
Speaking Opportunities



Chris Searcy spoke at the Florida Justice Association's inaugural meeting of the Christian D. Searcy Voir Dire Institute held in August 2017. He participated in several different workshops on the topics of Plaintiff Liability Issues; Methodology and Strategy of Responding to Difficult and Sometimes Accusatory Statements or Comments by Jurors; "Philosophy" and Developing Challenges for Cause; Physical Pain and Suffering, Mental Pain and Anguish, Loss of Enjoyment of Life, Big Verdicts, and Tort Reform; Anticipating Defense Steps and Moves; and Voir Dire Methodology and Strategy to Seek and Identify Harmful, Problematic, and Case Destruction-Oriented Jurors. In October 2017, Mr. Searcy spoke at the FJA's Medical Malpractice Seminar which was held in conjunction with the "Masters of Justice Seminar." His topic was "Closing Argument: When You Sit Down, They Say Yes." The event was held at the Ritz-Carlton in Sarasota, Florida. ♦



Brenda Fulmer spoke at the American Association for Justice's Annual Convention held in July 2017 in Boston, Massachusetts. She participated in a panel discussion on "Settlement Strategies," and wrapped up an AAJ Education program on "Gaining a Deeper Understanding of Mass Torts." ♦



In August 2017, **Matt Schwencke** spoke to the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Paralegal Association of Florida. His presentation was "Nursing Home Abuse and Neglect." ♦



In October 2017, SDSBS was a sponsor of the Annual Judicial Reception and Installation of Officers for the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. SDSBS attorney **Kelly Hyman** was sworn in as chapter president.

The event was held at the Kravis Center-Cohen Pavilion in West Palm Beach, Florida. Also in October 2017, Kelly Hyman spoke at The Workers' Compensation CLE Committee of the Palm Beach County Bar Association's seminar entitled "How to Reach the Iron Throne – A Workers' Compensation Claim from Start to Finish!" Her presentation addressed professionalism. The seminar was held at the Hilton Palm Beach Airport in West Palm Beach, Florida. ♦

Ignored nursing home patient falls, later dies

Patient was designated to be at risk of falling and proper precautions were not practiced

In 2017, John Smith (not his real name), a 91-year-old man suffering from dementia and pneumonia, was admitted to a nursing home in south Florida. During admission, an evaluation of John's condition revealed him to be at risk of falling and proper precautions were put into place.

Sometime later during his stay at the nursing home, John was being bathed in the shower by a nursing home attendant. He sat on a stool as the attendant bathed him. As the shower was completed, the attendant turned her attention away from her patient. John then stood up, lost his balance, and fell in the shower, fracturing his hip. Fractures of this nature are critical for elderly patients, and a short time later John died from the injury.

John's wife contacted SDSBS attorney **Adam Hecht** and asked for his help in holding the nursing home accountable for their negligence in the care of her husband. Following several efforts to reach agreement, Mr. Hecht was able to obtain a favorable settlement for a confidential amount. ♦

Bus runs stop sign, hitting bicyclist, causing severe damages

Bus ran over the cyclist, trapping him beneath and crushing his lungs, damaging ribs and spleen

In 2016, 37-year-old Tom Scott (not his real name) was riding his bicycle down a street in Boynton Beach, Florida. As he approached an intersection and proceeded to cross it, a local bus ran a stop sign and crashed into Tom, driving right over him. He was trapped under the front tire of the vehicle, unable to breathe because his lungs were crushed. He blacked out due to the injuries. Fortunately, several passersby helped rescue him and called for an ambulance. Tom was transported to a hospital where an examination revealed he had pulmonary contusions, a lacerated spleen, several fractured ribs, and severe burns on his back. Following weeks of medical treatment and therapy, Tom and his family contacted SDSBS attorney **Adam Hecht** and asked for his help in an effort to hold the bus company accountable for the injuries. Mr. Hecht was successful in reaching a settlement before trial for an undisclosed amount. ♦
