

# Of Counsel

A REPORT TO CLIENTS & ATTORNEYS VOLUME 15, NUMBER 3



Standing (l-r): Chris Speed, Jack Hill, Jack Scarola, Brian Denney, Chris Searcy, Greg Barnhart, Cal Warriner, Ed Ricci, Bill Norton, John Shipley, Darryl Lewis, Mariano Garcia. Seated (l-r): Sia Baker-Barnes, Brenda Fulmer, Jim Gustafson, Karen Terry.

Photo by Larry Gatz

## 16 SDSBS lawyers named 2016 “Best Lawyers”

Sixteen SDSBS lawyers were recently recognized in the *U.S. News & World Reports’* publication, *Best Lawyers in America 2016*, for their success in representing plaintiffs in medical malpractice, professional malpractice, product liability, mass tort litigation, commercial litigation, and personal injury litigation. SDSBS has the highest number of attorneys listed in *Best Lawyers* compared to

other plaintiff personal injury/wrongful death law firms in Florida.

Particularly significant was the selection of West Palm Beach, Florida, “Lawyers of the Year – 2016:” **Jack Scarola** (Medical Malpractice Law – Plaintiffs); **Karen Terry** (Product Liability Litigation – Plaintiffs); and **Brenda Fulmer** (Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions – Plaintiffs). *(Continued on page three.)*

## \$6.2 million award for horrific injuries caused by motorcycle crash

SDSBS attorney **Karen Terry** was asked by former law partner Harry Shevin of Shevin Law Firm to join in the trial of a case involving two clients who had been seriously injured in a high-impact vehicle crash. Their clients had been riding their Harley-Davidson motorcycle through an intersection in Inverness, Florida, when the defendant failed to yield right of way to the cyclists and crashed into them. Both of Ms. Terry’s clients suffered horrific orthopedic injuries. Bob Brown (not his real name), endured 12 separate surgeries at Shands Hospital in Gainesville, Florida. Bob died 11 months after the accident from

unrelated causes. Nonetheless, the last 11 months of his life were spent in and out of hospitals, physical rehabilitation centers and nursing homes. His long-time significant other, Mary Jones (not her real name), also suffered serious injuries, enduring four surgeries and long-term rehabilitation. She suffers a permanent foot-drop and will walk with a limp and the assistance of a cane for the rest of her life.

The highway intersection had been under construction at the time of the accident. The defense accepted no responsibility for the accident and attempted to blame the highway construction company and others for creating a confusing intersection. Following a seven-day trial and just over two hours of deliberation, the jury awarded \$6.2 million to Mary Jones and the Estate of Bob Brown. ♦

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& SHIPLEY PA**  
**ATTORNEYS AT LAW**

# Surgeon's use of improper heart valve during surgery results in death

In 2013, Tracy Thompson (not her real name), a 53-year-old mother of three, was vice president of a home healthcare organization. Her husband, Michael, also worked in the healthcare field. They had just celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary and the birth of their first grandchild. Tracy's family described her as the glue that held the family together. Both Tracy and Michael were looking forward to retiring and moving to the mountains. That dream ended in May 2013 when Tracy died while undergoing what should have been a routine medical procedure.

Tracy had been scheduled for heart surgery at a hospital in Broward County, Florida. The surgery was expected to take only a few hours, and the doctor told the couple that Tracy would be out of the hospital within a day or two. The morning of the surgery, as Tracy was wheeled into the operating room, Michael told his wife that he loved her. A few hours later, Michael was told that his wife had died on the operating table. The surgeon told Michael that he had "no idea what had happened." Shortly after the tragic event, a nurse at the hospital submitted

an anonymous complaint to the Florida Department of Health, stating that the surgeon had used an incorrect size of valve to repair Tracy's heart. The error ultimately caused her death.

Michael contacted SDSBS attorneys **Chris Searcy** and **Karen Terry** and asked if they could help him find out what had gone wrong during his wife's surgery. The hospital admitted liability, although they would not say what they or the surgeon did incorrectly. In Florida, admitting liability is significant because Florida Statute §766.207 allows a defendant to cap the amount of damages that the plaintiffs can recover simply by admitting liability for their negligence. However, defendants are under no obligation to tell plaintiffs what went wrong.

Ms. Terry went to battle against the hospital in an effort to settle the case before a three-day binding arbitration. Through her efforts, the Thompson family reached settlement with the hospital for a confidential sum which was close to the maximum amount that could have been received at arbitration.

Although Michael may never know precisely what went wrong in the operating room on that fateful day, he takes comfort in knowing that the last thing his wife heard him say was how much he loved her. ♦

**A nurse at the hospital submitted an anonymous complaint to the state health department, which revealed the mistake of an incorrect size of valve during heart surgery.**

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ROSALYN SIA BAKER-BARNES  
F. GREGORY BARNHART  
T. HARDEE BASS III  
LAURIE J. BRIGGS  
BRIAN R. DENNEY  
EARL L. DENNEY, JR.  
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A REPORT TO CLIENTS & ATTORNEYS VOLUME 15, NUMBER 3

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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.

## 16 SDSBS lawyers named 2016 “Best Lawyers”

(Continued from page one.)

Only a single lawyer in each area of practice and metropolitan area is honored as “Lawyer of the Year.” Since it was first published in 1993, *Best Lawyers* has become universally regarded as the definitive guide to legal excellence. Its selection process is based upon an exhaustive peer-review survey designed to capture, as accurately as possible, the consensus opinion of leading lawyers about the professional abilities of their colleagues in the same geographical and legal practice area.

The 16 attorneys selected by peer review for inclusion in this edition of *Best Lawyers* are **Chris Searcy, Jack Scarola, Greg Barnhart, John Shipley, Sia Baker-Barnes, Brian Denney, Brenda Fulmer, Mariano Garcia, Jim Gustafson, Jack Hill, Darryl Lewis, Bill Norton, Chris Speed, Karen Terry, Cal Warriner, and Ed Ricci.**

SDSBS was also recognized with a first-tier ranking in the publication of *2016 Best Law Firms*. The rankings are based on a rigorous evaluation process that includes client and lawyer evaluations, peer reviews in their field, and additional information in the submission process. ♦

*“Justice consists  
not in being neutral  
between  
right and wrong,  
but in finding out  
the right  
and upholding it,  
wherever found,  
against the wrong.”*

-- Theodore Roosevelt

## 26-year-old college student permanently paralyzed in truck accident

In 2015, Kristen Callaway was a 26-year-old college student living in Orlando, Florida, studying to become a school counselor. She and her boyfriend, Jake Smith (not his real name) shared a home in the Orlando area. Kristen was a beautiful, fun-loving young woman with a large circle of friends. In April, Kristen and Jake were heading home on State Road 408 after spending an afternoon with friends. Jake was driving a truck owned by his employer, a local construction company. Jake often used the truck as his personal vehicle. On their trip home, Jake lost control of the vehicle and it ran off the road, turning over several times. Emergency personnel responded to the accident scene and managed to pull Kristen from the wreckage. She was immediately taken to a local hospital. Medical examinations revealed that she had three fractured areas in her neck, a broken jaw, and several shattered vertebrae in her back. Doctors informed Kristen and her family that she was permanently paralyzed from the waist down.



**Faced with a lifetime  
of medical, therapy  
and living expenses,  
the settlement will  
help Kristen regain  
her independence.**

Faced with a horrific change in her life and what would likely be a lifetime of unexpected medical, therapy, and living expenses, the family sought relief from all parties involved. The construction company that owned the truck and permitted Jake to use it had a \$6 million insurance policy, but because Jake had used the truck for personal travel, the company questioned applicability of the policy. Kristen and her family contacted an Orlando attorney who associated SDSBS attorney **Karen Terry** for advice. Ms. Terry collected documents and other information, and demanded that the insurance company tender the entire policy limit within 30 days. On the eve of the deadline, the insurance company agreed to the settlement request.

Kristen has now moved back into her family’s home and is adjusting to living her life in a wheelchair. She regularly attends therapy sessions and hopes to be healthy enough to return to school next year. She plans to use a portion of the settlement to purchase a home that is wheelchair accessible so she can again live and work independently. ♦



## Doctors performed cardioversion procedure without blood thinners

### Patient died of a stroke due to medical error.

Dan Johnson (not his real name) was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. Those that knew him said his smile and laugh would brighten even the darkest room. Dan and his wife, Ruth (not her real name), lived in central Florida and were very active. They drove their scooters around town, played with their grandchildren, kayaked, and traveled. They had been married for 50 years and were truly the light of each other's life.

In 2012, Dan visited a cardiologist after experiencing shortness of breath. The cardiologist advised him that he had atrial fibrillation – an abnormal heart rhythm. She assured Dan that she could “shock” his heart back into rhythm using a procedure called cardioversion. Cardioversion customarily calls for a patient to receive blood thinners before, during, and after the procedure to prevent blood clots from forming and coming loose when the electrical charge is administered. The cardiologist conducted the procedure on Dan, but failed to administer the blood thinners. Two days after the cardioversion, Dan suffered a stroke and was rushed back to the hospital. The electrical charge that Dan had received during the cardioversion had sent a blood clot from his heart to his brain. Compounding the crisis, the neurologist treating Dan for the stroke failed to administer a tissue plasminogen activator (TPA) – a critical drug used to break up blood clots if administered within four hours. Dan died two days later.

The sudden death of her very active husband was incredibly difficult for Ruth and her family. Struggling with the circumstances, Ruth contacted SDSBS attorneys **Chris Searcy** and **Karen Terry** for advice. Their investigation revealed that Dan should never have endured a cardioversion without receiving blood thinners. Failure to do so caused Dan to have a stroke. Additionally, medical experts stated that the neurologist should have administered TPA by injection when Dan did suffer a stroke and was taken back

to the hospital. Had Dan received the TPA injection, he would likely have survived. Weeks before the case was scheduled for trial, Mr. Searcy and Ms. Terry were able to obtain a substantial confidential settlement for Ruth and her family.

Ruth continues to live in the home she once shared with Dan. Missing his companionship every day, Ruth eventually adopted a small dog – a Maltese she named “Danny Boy” as a tribute to her husband. ♦

*At left, “Danny Boy”.*



## SDSBS is currently investigating forced-placed automobile insurance

### SDSBS previously litigated legal actions involving forced-placed homeowners insurance.

During the last four years, SDSBS has litigated and settled legal actions against the largest banks in the country on issues involving forced-placed homeowners insurance. SDSBS is now addressing forced-placed automobile insurance. If you have financed the purchase of a new or used motor vehicle through one of the following companies – Ally Bank, JP Morgan Chase Bank, Capitol One, Wells Fargo, Bank of America, Santander Bank, Ford Motor Credit Corp., or Toyota Motor Credit Corp. – AND you have received notice that your insurance has lapsed (whether correct or incorrect), AND the finance company purchased replacement insurance coverage for you (e.g., “forced-placed insurance” or “collateral protection insurance”), please contact us.

SDSBS attorney **Jack Scarola** is leading the investigation of potentially improper, misleading, or excessive charges incurred in such transactions. ♦

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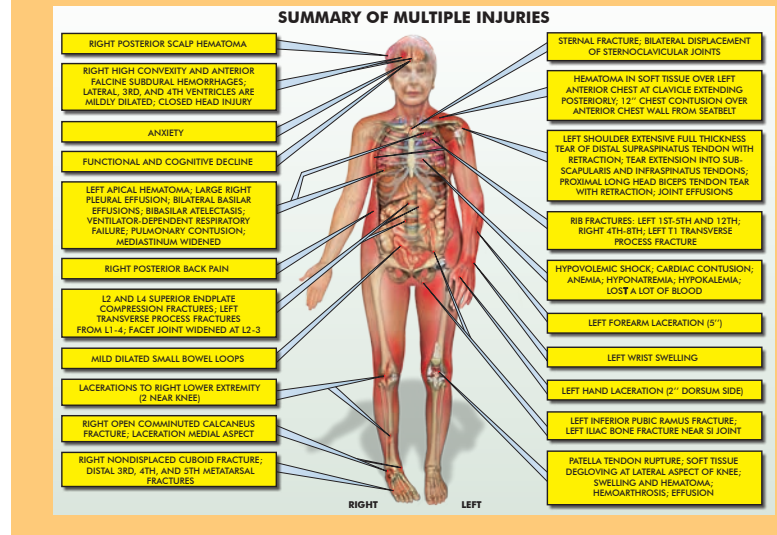
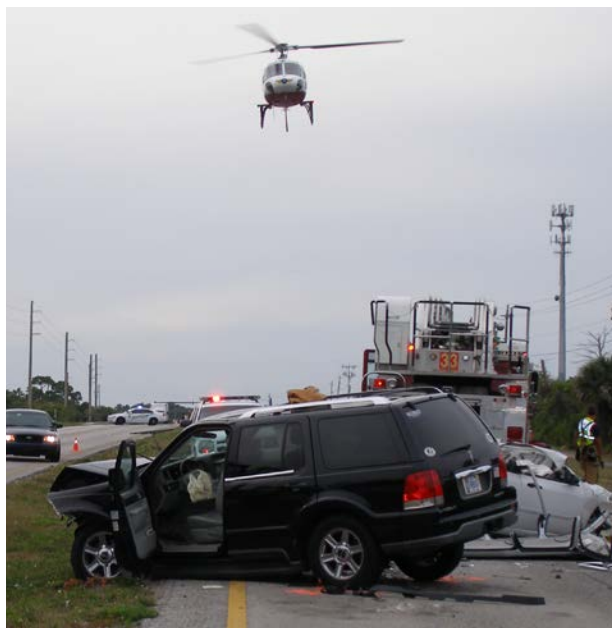
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# Violent car crash leaves victim in hospital and rehabilitation facility for almost six months

On an early afternoon in March 2013, Jane Smith (not her real name) was driving home after spending the afternoon with a friend enjoying a show at the Kravis Center for Performing Arts in West Palm Beach, Florida. At 79 years of age, Jane was an active and independent woman. She and her husband regularly entertained friends, exercised, and maintained a full social calendar. After dropping her friend off, Jane was only minutes away from her own home in Hobe Sound. As she drove northbound in the inside lane of U.S. Highway One, a southbound vehicle crossed the narrow grassy median and struck Jane's car head-on. The high-speed collision was instantaneous and witnesses later said that there was nothing Jane could have done to avoid the oncoming car.

The force of the collision was so violent that witnesses did not expect anyone to survive. In fact, the driver of the southbound car died as a result of the accident. The driver, a woman returning from an errand on behalf of her employer, was heading back to her office in a company-owned vehicle. Later inspection of the wreckage excluded a mechanical problem with her car. There would be no explanation as to why the southbound vehicle crossed the median, hitting Jane's car.

Miraculously, Jane survived the impact, but just barely. She was taken by ambulance to St. Mary's Medical Center for emergency care. Her injuries were extensive and overwhelming, literally extending from head to toe. A closed-head injury resulted in bleeding and swelling in the brain; fortunately, the head injury did not require surgery. She did suffer 25 broken bones – seven vertebra fractures, five bones in her right foot, ten rib fractures, two pelvic



fractures, and a fractured sternum. Jane also suffered internal injuries. She teetered on the edge of death for weeks in the hospital's intensive care unit, with doctors preparing the family for the worst. She was kept on a ventilator to assist her with breathing. The doctors worried that if she did survive, she would suffer profound physical and mental limitations for life. But Jane is a fighter. She endured numerous surgeries and procedures to repair her badly broken body.

As Jane struggled to regain her health, her family contacted SDSBS attorneys **Chris Searcy** and **Jack Hill** seeking to protect Jane's rights and to hold the responsible parties accountable for the harm she suffered. The attorneys took immediate steps to document and preserve physical evidence at the accident scene and, through discovery, to solidify the issues of liability.

After 55 days in the hospital, Jane was well enough to be transferred to a rehabilitation hospital in Martin County. She was determined to get back as much normal functioning as she could, and she worked tirelessly in countless therapy sessions to re-learn basic movements including walking and getting out of a chair. She spent 109 days at the rehabilitation hospital and finally regained enough function to return home. Jane eventually was able to drive, to socialize with friends and family, and resume her visits to the theater. Her recovery is miraculous, but she is still left with significant limitations. She cannot stand for long periods of time, and her balance is diminished. This requires her to have outside help to assist her around her house. The mounting medical and rehabilitation bills, and the loss of her independence, weigh heavily on her mind.

In the months following the crash, Mr. Searcy and Mr. Hill filed suit on behalf of Jane Smith in Palm Beach County Circuit Court against the responsible parties including the employer of the southbound driver. Ultimately, the case was resolved for a confidential amount in the weeks leading up to trial on damages only. With the case behind her, and resources to pay for future needs she may have, Jane is looking forward to once again enjoying her golden years. ♦

## Speaking Opportunities



**Chris Searcy** attended the “Mass Torts Made Perfect” spring seminar held in April 2015 at the Wynn Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. During the seminar, Mr. Searcy was inducted into the Trial Lawyer Hall of Fame. Mr. Searcy also spoke at the National Interstate Trucking Conference hosted by the Association of Plaintiff Interstate Trucking Lawyers of America held in May 2015 at St. Louis Station, St. Louis, Missouri. Mr. Searcy’s topic was “The 9,000 Gallon Molotov Cocktail: Fuel Tanker Crash.” In June 2015, Mr. Searcy spoke at the 360 Advocacy seminar, “Damages: Go Big or Go Home.” His topic was “Little Kids, Big Damages.”



In May 2015, **Jim Gustafson** gave a presentation to graduate students enrolled in the “Advanced Safety Engineering and Management Program Seminar” held at the University of Alabama, Birmingham, Alabama. His topic was titled “It Was No Accident: Cigarette Manufacturers and Their Enablers.” ♦



In October 2015, **Brenda Fulmer** spoke at the 360 Advocacy seminar, “Trial Skills from the Woman’s Perspective – Lean In.” The event was held at the Hotel Jerome in Aspen, Colorado. Ms. Fulmer’s topic was “Managing Your Law Practice.” ♦



**Greg Barnhart** presented a course on “Trial Practice and Economics from the Plaintiff’s Point of View” for Cornell Law School, Mr. Barnhart’s alma mater. The course was presented in October 2015, at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. ♦



**Brian Denney** spoke at the Attorneys Information Exchange Group’s Fall Seminar held in October 2015 in New Orleans, Louisiana. As a speaker on the Consumer Products Roundtable, Mr. Denney’s topic was “Exploding E-Cigarette Batteries.” He is currently handling a case involving that product. In October, Mr. Denney also gave a presentation to residents of the Golden Lakes Retirement Community in West Palm Beach, Florida, on “What to Do If You Have Been in a Car Accident.” Paralegal **Nick DeBellis** also participated in the presentation. Their presentation covered issues such as insurance, what to do at the scene, what to do afterwards, and how to ensure proper medical care at the hospital or doctor’s office. ♦



In June 2015, **Sia Baker-Barnes** gave a presentation to the Young Lawyer’s Section of the Florida Justice Association at its Annual Seminar in Orlando, Florida. Her topic was “Rainmaking.” In August 2015, Ms. Baker-Barnes participated in a panel presentation for the F. Malcolm Cunningham, Sr., Bar Association’s General Meeting/CLE in West Palm Beach, Florida. Her topic was “Trial Tips from the Experts – Best Practices and Techniques for Trial.” ♦



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# Guidance counselor successfully challenges school district because of supervisor's sexual harassment

**Despite statutory limitations on recovery from state agencies, claimant reaches a substantial settlement.**

Mary Siegel (not her real name) had worked for a Florida school district for over 23 years. For the last nine years, she worked as a middle school guidance counselor and had earned an exemplary performance record. She truly loved her job and looked forward to work every day.

In January 2013, the school's assistant principal, David Baker (not his real name), began making unwanted sexual advances towards Mary. He made inappropriate comments and told her that he found her attractive. She tried to rebuff his advances, and reminded him that they were both married and that she had no interest in a relationship with him. He soon began visiting her office, unannounced and with little official purpose. On several occasions he tried to grope her, completely disregarding her pleas for him to stop. He was her direct supervisor, and a powerful figure at the school, and Mary was terrified that if she reported him she would be fired. Eventually, she could not remain silent and she called the school's police force. When confronted, Mr. Baker did not deny the allegations and described his behavior as "just one of those things." He was given the option of resigning or being terminated. He chose to resign.



The stress of the harassment and resulting embarrassment took its toll on Mary. She took leave from her job and sought therapy. She was diagnosed with anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, and depression. After much discussion with her husband and family, Mary sought advice from SDSBS attorney **Andrea Robinson**. They filed a sexual harassment case against the assistant principal's employer, the school district. Despite statutory sovereign immunity limits of \$200,000 on recoveries from state agencies, Mary was able to secure a substantial settlement to resolve the case without filing suit.

Mary has since returned to work as a guidance counselor and is again working with middle school children. She continues her therapy and looks forward to working with the school district until retirement. ♦



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## Accolades



Chris Searcy



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Sia Baker-Barnes



Hardee Bass



Laurie Briggs



Brian Denney



Brenda Fulmer

In July 2015, *Daily Business Review*, in conjunction with *VerdictSearch*, announced that **Chris Searcy** was selected as its 2015 Lifetime Achiever. In September, Mr. Searcy was recognized as part of the 2015 Verdicts Hall of Fame at an event held in Key Biscayne, Florida. ♦

**Jack Scarola** was selected for the *2015 Super Lawyers Business Edition* published in November 2015. The *Business Edition* is an annual resource that serves as a guide for general counsel and executives charged with legal hiring decisions. The Super Lawyers selection process is unique, involving peer nominations, independent research, peer evaluation, and a final selection. ♦

Florida's top lawyers were recognized in the 2015 edition of *Florida Trend's* "Legal Elite." Included in the selection were SDSBS attorneys **Chris Searcy**, **Jim Gustafson**, and **Karen Terry**. *Florida Trend* invited all in-state members of the Florida Bar to name attorneys whom they held in the highest regard. Top vote-getters were further reviewed using Florida Bar membership information, and a final review by previous "Legal Elite" winners. The list represents fewer than 2% of the active Florida Bar members. ♦

The Florida Justice Association has elected **Jim Gustafson** as its president for the next term of office, 2015-2016. **Laurie Briggs** was re-elected to FJA's Executive Committee. Both Mr. Gustafson and Ms. Briggs received FJA's Churchill Award from outgoing president, Troy Rafferty, as "Defenders of the Realm" in recognition of "their relentless commitment, perseverance, and fortitude in seeking justice

and achieving success. You never surrendered and your actions were unparalleled and greatly appreciated." Both **Brenda Fulmer** and Ms. Briggs received the Cornerstone Award for a second time, in recognition of their dedicated efforts in developing FJA membership. ♦

In June 2015, *VerdictSearch*, an affiliate of the *Daily Business Review*, published the latest edition of its Top Florida Verdicts and Settlements of 2014. Included in the publication were two SDSBS cases. In June 2014, a Palm Beach County jury issued a verdict for plaintiff Gwendolyn Odom in the amount of \$20,004,029 against defendants R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, Philip Morris USA, Inc., Lorillard Tobacco Company, Lorillard, Inc., Liggett Group LLC, and Vector Group LTD, Inc. Ms. Odom was the personal representative of the Estate of Juanita Thurston, her mother, who died of lung cancer in 1993. Ms. Thurston was a long-time smoker addicted to cigarettes containing nicotine. SDSBS attorneys **Sia Baker-Barnes**, **Mariano Garcia**, and **Hardee Bass** represented the plaintiffs. In a similar case in August 2014, a Miami-Dade County jury issued a verdict for plaintiff Robert A. Wilcox in the amount of \$15,500,000 against the same defendants. Mr. Wilcox was the personal representative of the Estate of Cleston Roy Wilcox, his father. Cleston Wilcox died of lung cancer in 1994 after years of smoking products made by the defendant companies. SDSBS attorneys **Greg Barnhart** and **Jim Gustafson** were included as representatives of the plaintiff. Both cases stemmed from the 2000 Florida class action case, *Engle v. R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company*. Details of these cases were reported in SDSBS newsletters, *Of Counsel*, (Vol. 14, No. 2 and No. 3). ♦

In July 2015, **Hardee Bass** joined the board of directors of the American Lung Association in Florida. Volunteer board members help increase funding for local programs and services. Board members also help generate resources to support the Association's mission to save lives and improve lung health by advocating for public policies, medical expertise, and community awareness. ♦ For more information, visit [www.lung.org](http://www.lung.org).

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Mariano Garcia



Jim Gustafson



Kelly Hyman



Karen Terry

In June 2015, the Palm Beach County Bar Association appointed **Brian Denney** to serve on the Association's Circuit Court Civil Practice Committee. The Committee is charged with initiating and considering suggestions to improve the practice of civil law, help community outreach, and coordinate the circuit court's civil portion of the Bench Bar Conference agenda. Mr. Denney was also appointed to the Judicial Relations Committee. This Committee serves as a liaison between the Bar and the Judiciary, planning, implementing, and coordinating programs for better relations between the Bench and Bar. ♦

**Kelly Hyman** was elected secretary of the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. The mission of the FBA is to strengthen the federal legal system and administration of justice by supporting the federal practitioner, both public and private, the federal judiciary, and the public they serve. In June 2015, Ms. Hyman was also appointed chairperson of the Judicial Relations Committee of the Palm Beach County Bar Association. In its summer 2015 edition, The Class Action Litigation Group's Newsletter, published by the American Association of Justice, included an article written by Ms. Hyman titled "New Trends in Multidistrict Litigation." MDL is a procedure utilized in the federal court system to transfer multiple pending civil cases with similar factual or legal issues to one federal judge in order to efficiently process the cases. ♦



Attorney Mariano Garcia and Florida Supreme Court Justice Jorge Labarga.

In November 2015, **Mariano Garcia** was sworn in as president of the Palm Beach County Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates at the Chapter's annual Judicial Roast and induction of new members and officers held at the Marriott Hotel in West Palm Beach, Florida. ABOTA is a national association of trial lawyers and judges dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the civil jury trial right provided by the Seventh Amendment to the U. S. Constitution. Mr. Garcia was sworn into office by Florida Supreme Court Justice Jorge Labarga. Justice Labarga, a Cuban immigrant, was raised in West Palm Beach and became a prominent criminal defense and personal injury trial lawyer in the county. Appointed to the Palm Beach County bench, he was eventually selected to serve on the state Supreme Court. In 2014, he was appointed chief justice.

This past summer, Mr. Garcia was recognized by the Palm Beach County Hispanic Bar Association with its annual Justice Labarga Award. The Association, dedicated to representing the interests of the Latino community in the County's justice system, recognized Mr. Garcia's distinguished service to this community. ♦

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## Mass Tort Projects of Interest

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Bladder Cancer

**Bair Hugger  
Warming Blankets**  
Infections

**Bard IVC Filter**  
Heart and Lung Perforation  
Hemorrhagic Pericardial Effusion

**Benicar**  
Chronic Diarrhea  
Nausea and Vomiting  
Sprue-Like Enteropathy

**Bisphosphonates  
(Boniva and Fosamax)**  
Femur Fractures

**Cymbalta**  
Neurological Injuries

**Fluoroquinolone  
Antibiotics (Levaquin,  
Cipro, Tequin,  
and Avelox)**  
Peripheral Neuropathy

**GranuFlo and  
Naturalyte  
Dialysis Products**  
Cardiac Arrest  
Death  
Cardiac Arrhythmia  
Metabolic Alkalosis  
Stroke  
Sudden Cardiac Death

**Invokana, Farxiga, Xigduo,  
Jardiance, Glyxambis,  
and Invokamet**  
Ketoacidosis  
Kidney Damage  
Heart Attack

**Januvia, Janumet, Byetta,  
and Victoza**  
Pancreatic Cancer  
Thyroid Cancer

**Laparoscopic Power  
Morcellator**  
Uterine Cancer

**Lipitor**  
Diabetes

**Medtronic Infuse  
Bone Graft**  
Ectopic Bone Growth  
Respiratory Failure  
Nerve Damage  
Death

**Metal-on-Metal Hip Implants  
(DePuy, Zimmer, Biomet,  
and Wright Medical)**  
Device Failure and Loosening  
Inflammatory Response  
Metallosis

**Mirena IUD**  
Device Migration  
Organ Obstruction  
Organ Perforation  
Peritonitis  
Device Erosion

**Propecia and Proscar**  
Sexual Dysfunction  
Male Breast Cancer

**Risperdal**  
Gynecomastia

**SSRI Antidepressants  
(Paxil, Celexa, Effexor,  
Lexapro, Pristiq,  
Prozac, and Zoloft)**  
Birth Defects  
Pulmonary Hypertension

**Stryker Rejuvenate,  
ABG II, and Accolade  
Hip Implants**  
Premature Device Failure  
Metallosis  
Inflammatory Response

**St. Jude Riata  
Defibrillator Leads**  
Lead Fracture

**Testosterone**  
Blood Clots  
Heart Attacks  
Stroke

**Transvaginal Mesh,  
Bladder Slings, and  
TVT Tape**  
Tissue Erosion  
Device Failure

**Viagra**  
Melanoma

**Xarelto, Pradaxa, and Eliquis**  
Uncontrollable Bleeding  
Death

**Zimmer NexGen, CR-Flex,  
and Persona Knee Implants**  
Device Failure and Loosening

**Zofran**  
Birth Defects

If you have been harmed by a drug or medical device, please call our Mass Tort Unit.

**CAL WARRINER**  
Attorney at Law  
CCW@SearcyLaw.com

**BRENDA FULMER**  
Attorney at Law  
BSF@SearcyLaw.com

**KELLY HYMAN**  
Attorney at Law  
KAH@SearcyLaw.com

**SEARCY DENNEY**

SEARCY DENNEY SCAROLA BARNHART & SHIPLEY, P.A.

2139 PALM BEACH LAKES BLVD., WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33409-6601 • 800-388-3905 • [www.SearcyMassTort.com](http://www.SearcyMassTort.com)



# Taking...*Time to Care*



## **SDSBS a sponsor of “Super Heroes 5K” run/walk helping Friends of Foster Children**

In October 2015, Friends of Foster Children of Palm Beach County, Inc., held a “Super Hero” 5K run/walk to raise awareness, support, and donations to support its mission to nurture the lives of foster children in the county. SDSBS attorney Laurie Briggs is a member of the organization’s board of directors. SDSBS was a sponsor of the 5K event and provided a team. There were 319 participants in all, and the event raised \$18,345 for the organization’s goal of helping foster children experience a healthy, happy childhood and grow into productive members of society. ♦

## **SDSBS a sponsor for 21st Annual Buddy Walk to benefit Gold Coast Down Syndrome**

SDSBS was a sponsor of the 21st Annual Buddy Walk held by the Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization in October 2015. Over 2,000 people attended the event, and SDSBS fielded a team of participants. The Walk raised \$175,000 to help the organization continue to serve families and make a brighter future for individuals with Down syndrome and other disabilities. ♦



## **St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital benefits from an SDSBS sponsored event**

SDSBS was a sponsor of the “Walk/Run to End Childhood Cancer” held by St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital – Palm Beach County. The event was held in September 2015 at John Prince Park. There were over 600 participants, including an SDSBS Team, and the event raised over \$61,000 for the kids of St. Jude. ♦

## **SDSBS supports “Bowl for Kids’ Sake” to help Big Brothers/ Big Sisters**

In May 2015, SDSBS helped sponsor a “Bowl for Kids’ Sake” event to celebrate the achievements of children who find successful mentoring relationships through the programs of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Big Bend, in Tallahassee, Florida. SDSBS staff participated as a team. The event raised over \$44,000 to help mentor children and to contribute to better schools, brighter futures, and stronger, healthier communities. ♦



## **SDSBS helps fund programs through Animal Shelter’s “Spare-A-Life Bowling”**

The Tallahassee Animal Shelter Foundation hosted its Fourth Annual Spare-A-Life Bowling event in October 2015. SDSBS was a sponsor and supported a participating team. The event raised over \$18,000 to fund programs to provide thousands of spay/neuter vouchers, to treat hundreds of heartworm-positive dogs, and to introduce many animals to adoptive homes. ♦







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**SEARCY  
DENNEY  
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*Attorneys at Law*