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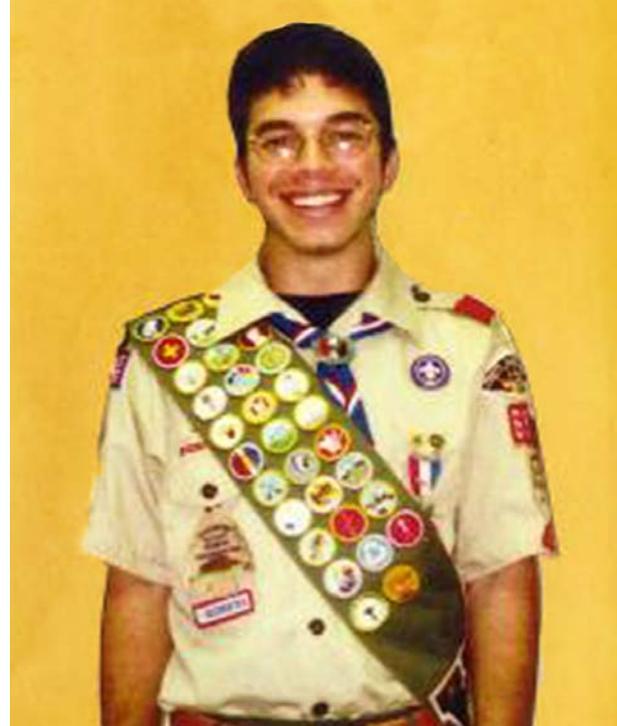
A REPORT TO CLIENTS & ATTORNEYS: VOLUME 10 - NUMBER 1

\$8 Million Verdict in Boy's Death as Result of Medical Negligence

Ten years, four appeals later, jury decides boy's death was preventable

Just over 10 years ago, 15-year-old Nathan Hannon suffered irreversible brain damage and died. In March 2010, a jury in the Third Judicial Circuit Court, Suwannee County, Florida, awarded \$8 million to Nathan's family in a verdict ruling that the boy died after Shands Teaching Hospital and Clinics, Inc., failed to provide timely treatment for a life-threatening medical condition. The verdict also found that the hospital had set up a negligent system in which Nathan's condition was allowed to deteriorate because no health-care provider managed his care.

At age two, Nathan had been diagnosed with hydrocephalus, a condition in which fluid builds up in the brain causing cranial pressure that often leads to oth-



er neurological disorders. Surgeons inserted a shunt in his brain to drain the fluid into his lower body where it could be reabsorbed. The shunt was replaced at age five, and again at age nine. As a result of the shunt and good health, Nathan lived a normal life, became an Eagle Scout at age 14, played soccer on the high school soccer team, and played trumpet in the high school marching band. He was a happy, normal teenager with a full life ahead of him.

On October 28, 1999, after playing trumpet with the marching band at a junior varsity football game, Nathan told his father that he had a headache and vomited one time. The condition continued the next morning. His mother, Yvette Hannon, *(Continued on page two.)*

\$1.1 Million Awarded to Young Athlete for Damages in Collision With School Bus

In December 2005, Altavious Carter was a 14-year-old aspiring basketball player. At his young age, he was already 6 feet 4 inches tall, with athletic skills that were catching the attention of college scouts. A week before Christmas – and one day before his first high school game – Altavious caught a ride home from basketball practice with his coach, Vince Merriweather, a 41-year-old firefighter and coach of boys basketball at Summit Christian School in West Palm Beach, Florida. The coach stopped for a red light not far down the road. Suddenly, their vehicle was rear-ended

by a Palm Beach County School District bus.

The impact of the collision pushed Vince's van 300 feet down the road. Vince and Altavious were thrown to the floor of the vehicle. Vince, suffering from severe spinal injuries, was airlifted to a local hospital. Altavious was taken to a local hospital as well, where examinations revealed he had a broken neck *(Continued on page ten.)*

NOTICE TO SEARCY DENNEY CLIENTS

Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley, P.A. is conducting an investigation on behalf of a current client into matters relating to the sale of liquid propane gas (LPG). If you have LPG delivered to your home or business, we would like to see a copy of any recent bills you have received for your propane purchase. If you do not use propane, this notice does not apply to you. If you do use LPG, and have a recent bill available, we would appreciate your sending us a copy of the front and back of the bill addressed to:

Jack Scarola, Esq.
2139 Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard
West Palm Beach, FL 33409
or Fax: 561-383-9451

After we receive the bill, we will be back in touch with additional information if your bill confirms any involvement in our investigation. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

\$8 Million Verdict in Boy's Death as Result of Medical Negligence

(Continued from page one.)

took him to the Shands Medical Group clinic in Live Oak, where they lived. Nathan's symptoms were consistent with a shunt malfunction, a life-threatening condition requiring emergency consultation with a neurosurgeon.

At the clinic, Nathan was seen by a physician assistant who correctly recognized that Nathan's situation was beyond his capability. The PA called the ER doctor at Shands Live Oak hospital to get help. The ER doctor recommended that Nathan be brought to Live Oak for a CT scan and lab work. Nathan spent over two hours at Shands Live Oak, his condition deteriorating as he sat in a wheelchair. No health-care provider took responsibility for his care and treatment, assessed or monitored his condition, or called a neurosurgeon to address the shunt malfunction. Ultimately, the ER doctor told Nathan's mother and father that Nathan's condition was urgent, but not emergent, and that it was fine for them to drive him 75 miles to Gainesville in the family car for an appointment that afternoon with a neurosurgeon.

With the ER doctor's assurance regarding the drive, Nathan's parents stopped to pick up Nathan's younger brother, gassed up the car, and headed to

Gainesville. At one point on the trip, Nathan said, "Mama, make me comfortable." Yvette looked down at her son and saw that his lips were turning blue, and he was not breathing. They pulled off the highway and called 911 for help. For seven minutes, Mrs. Hannon desperately tried to keep her son alive by performing CPR until the ambulance arrived. Recognizing Nathan's critical condition, the emergency crew called for Nathan to be airlifted to Gainesville. Upon arrival at the hospital, the excess fluid was removed from Nathan's shunt by a neurosurgeon. It was too late. For days the family kept a vigil at Nathan's bedside. Eventually, however, Nathan was declared brain dead.

Nathan's death devastated his family and the community. Suffering from the sudden, unexpected, and preventable loss of their son, the Hannon's sought representation by SDSBS attorneys **Chris Searcy** and

James Gustafson. Ten years and four appeals later, a Suwannee County jury recognized that Nathan's tragic death was preventable, that Shands Live Oak's negligent system caused Nathan's wrongful death. They rendered a verdict in favor of the Hannon's. "The doctors that day did not take responsibility for the patient," said Chris Searcy. "We trust our lives to medical centers and hospitals." "The tragic death of this young boy was preventable," said James Gustafson. "It is hoped that this verdict will bring a sense of justice to Nathan's family." ♦

No health-care provider took responsibility for his care and treatment, assessed or monitored his condition. The tragic death of this young boy was preventable.

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**NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 10 NUMBER 1**

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NOTE: The accounts of recent trials, verdicts and settlements contained in this newsletter are intended to illustrate the experience of the firm in a variety of litigation areas. Each case is unique, and the results in one case do not necessarily indicate the quality or value of any other case. Omitting clients' names and/or defendants' names are the result of requests for anonymity.

Semi-Truck with Two Loaded Trailers Smashes into Vehicle, Crushing Hopes for Bright Future

On a clear, dry night in February 2008, Ms. H stopped at a gas station in Tallahassee, Florida, filled up the tank of her 1993 Mercury Villager van, and began her trip back to central Florida where she worked as a civil engineer for a small engineering firm. Ms. H, 41 years old, had completed a second master's degree in civil engineering, and was now a doctoral candidate studying at Florida A&M University/Florida State University College of Engineering. In 1997, Ms. H had left her home in Puyang, Henan Province, China, after completing a master's degree in geology and moved to America to pursue the American Dream. Her goals were to complete her education and become a United States citizen. She also wanted to bring her daughter, CK, to America so that she, too, could pursue a good education and become a citizen. Ms. H was an exceptional student, who put in long hours studying and working to achieve her dreams. She received high praise from her professors for her research and computer skills.

The future was looking very bright that night in February, when Ms. H left the gas station and headed east on Interstate 10. Approximately seven miles down the highway, a semi-truck pulling fully-loaded double trailers came barreling down the highway behind Ms. H. The truck's driver had been in the rig since the previous midnight. The truck slammed squarely into the back of Ms. H's van at top speed. For at least three seconds, the truck driver did not even apply his brakes, speeding down the highway with the van lodged on the truck's grill. Suddenly, the van broke free of the truck and was thrown at high speed into a huge pine tree at the side of the highway. The front of the van was destroyed, the engine and firewall crushed into the front seat. Ms. H's right leg was partially amputated, hanging by a small patch of skin from behind her knee. She suffered brain injury; numerous fractures in her neck, ribs, and legs; and liver laceration. Trapped in the wreckage, bleeding, unable to move, and barely able to breathe, Ms. H suffered cardiac arrest. Emergency personnel arrived on the scene, got her out of the car, and rushed her to the hospital.

Ms. H knows what hard work is. She has been a tough and determined woman her whole life. Following numerous operations and very lengthy rehabilitation,

she was able to achieve a remarkable recovery, considering her catastrophic injuries. Nonetheless, her life was changed dramatically. She can no longer work or attend school. She is in constant severe pain. She regained the ability to walk, albeit very slowly, and has limited use of her arms and hands. She must endure a permanent tracheostomy that limits speaking, eating, and swallowing. She can no longer care for herself and must have round-the-clock medical care. Her 19-year-old daughter, CK, now lives with her mother in Gainesville, Florida, where CK attends college.

The trucking company refused to accept responsibility for the accident. Ms. H sought representation by SDSBS attorneys **Chris Searcy** and **James Gustafson**. They were supported in the case by SDSBS attorneys **Earl Denney**, **Jack Scarola**, and **Bill Norton**. Defense counsel for the trucking company tried to place blame on Ms. H, alleging that she was driving too slow, failed to have her lights on, and failed to wear her seatbelt. Meticulous investigative work refuted the company's allegations. Just days before the trial was scheduled to begin, the case settled for a confidential eight figure amount. ♦

For at least three seconds, the truck driver did not even apply his brakes, speeding down the highway with the van lodged on the truck's grill.



After Son's Death, Mother Becomes Advocate for Organ Donor Organizations

Son George had always wanted to be an organ donor, and his mother becomes a donor in his memory.

This is the story of one family's journey through pain and frustration caused by a series of medical errors, inefficiencies, and incompetence, and the family's profound lessons in healing.

In January 2006, Mr. and Mrs. S were notified that their 22-year-old son, George, had been severely injured in an automobile accident. He had been taken to a nearby hospital for immediate brain surgery which relieved the most urgent threat. Recovery began in the ICU. Numerous other injuries included broken bones, an eye injury, and severe leg injuries.



Three days later, he was moved into a regular hospital room. An examination revealed that his leg wounds were infected. The contaminated tissue around the wounds was surgically removed, an extremely painful procedure. The hospital then recommended George transfer to a rehabilitation center much closer to the family's home. Just before the transfer, the hospital directed George

to shower. Worried about the incision in his scalp and numerous open wounds on his legs, George expressed concern about showering in a communal facility. Nonetheless, the staff insisted.

The next day, George's legs showed more serious indications of infection. As the family tried to schedule an ambulance for the transfer, hospital personnel assured them they could transport George themselves. The 300 mile trip was agonizing for all. When they finally arrived at the center, there were no doctors on duty.

They called one of the doctors asking him to evaluate George's condition, but the doctor simply ordered pain medication.

The next morning, a doctor examined George and was alarmed by the condition of his legs. Sepsis, a potentially fatal bacterial infection, was clearly evident. Sepsis requires immediate and aggressive antibiotic treatment and close monitoring in an ICU. It was, however, another 14 hours before the center administered any antibiotics. By this time, George's eye was also infected.

The center kept him another two and one-half days. During that time, they transported George to a local ophthalmologist's office for an examination of his eye. He waited two hours before being examined. The emergency medical technicians who transported George thought he was in critical condition and should be moved to an ICU immediately. Finally, the center released George to a local hospital.

At the hospital, George's mother noticed his yellowish skin and swollen stomach. The hospital had also failed to note that George had stopped urinating. Acute kidney failure had begun. He was finally sent to ICU. The family was then told that George's legs would have to be amputated in order to save his life. Before the family could reach his room to tell him they would be waiting for him after surgery, George's heart began to fail. Within a short period of time, George died.

The family is presently pursuing litigation. To help other families avoid the suffering and helplessness they endured, they are lobbying the Florida legislature for mandates that could prevent these errors, including requirements that only board certified physicians treat or operate on patients and that rehabilitation centers have board certified physicians on duty all the time.

In the years since George's death, his mother has tried to find a positive focus for her loss and pain. George had always wanted to be an organ donor but organ failure prevented it. His mother joined the Alliance for Paired Donation, an organization that matches an incompatible donor/recipient pair to another pair. In February 2010, Mrs. S donated a kidney in memory of her son. She continues to advocate for organ donors. ♦

For additional information on organ donations, visit www.paireddonation.org or OrganDonor.Gov

Access to U.S. Government Information on Organ & Tissue Donation and Transplantation

Appellate Court Upholds Multi-Million Dollar Decision Against Walgreens for Negligence

Pharmacy gave patient ten times the prescribed dosage of blood thinner, resulting in massive stroke.

On March 1, 2010, SDSBS attorneys **Chris Searcy** and **Karen Terry** announced that the Second District Court of Appeal in Lakeland, Florida, upheld a multi-million dollar decision on behalf of a Florida woman who died as a result of a prescription error by a Walgreens pharmacy technician and pharmacist. Plaintiff Beth Hippely, her husband Deane Hippely, and their children, originally filed suit against Walgreens for negligence and wrongful death after Mrs. Hippely suffered a massive stroke due to a misfilled prescription. In 2007, a jury from the Tenth Judicial Circuit Court in Polk County awarded the family \$25.8 million because of the defendants' negligence. (See the complete story in *Of Counsel*, Vol. 7 No. 3, at www.searcylaw.com.) Walgreens appealed the lower court's verdict primarily on grounds of excessiveness and comments made during closing argument. The appellate court found that the lower court and jury acted properly and affirmed the verdict. Walgreens now owes the family the verdict plus costs and interest, a total \$33.6 million.

Beth Hippely, a 42-year-old mother of three, was being treated for breast cancer in 2002. Doctors gave her an 88% chance of survival. She endured chemotherapy treatments requiring a blood-thinning medication called Warfarin (generic Coumadin) in 1 milligram dosage. Tragically, the 19-year-old pharmacy technician, with little training, experience, or supervision, misfilled the pre-

scription and gave Mrs. Hippely ten times that dosage. She suffered a cerebral hemorrhage resulting in permanent neurological damage and painful rehabilitation. Unable to continue aggressive treatment for her cancer, it spread, and she died before the jury's verdict.

"Beth Hippely died unnecessarily because the tenfold overdose, filled by the pharmacy she trusted, made it impossible to combat the cancer that killed her," said Chris Searcy. "The negligence in this case went well beyond simple human error. There was egregious failure to manage and supervise." "Walgreens calls itself 'The Pharmacy America Trusts,'" said Karen Terry. "Tragically, the sufferings of Beth Hippely, her husband, and her children, prove otherwise."

In May 2008, as a result of the attention brought to this issue by Beth Hippely's death, the Florida legislature passed Senate Bill 1360, The Pharmacy Technician Act, requiring pharmacy technicians to register with the Florida Board of Pharmacy, to work under the direct

supervision of a pharmacist, and to be at least 17 years of age. Technicians will also be required to complete 20 hours of continuing education in pharmaceutical procedures prior to the biennial renewal of their registration. ♦



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Pain Pumps

USE: External, automatic pain pump with catheter that goes under the skin and into the joint for delivery of pain medication

DEFECT: Delivering anesthetic drugs directly into the joint causes cartilage destruction

HARM: Postarthroscopic Glenohumeral Chondrolysis (PAGCL) or death of the cartilage surrounding a joint, resulting in narrowing or destruction of the joint space, loss of use, chronic pain, and often the need for total joint replacement surgery



Denture Cream

USE: Poligrip, Super Poligrip and Fixodent denture adhesives containing zinc

DEFECT: Exposes patients to excessive levels of zinc

HARM: Zinc toxicity; copper deficiency; neuropathy; paresthesias; numbness and tingling of extremities; balance disturbances; lack of coordination; loss of sensation; and other neurological dysfunction

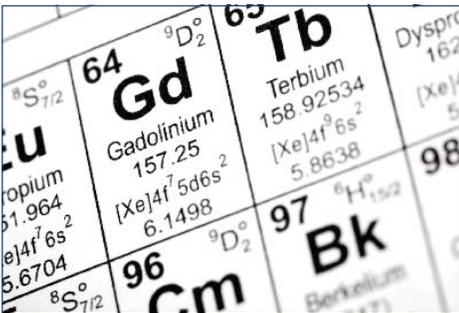


Yaz, Yasmin, Ocella

USE: Birth control pills for contraception and PMDD (premenstrual dysphoric disorder)

DEFECT: Failure to warn of increased risks due to unique progestin

HARM: Blood clots, deep vein thrombosis, strokes, heart attack, pulmonary emboli, gallbladder disease, and sudden cardiac death



Gadolinium MRI Contrast Material

USE: MRI and CT contrast material marketed by GE, Bayer, Tyco, Mallinckrodt, Berlex and Bracco Diagnostics

DEFECT: Gadolinium is toxic to patients with pre-existing renal disease

HARM: Nephrogenic Systemic Fibrosis causing fibrosis of skin and vital organs, contractures, disability and death



Avandia, Avandamet & Avandaryl

USE: Lowers blood sugar and sensitizes insulin sensitizer in diabetic patients

DEFECT: Provides limited benefits and substantial risks to patients over other diabetes medications and treatments

HARM: Increased incidence of cardiovascular events including heart attack, ischemic stroke, congestive heart failure and sudden cardiac death



Reglan (Metoclopramide)

USE: Approved for short-term use for gastroparesis, reflux and other digestive problems

DEFECT: Long-term use of the drug causes harm, especially in children and the elderly

HARM: Tardive dyskinesia and other movement disorders

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Mass Torts Projects of Interest

CONSUMER PRODUCTS

Product Injury

AMO Contact Lens Solution

Acanthamoeba Infection

Goodyear Dunlop

D402 Tires

Sudden Deflation

Yamaha Rhino ATV

Crush Injuries Due to Rollover

Suzuki GSX-R1000

Motorcycles

Serious Injury or Death
Due to Frame Fracture

Denture Cream

Neurological Disease

PRESCRIPTION AND OVER-THE-COUNTER DRUGS

Drug Name Injury

Accutane

Inflammatory Bowel Disease

Avandia

Heart Attack
Congestive Heart Failure
Ischemic Stroke
Sudden Cardiac Death

Bextra

Heart Attack
Stevens Johnson Syndrome

Bisphosphonates (Fosamax, Boniva, Actonel, Zometa, Aredia, Didronel, Bonefos, Skelid, Reclast)

Jaw Osteonecrosis
Long Bone Fractures
Esophageal Cancer

Chantix

Suicide

Digitek and Digoxin

Digitalis Toxicity

Duragesic or Fentanyl Pain Patches

Respiratory Failure
Death

Hydroxycut

Liver Failure

Gadolinium-Based MRI Contrast Agents

Nephrogenic Systemic Fibrosis

Ketek

Liver Failure

Levaquin

Tendon Ruptures

Nexium

Hip Fractures

Reglan

Tardive Dyskinesia

Seroquel and Zyprexa

Hyperglycemia

Tequin

Hyperglycemia

Trasylol (Aprotinin)

Kidney Failure

Visicol, OsmoPrep, and C.B. Fleet Phospho-Soda Bowel Prep Solutions

Acute Phosphate Nephropathy
Kidney Failure

Yaz, Yasmin and Ocella

Blood Clots
Stroke
Gallbladder Disease
Sudden Cardiac Death
Deep Vein Thrombosis
Pulmonary Emboli

Zicam

Loss of Smell

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND IMPLANTED DEVICES

Medical Device Injury

Bard Composix Kugel Hernia Mesh

Breakage or Migration Causing
Bowel Injury and Fistulae
Formation

Medtronic Paradigm Quick-Set Insulin Pumps

Failure to Provide Proper Insulin
Therapy

Medtronic Sprint Fidelis Leads

Fractured Lead Causing
Inappropriate Therapy

Medtronic Synchromed Intrathecal Permanent Pain Pump

Paralysis

Mentor OB Tape Vaginal Sling

Tissue Erosion

NuvaRing Contraceptive Device

Blood Clots
Stroke

Post-Operative Disposable Pain Pumps

Chondrolysis (Cartilage
Destruction)

Zimmer Durom Cup Hip Implants

Device Failure

Please call our Mass Torts Unit if you have been harmed by a drug or medical device

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Speaking Opportunities



Jack Scarola participated as a member of the "Commercial Litigation Trial Advocacy Panel" at the Palm Beach County Bar Association's Bench-Bar Conference held on February 19, 2010. The Bench-Bar Conference is an annual all-day event designed to foster the working environment between attorneys and the judiciary. On March 5, 2010, Mr. Scarola spoke at the PBCBA's Commercial Litigation CLE Committee's E-Discovery Seminar. His topic was "Non-Compliance With Electronic Discovery Requests and the Resulting Sanctions in the Morgan Stanley Case," including related case law. ♦



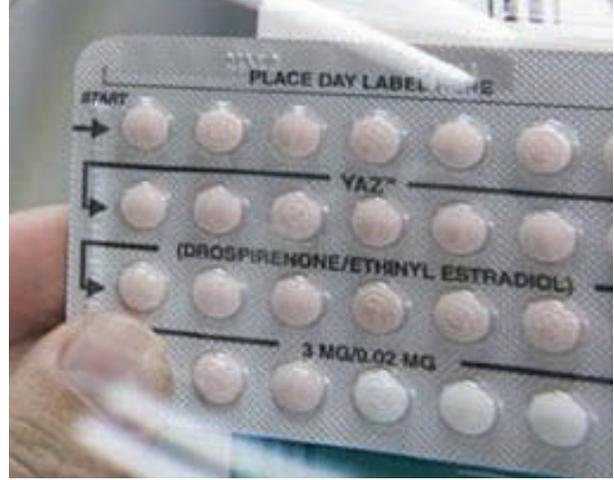
Greg Barnhart spoke on "Opening and Closing Arguments" at the Florida Bar's Annual Review and Board Certification Seminar held February 1, 2010, at the Airport Marriott in Tampa, Florida. ♦



Sia Baker-Barnes participated as moderator at the Florida Justice Association's Workhorse Seminar held February 17-19, 2010, in Orlando, Florida. The session's theme was "Proof and Argument of Damages in Personal Injury and Wrongful Death Cases." Discussions focused on trying the big-rig trucking or bus case to verdict, with special emphasis on demonstrative evidence. ♦



Vince Leonard spoke at the Palm Beach County Justice Association's Paralegal Breakfast Seminar held March 12, 2010, at the President Country Club, West Palm Beach, Florida. The topic of the presentation by Mr. Leonard and his co-presenter, local attorney Mickey Smith, was "Everything You Wanted to Know about Uninsured Motorists, But Were Afraid to Ask." ♦



Three SDSBS Attorneys Appointed to Court Committees Aiding National Litigation of Birth-Control Pill Claims



Brenda Fulmer

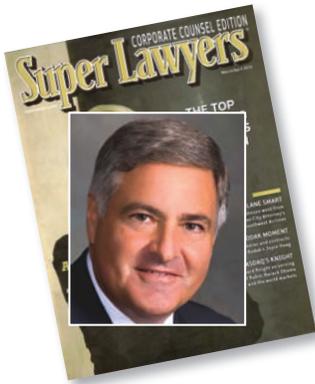


David Sales



Cal Warriner

In 2001, Bayer introduced an FDA-approved birth-control pill called Yasmin. In 2006, Bayer introduced a newer version, Yaz. A generic version, Ocella, has also been marketed since 2008 by Barr and Teva. Over the past few years, the FDA has repeatedly cited Bayer for overstating the approved uses of the drugs and other improper marketing practices, and for failing to adequately address safety issues. Studies have been published indicating that women taking Yasmin, Yaz, and Ocella face higher risks of strokes, heart attacks, deep vein thromboses, pulmonary emboli, sudden cardiac death, and gallbladder injuries than women who use other birth-control products. A number of young women have filed lawsuits against the manufacturers for these injuries. Because of the substantial and growing number of lawsuits, the U. S. Judicial Panel on Multi-District Litigation issued an order on October 1, 2009, to consolidate all of the individual lawsuits and class action claims pending in the federal court system, and the cases were transferred to a judge in East St. Louis, Illinois. The MDL court established committees and appointed plaintiffs' attorneys to advance the national litigation, including SDSBS attorneys **Brenda Fulmer** (Discovery Committee), **David Sales** (Law and Briefing Committee), and **Cal Warriner** (Science/Expert Committee). ♦



Accolades

Attorney Jack Scarola Named 'Super Lawyer' in Business Litigation

SDSBS attorney **Jack Scarola** was named in the March/April 2010 *Super Lawyers* – Corporate Counsel Edition, a consumer guide published by *Law and Politics Magazine*. The Corporate Counsel Edition is a nationwide listing of attorneys selected by *Super Lawyers* in business-related practice areas. Mr. Scarola was selected in the Business Litigation category of the edition. The selection process is based on peer nominations, balloting, blue-ribbon panel reviews, and independent research. ♦



Log on to...
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Chris Searcy



Earl Denney



Greg Barnhart



John Shipley



Brenda Fulmer



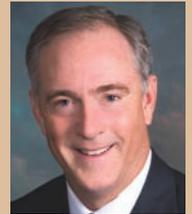
Darryl Lewis



Bill Norton



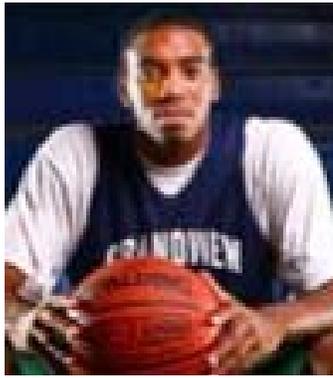
David Sales



Cal Warriner

Nine SDSBS Attorneys Named in Top 100 Florida Trial Lawyers by ATLA

Chris Searcy, Earl Denney, Greg Barnhart, John Shipley, Brenda Fulmer, Darryl Lewis, Bill Norton, David Sales, and Cal Warriner were selected to continue membership in the American Trial Lawyers Association. The national organization is composed of the top 100 trial lawyers from each state. Membership is by special invitation extended only to those attorneys who exemplify superior qualifications as civil plaintiff or criminal defense trial lawyers. ATLA's mission is to promote excellence in the legal profession through educational programs, networking opportunities, and publications that deal with current issues facing attorneys. ♦



No one would ever know how capable he could have been **had the accident not robbed him of that year of development.**

\$1.1 Million Awarded to Young Athlete for Damages in Collision Caused by School Bus

(Continued from page one.)

and a ruptured disc between his C6 and C7 vertebrae. Three days later, doctors fused the vertebrae, and Altavious spent the next three months in a neck brace. He couldn't even touch a basketball for seven months. Altavious's father had died when he was quite young, and his mother had taught him not to make excuses. He didn't want sympathy; he wanted to get back to playing basketball. With sheer personal determination and courage, he worked hard to succeed at rehabilitation. He will always have neck and back pain, and his reaction time may have been impacted. But after more than a year, he is finally playing basketball again.

In 2008, a suit charging negligence against the school district was filed by SDSBS attorneys **Chris Searcy** and **David White** on behalf of Vince Merriweather. Settlement was reached in September 2008 in the amount of \$3.9 million.

SDSBS attorneys **Brian Denney** and **Jack Hill** filed a negligence suit against the school board on behalf of Altavious Carter. The school board readily admitted their driver's negligence in the accident, but pressed for a trial, arguing that they owed the young man only \$250,000 in damages because he was not permanently injured. The defense's argument included videos of Altavious playing basketball. Attorneys Denney and Hill countered that the young man had, in fact, suffered severe injuries. No one would ever know how capable he could have been had the accident not robbed him of that year of development. He should not be punished for accomplishing some measure of success at his own rehabilitation.

In February 2010, the jury agreed with plaintiff's argument and awarded Altavious \$1.1 million. Since the school board is a governmental entity, a claims bill must be presented to the Florida legislature for approval. ♦

Taking... *Time to Care*



'Spoiled Dogs' team from SDSBS participates in ninth annual walk to benefit Rescue League

The 9th Annual Walk for the Animals, sponsored by the Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League, was held February 13 at John Prince Park in Lake Worth. Nearly 350 pet owners and supporters of the League, including 11 SDSBS employees and family members, participated in the event. The League recently opened the Grace Pavilion, a state-of-the-art, 38,000-square-foot, animal welfare center, increasing its capacity to rescue homeless dogs and cats. Proceeds from the Walk will support these services. ♦

For more information, visit www.hspb.org



The Quinlan family in events supporting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

In March 2010, Patrick and Nancy Quinlan, and sons Brendan and Brian, participated in several events supporting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Brian is a pediatric leukemia survivor. The family joined Florida Atlantic University students for an "Up 'Til Dawn" fundraiser where everyone stayed up all night writing letters to family and friends asking for donations. The event was also attended by Miami Dolphin cheerleaders. Patrick and his family also spoke on behalf of St. Jude at a local walk-a-thon, luncheon, and St. Jude's signature fundraising event, the Math-a-Thon. ♦

For more information, visit www.stjude.org





SDSBS employees help to raise \$287,000 plus in 'Walk Now for Autism Speaks'

On March 7, the 2010 "Walk Now for Autism Speaks" took place. The Walk coincided with the fifth anniversary of Autism Speaks, a global organization whose mission is to find a cure for autism. Chris Searcy and a number of SDSBS employees participated in the Walk. SDSBS was also a media sponsor as well as the start/finish line sponsor. The Walk raised over \$287,000 to help fund research and provide support for those who struggle with the daily challenges of autism. ♦

For more information, visit www.autismspeaks.org



Chris Searcy with West Palm Beach Mayor, Lois Frankel



Drummer Brian Denney with musical friends

Brian Denney and friends perform at PBC Bar Association inaugural Lawyer Variety Show

The Palm Beach County Bar Association held its Inaugural Lawyer Variety Show in Palm Beach Gardens. As part of the musical presentations, Brian Denney and friends performed their version of Black Sabbath's "War Pigs." Proceeds from the event benefited the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County and the PBCBA's North County Section Scholarship Fund. ♦

For more information, visit www.legalaidpbc.org



Jack Scarola reads to children during ninth annual 'Read Across Palm Beach County' for Literacy Coalition

On March 25, 2010, Jack Scarola participated in the ninth annual "Read Across Palm Beach County." This is a program sponsored by the Palm Beach County Bar Association Lawyers for Literacy Committee and the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County to promote literacy. Jack was a big hit with children at Jupiter Pre-School as he read *How Do Dinosaurs Eat Their Food?* ♦

For more information, visit www.literacypbc.org

Above (l-r) SDSBS attorney Jack Scarola, Ruth Lawson with Pittman Jupiter Pre-School, and local attorney Audrey Harris

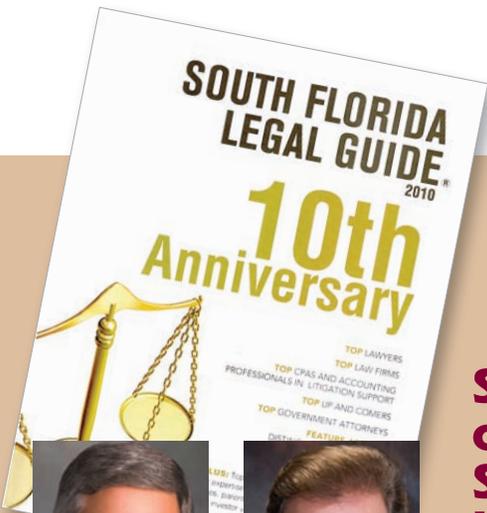


Jack and Anita Scarola attend Legal Aid Event

The Young Professional Friends of Legal Aid hosted November 18th Brooks Brothers Event in Palm Beach Gardens. ♦

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SDSBS and Ten of Its Attorneys Selected as 'Tops' in South Florida

The 10th edition of the *South Florida Legal Guide 2010* has recognized SDSBS as one of the top law firms in south Florida. The legal resource guide reviews nominations from thousands of attorneys throughout south Florida and selects from those nominations the top firms to be recognized. **Chris Searcy, Earl Denney, Jack Scarola, Greg Barnhart, John Shipley, David Sales, Chris Speed, Karen Terry, and Cal Warriner** were recognized as top lawyers in south Florida by the 2010 Guide. Mr. Searcy and Mr. Scarola have been recognized as top lawyers in south Florida in all of the Guide's ten annual publications. **Brian Denney** was selected by the Guide as one of south Florida's "top up and comers." ♦



Chris Searcy



Earl Denney



Jack Scarola



Greg Barnhart



John Shipley



David Sales



Chris Speed



Karen Terry



Cal Warriner



Brian Denney



SEARCY DENNEY SCAROLA BARNHART & SHIPLEY P.A.
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