

# The Trial Lawyer

A MAGAZINE FOR TRIAL LAWYERS & A VOICE FOR JUSTICE

Featuring

The Man Behind The Curtain

*Wayne LaPierre*

The Scarecrow *Ted Nugent*

The Cowardly Lion *Glenn Beck*

The Tin Man *Sean Hannity*

THE NRA  
GREAT AND  
POWERFUL



JERRY  
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# THE NATIONAL TRIAL LAWYERS

**The National Trial Lawyers: Top 100 Trial Lawyers** is an invitation only, professional association composed of America's most accomplished Trial Lawyers from each state.

**The National Trial Lawyers: Top 40 Under 40** is an invitation only, professional association comprised of America's top young trial attorneys.

**Specialty Associations by The National Trial Lawyers** promotes excellence in specific areas of trial practice. Membership into these associations is open to prominent and experienced civil plaintiff or criminal defense trial lawyers who specialize in specific areas of law. For a complete list of Specialty Associations by The National Trial Lawyers please visit our website.

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## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



2013 President  
*Ed Hershewe*

The National Trial Lawyers: Top 100 is an invitation-only organization composed of the premier trial lawyers from across the country who meet stringent qualifications as civil plaintiff and/or criminal defense trial lawyers. It is our mission to promote a unique and professional networking opportunity for trial lawyers, while developing progressive ideas to pursue justice for those injured by the negligence of others, to educate the public about the importance of access to courts that are free of bias and undue influence, and to protect the American right of trial by jury.

## CHRISTIAN SEARCY

*Executive Committee Member*



### **First Job Ever:**

Part time — Paperboy  
1959 — Jacksonville, FL

Full time — Digging ditches for a construction company  
Summer of 1966 — Jacksonville, FL

### **Proudest moment as a trial lawyer:**

Each time I achieve a good verdict in a righteous case for a deserving client against formidable opposition. In a career of 40 years, I have had the good fortune of achieving many such verdicts. Each of them were unique and very special to me.

### **Attribute to my success:**

My own personal tragedies have given me insight into losses suffered by others. When I was 12 years old, I saw my 6-year-old brother killed in a family automobile accident. When I was 26 years old, I saw my first born son brain injured at birth from a high forceps delivery, which has disabled him for life. The experience of suffering such sudden unexpected tragic losses and experiencing the profound effect of those losses in an ongoing fashion throughout my life, has given me insight into the tragic losses of my clients.

### **Notable verdict or settlement:**

Two verdicts are particularly notable to me, as the factual situation in those cases were quite similar to my own personal tragedies.

One case was entitled: *Jenkins v. Ranger Construction Company, Palm Beach County and Cohan*. It involved a family automobile accident due to defective traffic controls at an intersection (just like our family accident) and resulted in the death of a 6-year-old child, and the paralysis of 3-year-old twins. In 2001, with the assistance of my partners, Darryl Lewis and Harry Shevin, we achieved verdicts for that family totaling \$256 million, which consisted of \$50 million for the wrongful death of the 6-year-old child; \$145,961,517.00 for the quadriplegia of one of the twins and \$60,139,793.00 for the hemiplegia of the other twin.

In 2004, I found myself representing a first born son, who was brain injured at birth due to a high forceps delivery, just as my son had been. That case was captioned: *Korzeniowski v. Bethesda Memorial Hospital and Eagleman*. The child who was brain injured at birth was seven years old by the time my partner, David White, and I achieved the verdict. The hospital's offer had been \$1,000 apiece for the baby and each parent. The jury returned a verdict totaling \$63,000,000.00.

Feeling that after 41 years, I had finally gotten to represent my little brother, and after 30 years, I had finally gotten to represent my son — Priceless!

### **Guilty pleasure:**

Spending a whole day playing golf.

### **What I like to do in my time off:**

Water sports (free diving, fishing, boating), golfing, snow skiing with my family and friends.

### **One word that describes me:**

Protector.

### **What was your most embarrassing moment in life?**

When I had only been practicing law three years, I was in the midst of a several day trial. In getting dressed for the last day of trial, I found I had run out of clean underwear, except for a pair of bright red bikini underwear, a/k/a "Jungle Jocks." I had been given as a gag gift. I put them on figuring nobody would ever know. At the conclusion of the day, a little old lady (the wife of one of the jurors) who was seated in the audience tapped me on the shoulder and said, "Young man, I didn't tell you this earlier, because I didn't want you to be self-conscious, but the entire seat of your pants is ripped out."