

CHAIKIN  
SHERMAN  
CAMMARATA  
SIEGEL P.C.

Personal Injury Lawyers

WINTER | 2024/2025

Happy Holidays from CSCS!

Washington, D.C. Office

1232 17th Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036

Maryland Office

911 Silver Spring Avenue  
Suite 107  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Virginia Office

5673 Columbia Pike  
Suite 101  
Falls Church, VA 22041

Telephone:

**202.659.8600**

Outside DC:

**800.229.8384**

Fax:

**202.659.8680**

e-mail:

**siegel@dc-law.net**

Website:

**www.chaikinandsherman.com**

Attorneys available  
24 hours a day,  
7 days a week.

Your Personal  
Injury Advocates

- Free consultation
- Home appointments
- No recovery, No fee.  
We do not get paid  
unless you do.

**BEST LAW  
FIRMS**  
RANKED BY Best Lawyers

WASHINGTON, D.C.

PERSONAL INJURY  
LITIGATION - PLAINTIFFS  
TIER 1

2025



Ira Sherman

## A New Look for a New Year!

*A message from Managing Partner Ira Sherman*

I am thrilled to share some exciting news with you – we have just launched our brand-new law firm website! This upgrade is more than just a facelift; it's a reflection of our ongoing commitment to providing the best possible service to you, our valued clients.

One of the most exciting features of our new site is an extensive collection of videos showcasing our talented professionals at work. From senior attorneys with decades of experience to our newest team members, you'll get a behind-the-scenes look at the faces and expertise driving our success. These videos not only highlight our capabilities but also offer insight into our dedication to client satisfaction, no matter how complex the legal challenges.

We are also proud to celebrate the relationships we have built over the years with a diverse and loyal group of clients. Whether you have been with us for many years or are a more recent addition, we are grateful for the trust you've placed in us. The new site includes testimonials and success stories that demonstrate the impact we've had across a wide range of legal matters, and we invite you to explore them!

The launch of this new website is just the beginning of exciting things to come. As we continue to grow and evolve, our focus will always remain on delivering exceptional legal services with the highest levels of integrity and client care.

I encourage you to take a moment to visit [www.chaikinandsherman.com](http://www.chaikinandsherman.com) and explore our new digital home. We look forward to continuing to serve you in the years ahead.

Thank you for your continued trust and support. On behalf of the entire staff, I wish you all happy holidays, and good health in the new year.

[www.chaikinandsherman.com](http://www.chaikinandsherman.com)



Partners Joseph Cammarata and Allan M. Siegel Named Two of Washington's "Top Lawyers" by *Washingtonian Magazine*



The December 2024 issue of *Washingtonian Magazine* has named Partners **Joseph Cammarata** and **Allan M. Siegel** as two of Washington DC Metro area's "Top Lawyers." The magazine compiles the list by sending surveys to local lawyers and asking them who they deem best among their peers in different areas of specialties and then following up with layers of research and reporting to come up with its list. It is special honor to be included on the list, when you consider that the Washington metropolitan area is home to more than 80,000 lawyers.

Mr. Cammarata has been recognized by the magazine as a "Top Lawyer" every year the magazine has done the survey since 1997. Mr. Siegel has been recognized every year the magazine has done the survey since 2004. Both Mr. Cammarata and Mr. Siegel also received a Lifetime Achievement from *Washingtonian Magazine* in 2023 which recognized a very elite group of lawyers who had received the "Top Lawyer" honor for over 15 years. The magazine is a great resource for consumers who are looking for an attorney. The magazine is currently on newsstands.

## Law firm Named a 2025 "Best Law Firm" and All 4 Partners Are Recognized By Best Lawyers®



We are proud to announce that for the Sixth consecutive year, Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C. ("CSCS") was named a "Best Law Firm" by *Best Lawyers*®, the oldest and most respected Purely Peer Review® research and accolades company in the legal profession. The law firm was named a "Tier 1 Best Law Firm" for the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area in the following categories:

- Personal Injury Litigation – Plaintiffs
- Medical Malpractice Law – Plaintiffs

Recognition by *Best Lawyers*® involves a rigorous selection process, including feedback from clients and peers. Initially, to be eligible as a "Best Law Firm" the firm must have at least one lawyer recognized in the current edition of *Best Lawyers*.® CSCS had all 4 of its partners recognized in the 2025 edition of *Best Lawyers*. Partners **Ira Sherman**, **Joseph Cammarata** and **Allan M. Siegel** were all named as "Best Lawyers" and Partner **Stephen Ollar** was named in the "Ones to Watch in America" list.

Being named a "Best Law Firm" is about more than getting an award. At CSCS we are committed to delivering results with integrity, determination, and compassion. This recognition confirms what we strive for daily: to fight for those who need it most and make a real difference in their lives.

## Multi-Million-Dollar Settlement: Trucking Tragedy

In one of our most impactful cases, a catastrophic collision on an Interstate Highway forever altered the lives of a husband and wife, including their two children and extended family. A negligent tractor-trailer driver, recklessly watching a movie while driving at 65 mph, caused his tractor-trailer to violently crash into the rear of our clients' vehicle, which was at a complete stop in traffic, crushing our clients' vehicle between it and another tractor trailer. The devastation was profound: the husband suffered life-altering injuries, rendering him quadriplegic. He cannot move any part of his body below the neck while still fully conscious of his medical condition. He has incurred approximately \$30 million in past and expected future medical bills. The wife tragically lost her life in the collision.

Partners **Joseph Cammarata** and **Stephen Ollar** tirelessly pursued justice, holding the truck driver and the trucking company accountable for this preventable tragedy. Though there was only \$5 million in available insurance coverage, we won a confidential multi-million-dollar settlement, with the trucking company and its owners paying into the settlement. This settlement reflects the gravity of their negligence and provides our client with the means to face the challenges ahead while honoring the memory of his beloved wife.







# Justice Delivered: Celebrating Six Significant Wins for Our Clients

At Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C., we measure our success by the lives we impact and the justice we deliver. We are proud to report successful outcomes in six challenging cases, securing financial relief for our clients and accountability for the wrongdoers.

## **\$2 Million Settlement: Construction Negligence Case**

Our client was working at a job site when he fell through a hole landing multiple floors below. He suffered a brain injury and several orthopedic injuries. There were several contractors involved, and none of them wanted to take responsibility. Through discovery, Partner **Allan M. Siegel** was able to demonstrate that they each played a part in creating the hazard leading to a settlement that got our client the justice he deserved.

## **\$1.5 Million Settlement: Bicycle Crash**

Our client was riding his bicycle in Washington, DC when his bicycle struck a mound of asphalt which had been left on the street after construction work. As a result, he was thrown from his bicycle and suffered serious injuries including a skull fracture, and nerve damage to his face. Partner **Allan M. Siegel** was able to prove that the District of Columbia knew about this dangerous condition but failed to repair it, leading the District of Columbia to pay a \$1.5 million settlement.

## **\$1.1 Million Settlement: Head-on Collision**

Our client was a passenger in a car, which was struck head-on. The collision resulted in severe facial fractures and permanent disfigurement. Both drivers involved attempted to shift blame, creating a contentious legal battle. Partners **Joseph Cammarata** and **Stephen Ollar** successfully demonstrated that a jury would likely find both parties at fault, leading to a global settlement of \$1.1 million.

## **\$825,000 Settlement: Pedestrian Crossing**

Our client was a pedestrian crossing a busy roadway at a corner in an unmarked crosswalk, which did not have a traffic signal or stop sign. While crossing she was struck by a van. She suffered a traumatic brain injury and multiple body fractures. Partner **Joseph Cammarata** successfully demonstrated the nature, extent, and impact of our client's injuries on her life and was successful in winning a settlement of \$825,000.

## **\$210,000 Settlement: Slip and Fall on Ice**

Our client was leaving for work when she slipped and fell on ice in the parking lot of her apartment complex. She suffered a broken left wrist. The apartment complex and a snow removal contractor denied responsibility claiming they did everything they could reasonably have done to make the complex safe before our client left for work in the morning. Partner **Allan M. Siegel** proved otherwise, showing that there was a defect in the parking lot which caused ice to accumulate in the area that Plaintiff fell. As a result the property manager and the snow removal contractor agreed to pay \$210,000 to settle the case.

## **\$100,000 Arbitration Award: Persistence Against Insurance Company Denial**

Our client was forced off the road and into a tree. The insurance company for the defendant attempted to downplay her injuries despite years of documented treatment. The insurance company agreed to arbitrate the case. Partner **Stephen Ollar** presented compelling evidence that conveyed the full extent of her suffering, and received a \$100,000 arbitration award, fully compensating our client for her past medical bills, injuries, and pain and suffering.

CHAIKIN  
SHERMAN  
CAMMARATA  
SIEGEL P.C.

Personal Injury Lawyers

*We care about you  
and those you love!*



202.659.8600

800.229.8384

# Maryland's Automatic Enhanced Underinsured Motorist Coverage: What You Need to Know for 2025

Effective July 1, 2024, Maryland took a significant step toward protecting drivers with the automatic inclusion of Enhanced Underinsured Motorist Coverage (EUIM) in all auto insurance policies. This legislative change reinforces Maryland's commitment to ensuring that individuals have the financial protection they need in the aftermath of motor vehicle collisions involving underinsured drivers.

## What is EUIM, and Why Does It Matter?

Enhanced Underinsured Motorist Coverage ensures that drivers can recover damages up to the full amount of their policy limits, even if the at-fault driver's insurance falls short. Unlike traditional uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage, EUIM does not offset

your recovery by the amount of the at-fault driver's liability coverage. This means Maryland drivers can access the full value of their EUIM benefits, offering greater financial security for medical bills, lost wages, and other expenses resulting from an accident.

### For example:

**Without EUIM:** If you carry \$50,000 in uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage and the at-fault driver has \$25,000 in liability coverage, you can only recover up to \$25,000 from your own policy (the difference between the two).

**With EUIM:** In the same scenario, you can recover up to your full \$50,000 policy limit in addition to the at-fault driver's \$25,000 coverage, giving you access to a total of \$75,000.

## How to Take Advantage of EUIM:

For policies purchased or renewed before July 1, 2024, EUIM is optional. If you want this coverage, you have to "opt in." **In other words, you have to ask your insurer to add it to your existing policy.** For all new auto insurance policies purchased or renewed after July 1, 2024, **EUIM coverage will be automatically added to your policy.** Please note that it is still possible to opt out of EUIM coverage by signing a form provided by your insurer. **However, we strongly suggest not doing so as it limits the amount of protection you have for the negligent acts of your fellow motorists.** As always, your attorneys at Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C., are here to answer any questions that you may have.

CHAIKIN  
SHERMAN  
CAMMARATA  
SIEGEL P.C.

Personal Injury Lawyers

*A referral is the greatest professional compliment we can receive. If you have a friend, neighbor, or family member who is in need of legal representation, please consider referring them to our firm. We will do our best to provide the highest possible level of service and deliver winning results.*



[www.chaikinandsherman.com](http://www.chaikinandsherman.com)

**CHAIKIN, SHERMAN,  
CAMMARATA & SIEGEL, P.C.**

1232 17th Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036

PRESORTED  
FIRST CLASS  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
LANCASTER, PA  
PERMIT NO. 242

© Copyright 2025. Premier Print Marketing. Printed in the U.S.A. [www.PremierPrintMarketing.com](http://www.PremierPrintMarketing.com)

The information included in this newsletter is not intended as a substitute for professional legal advice. For your specific situation, please call the appropriate legal professional.



*"Mr. Donald Chaikin started this law firm in order to help people who were injured by others to get justice. I am glad I have contributed in some small way to his vision and the mission of Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata and Siegel."*

## R.D. Carter – Decades of Dedication

For the past 35 years **Dr. R.D. Carter, Jr.**, fondly referred to as "R.D.", has been a vital part of the Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel family. R.D. provides legal support services such as locating wrongdoers and giving them suit papers and conducting civil investigations. A lawsuit cannot go forward without personally delivering the suit papers (known as "serving") to the person being sued (known as a "Defendant"). R.D. has served over 45,000 wrongdoers during his 35 years of working with CSCS, and he has tracked down many Defendants who have attempted to thwart accountability by attempting to avoid receiving the suit papers. For 35 years, R.D. has almost always found his man or woman! We wanted to take this opportunity to thank R.D. for his many years of dedication and look forward to many more.