

**Article Published in
AAJ Trial Magazine by
SDSBS Attorney
Jim Gustafson.**



An article written by SDSBS attorney **Jim Gustafson** and Jim Girards, Girards Law Firm, Dallas, Texas, was published in the May 2010 issue of *Trial* magazine, the national monthly publication of the American Association for Justice. The article, entitled "Blind Faith," concerns the tragic complication of permanent and total blindness occurring during elective back surgery. The complication, called postoperative visual loss (POVL), is caused by long operating time in the face-down position, blood loss, and a decrease in blood flow and oxygen to the optic nerve. It most often results from patient positioning (face-down) during lengthy spinal surgery. The article describes the medical condition itself, its causes, and the legal issues to be addressed in pursuing a medical negligence case involving POVL. As Mr. Gustafson points out, "People trust doctors to get them through spinal surgery safely, but patients who wake up in the post-op room suffering inexplicable vision loss learn quickly that their trust was misplaced. This complication is preventable, so why does it happen?" ♦



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**Twelve SDSBS
Attorneys Named Tops
by *Super Lawyers*
Magazine**



Chris Searcy



Earl Denney



Jack Scarola



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Jim Gustafson



Darryl Lewis



Bill Norton



Chris Speed



Karen Terry



Sia Baker-Barnes



Jack Hill

**Chris Searcy in "Top Ten"
and Jack Scarola in "Top 100".**

Super Lawyers magazine recently named SDSBS attorneys **Chris Searcy, Earl Denney, Jack Scarola, Greg Barnhart, John Shipley, Jim Gustafson, Darryl Lewis, Bill Norton, Chris Speed,** and **Karen Terry** as "Florida Super Lawyers 2010." **Chris Searcy** was also named in the publication's "List of Top 10 Florida Super Lawyers." **Jack Scarola** was also named in the "List of Top 100 Florida Super Lawyers." **Sia Baker-Barnes** and **Jack Hill** were named "Florida Rising Stars 2010," the publication's list of the state's up-and-coming attorneys. *Super Lawyers'* selection process is a comprehensive effort to list lawyers that have attained high peer recognition, met ethical standards, and have demonstrated some degree of achievement in their field. Candidates are generally nominated by a peer and evaluated by the publication's research team. Final selection is made by a "blue ribbon" panel of attorneys within each practice area. ♦