffs. He has obtained several multi-million dollar jury verdicts, including a $17.4 million award in the District of Columbia.

Victims of tragic events deserve nothing short of the level of talent and the quality of representation the firm offers, and it seeks to provide them fair and reasonable compensation for their claims. It is every attorney’s privilege and responsibility to secure fair compensation and a better quality of life for individuals who have unfortunately been affected by medical or professional negligence or defective products, and those individuals can expect SCBMA’s legal representation to provide them with nothing less.

Firm Fact:
The firm has more than 500 jury verdicts, including a significant number of multimillion dollar verdicts on behalf of individuals who have been catastrophically injured or have died as a result of negligent conduct.
From Watergate to Iran-Contra, Monica Lewinsky to Hurricane Katrina, there is a little-known legal link: An attorney from Washington, DC, law firm Stein, Mitchell & Muse has been involved in the legal fallout from all these momentous stories.

With 17 attorneys, Stein, Mitchell & Muse has become legendary as the small firm that takes on big cases. It has earned the respect of clients and peers for a dignified, low-profile approach, even as its clients and cases often have been prime-time news. The firm has defended complex antitrust, commercial bribery, and consumer protection cases that go on for months with hundreds of witnesses, while also winning record-setting personal injury, medical malpractice and product liability jury awards.

The firm’s ethos derives from iconic founding partner Jacob Stein, whom Time magazine once called a “Washington insider’s Washington insider.” That was when he was profiled during a rare time when he was very much in the public spotlight as co-counsel to presidential paramour Monica Lewinsky. She was hardly his first high-profile client. Stein was the only lawyer to gain an acquittal in the Watergate conspiracy trial. He was also the special prosecutor who cleared Attorney General Edwin Meese in an investigation still seen as a model of efficiency and restraint. Stein, with over 50 years of experience, is consistently named among D.C.’s best attorneys by Washingtonian magazine. Also perennially on the magazine’s top lawyer list: Stein, Mitchell partners Gerard Mitchell and Bob Muse.

“The culture in the firm has been defined by Jake. He created a wonderful reputation and you don’t want to mess with that,” says Mitchell, whose older brother Glenn formed the firm with Stein in 1965.

A NEW GENERATION HAS CARRIED ON THE STEIN, MITCHELL LEGACY

Gerry Mitchell (top) has quietly “earned a reputation as the area’s most effective medical-malpractice attorney,” according to the Washingtonian. Winning multiple seven- and eight-figure judgments and settlements, Mitchell has consistently declined to send out press releases. He insists that the real credit be given to a trial team that includes nurse-attorney Laurie Amell and medical consultant Michael Cohen, M.D., Ph.D. Sons of Howard Mitchell, conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra from 1949-1969, the Mitchell brothers say that successful litigation, like good music-making, requires harmonious teamwork.

Like Stein, Muse (bottom) has often been in the thick of things. A look at his office walls finds memorabilia and pictures that chronicle 35 years of American political history. Muse was the youngest attorney to serve on the Senate Watergate Committee; he has served as counsel for targets and witnesses in Washington’s major political corruption cases, including Iran-Contra, the Anita Hill—Clarence Thomas hearings, Whitewater and the FBI Filegate. He has represented Sen. Bob Packwood in a Senate Ethics Committee hearing and served as a chief counsel for the Senate Katrina Committee, which has been hailed as a rare bipartisan effort. He has been involved in the Exxon, WorldCom and Global Crossing financial matters. In WorldCom, he represented Cynthia Cooper, the WorldCom whistleblower and later Time’s Person of the Year.

As Cooper put it in her recent book Extraordinary Circumstances: The Journey of a Corporate Whistle-blower, “Bob has an uncanny ability to see the big picture and anticipate where matters will go…. (Muse) moves between these (Washington) milieus…with ease and grace.”

Stein, Mitchell & Muse has also built something of a cottage industry representing those from the business world and public sector who are called to testify at congressional hearings. Muse has co-authored a law review piece that has become the playbook for attorneys who deal in that unique realm. “When you go before Congress, it’s not about winning or losing,” says Muse. “It’s really about doing the least amount of harm, it’s about surviving.”

For 40 years, Stein, Mitchell & Muse LLP has been Washington’s premier law firm for serious personal injury and business litigation. All indications point to more of the same in years to come.