

LAWDRAGON

500

LEADING PLAINTIFFS' LAWYERS IN AMERICA

BY KATRINA DEWEY

I LIVE MY LIFE so little, so small in a world so big. Survival impels me to believe I am not connected to others. I am the master of my ship, which sails on waves that bend to my will.

I am not the blind man inching his way across the street who is killed when struck by a van rushing to deliver an extra-large pepperoni pie.

I will never become the woman whose cancer went undiagnosed while she worried about her children, who needed new clothes and had runny noses.

I take comfort that it's some other investor who tied up her life's savings in a company that committed fraud and lost it all.

That's life, I say. Bad things happen — to other people.

For mortality, there are gravediggers.

For justice in this life, there are the folks on the following pages.

The Lawdragon 500 Leading Plaintiffs' Lawyers in America are the watchdogs of our nonchalance toward the fate of those who aren't us.

Forget everything you've read about plaintiffs' lawyers. The truth is life happens, and they are the ones we call to sort it out with the help of attentive judges and jurors. Plaintiffs' lawyers are all too often the fragile divide between hope and despair.

Judith Livingston has handled hundreds of cases, many of them for babies grievously injured during birth. She and her husband, Tom Moore, are consistently cited at the top of the New York bar for their expertise and for winning hundreds of multi-million dollar awards.

But for all their success, they've never once met a

PHOTOGRAPHY BY HUGH WILLIAMS

RESEARCH DIRECTED BY DR A EGER MARTINEZ



Thomas Simeone

Aaron Freiwald Layser & Freiwald (Philadelphia) Freiwald **freezes** errant hospitals in their tracks, winning \$4.5 million after doctors operated on the wrong kidney of one patient, who consequently died. **Nathan Friedman** Brown & Connery (Westmont, New Jersey) A **leading** light of the New Jersey plaintiffs' bar, he is a longtime Inner Circle member. **Richard Friedman** Friedman Rubin (Bremerton, Washington) He **bags** the big fish, including \$150 million for a State Farm insurance agent and \$84 million for a disabled doctor. **Nancy Fullam** McEldrew & Fullam (Philadelphia) True story: A veterinarian botched a pregnant mare's checkup so badly, she had to be destroyed. The horse's owner, a Philadelphia County judge, **tapped** Fullam to handle her malpractice suit. **Frederick Furth** Furth Firm (San Francisco) Four decades' experience — check. Sherman Act verdict **topping** \$70 million — check. Semi-fearful profile in Time magazine — check, and mate. **Steve Fury** Fury Bailey (Seattle) Fury lived up to his name in **besting** a bedding company that ignored the fire threat posed by its polyurethane mattresses. **Christine Galvin** Gordon Siegel (Latham, New York) She **notched** a \$2.5 million wrongful-death verdict, then settled out on a carbon-monoxide-spewing space heater for over \$1 million. **Stephen Garcia** Garcia Law Firm (Long Beach, California) Allstate, Countrywide Home Loans, HP, Tenet Healthcare, Sun Healthcare and Beverly Healthcare have all **learned** about Garcia's skills, the hard way. **Steve Gardner** Center for Science in the Public Interest (Dallas) When food makers misstate products — “all-natural” sodas that aren't, “blueberry” pancakes without fruit — Gardner gets 'em to **fix** their labels. **Todd Gardner** Swanson Gardner (Renton, Washington) He **WOWS** Washington juries, logging a forest of seven-figure-plus wins in the Evergreen State. **Joseph Garnett** Sheehy Serpe (Houston) Garnett works both sides of the fence, most recently winning a **large** confidential settlement for an unfairly terminated airline pilot.



Terry O'Reilly

Anthony Shapiro Hagens Berman (Seattle, Washington) A foe of monopolistic drug and baby food companies, Shapiro's **centerpiece** cause remains Visa and MasterCard's shady debit-card fees. **Tad Shapiro** Shapiro Galvin (Santa Rosa, California) He **won** \$1.95 million for a mother killed when her car hydroplaned off a faulty road and \$2.1 million for two vineyard workers run down by the roadside while trying to help a friend. **Daniel Sheehan** Sheehan & Associates (Dallas) A **prime** candidate for professional and commercial negligence cases, he won \$16 million for a vitamin company whose supplier tried to rip it off. **Carol Shepherd** Feldman Shepherd (Philadelphia) Shepherd brought home \$2.3 million for a young girl who suffered grave injuries because doctors didn't **diagnose** or treat her as having twin-to-twin transfusion syndrome. **Michael Sheppard** Law Office Of (Cuero, Texas) Also a local DA, Sheppard guided jurors toward a \$44 million **verdict** against Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, which short-changed his clients on natural-gas contracts. **William Shernoff** Shernoff Bidart (Claremont, California) He won \$100 million for Samoan hurricane sufferers, **fights** for Holocaust survivors and has filed a baker's dozen lawsuits against Blue Cross and Blue Shield for improperly canceling clients' health insurance. **William Sieben** Schwebel Goetz (Minneapolis) Sieben **succeeds** for proverbial "little guy" clients: \$5 million for an injured high schooler and \$2.2 million for a homemaker hurt at a shopping mall. **Norman Siegel** Stueve Siegel (Kansas City, Missouri) State Farm made five insurance agents who criticized their company's policies pay a price. Enter Siegel, who **turned** the tables to the tune of \$26.5 million. **Thomas Simeone** Simeone & Miller (Washington, DC) Simeone **struck** back for hearing-impaired moviegoers against AMC Theaters. Result: DC became the world's leading city for closed-captioned cinema screens. **Michael Slack** Slack & Davis (Austin, Texas) No slacker, he has used his training as a NASA aerospace **engineer** in successful aviation-crash lawsuits since 1983. **Richard Slawson** Slawson Cunningham (Palm Beach Gardens, Florida) Slawson recovered \$30 million on a \$1 **million** insurance policy after the insurer of an apartment complex failed to settle the claim of a girl who suffered brain damage and nearly drowned in the pool.