



ADVOCATE

Post Verdict Settlement For Bad Faith and Legal Malpractice \$6 Million Over \$3.5 Million Policy Limits

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For insightful
legal articles, recent
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In June 2000, a Los Angeles Superior Court jury leveled a \$15 Million verdict against tire giant Dunlop Tire Corporation and Ford dealership El Monte Ford of El Monte, California. Attorneys Joe Reiter and Don Fountain along with Kevin Meenan of the Pasadena, California law firm of Meenan & Lariviere, secured the verdict on behalf of a quadriplegic accident victim and his family.

The jury found El Monte Ford 57% liable for a tire blow out and subsequent rollover accident in November 1997 that had rendered Joven Mapa a quadriplegic. The dealership service department had failed to notify Mr. Mapa of a tire separation they discovered during a routine service visit. 31% of the liability for the accident was assessed against Dunlop Tire Corp., the tire manufacturer.

A year before the trial, in March 1999, the Mapas made an offer to settle the case with El Monte Ford for its insurance policy limits of \$3.5 million. The dealership's insurance company, Universal Underwriters, refused the offer.

After the trial, the court entered judgment against El Monte Ford for approximately \$9.5 million including interest and litigation expenses. After the judgment was entered, Universal Underwriters paid the Mapas its \$3.5 million policy limits and told the owners of the El Monte Ford dealership that they were personally responsible for the approximately \$6 million remaining on the judgment. The dealership faced certain bankruptcy.



Standing, l to r:
attorneys
Kevin Meenan,
Don Fountain
and Joe Reiter
with the Mapa
family.

El Monte Ford filed suit against Universal Underwriters for bad faith and also sued their legal counsel, Bob Thompson of Callahan McCune & Willis, LLP of Tustin, CA, for legal malpractice, for failing to settle the case for \$3.5 million when the Mapas offered to do so. In March 2001, attorneys Reiter, Fountain and Meenan negotiated the \$6 million settlement with Thompson's legal malpractice insurance carrier and Universal Underwriter's bad faith insurance carrier. The total recovery from El Monte Ford, their attorneys and insurance company amounted to approximately \$9.5 million.

**Adult Children Receive
Significant Settlement
for Death of Parents**

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**Appellate Court
Upholds \$13.5 Million
Verdict**

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A PUBLICATION FOR THE CLIENTS AND LEGAL COLLEAGUES OF



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Lytal, Reiter, Clark, Fountain & Williams, LLP is a plaintiff's personal injury law firm devoted exclusively to the representation of individuals and families who have suffered an injury or death as a result of a defective product, medical malpractice, nursing home violation, or automobile, aircraft, marine or other accidents.



*Seated, l to r: Joe Reiter, William S. Williams, Lake Lytal.
 Standing, l to r: Don Fountain, Mark Clark*

To our clients and colleagues,

Thank you for the trust you have placed in us; a great number of the people we assist come to us through personal recommendations made by former clients or through attorney referrals. We gratefully acknowledge all of those individuals from around the state of Florida, and across the country, who have asked us to assist them in what are often catastrophic cases involving complex and costly litigation.

If you are a new client, or an attorney considering our firm for case referral, allow us to assure you that our Firm's resources and expertise are available to all who retain our services. An experienced litigation staff of more than fifty supports our Firm's fourteen attorneys, including on-staff registered nurses, paralegals and investigators.

We look forward to putting our resources to work for you.

The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisements. Before you decide, ask us to send you free written information about our qualifications and experience.

Mark W. Clark

Inducted as President of the Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers

On June 29, firm partner Mark W. Clark was sworn in as the 41st President of the Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers (AFTL) at the group's convention held at The Breakers Hotel, Palm Beach. Since its inception 40 years ago, the Academy's goal has been to preserve and protect the civil justice system and assure that the courts remain open for redress of any injury. The Academy's 4,000 members are committed to this cause and further it by actively participating in Florida's political and legislative arenas.

"The Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers was established to preserve the role that our legal and court system plays in protecting Florida citizens from corporate abuse and from those businesses that put profit above their safety and welfare," Clark said. "I am proud that I have been afforded the opportu-

nity to serve as President to such a dedicated and caring organization."

Clark has served on the Academy's Board of Directors since 1992 and on the Executive Committee since 1996. He has been honored by the Academy with various awards including the **President's Award** for "Outstanding Achievements in the Pursuit of Justice," the **Legislative Leadership Award** for helping enable the Academy to reach its legislative and political goals on behalf of Florida citizens and he is the two-time recipient of the Academy's **Most Valuable Player Award**.

Mark Clark is a third generation Floridian who grew up in West Palm Beach. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree with high honors from the



University of Florida in 1979 and his Juris Doctorate degree from Mercer University in 1982. He has successfully tried to verdict virtually every type of personal injury case including cases involving medical malpractice, premises liability, tire failures and other defective products, wrongful death, motor vehicle crashes and insurance bad faith. He is Board Certified as a Civil Trial Lawyer by both The Florida Bar Association and the National Board of Trial Advocacy and he is rated AV by Martindale-Hubbell, its highest rating for ethical standards and legal ability. Mr. Clark is also included in the 2001 edition of *The Best Lawyers of America* in the area of personal injury and civil litigation.

Mr. Clark also commits his time and resources to leadership roles in his community having served as Chairman of the Y.M.C.A. of the Palm Beaches and on the Board of Directors of Goodwill Industries.



L to r: Mark and Olivia Clark with their children, Grayson, Havan and Bryce (far right) and family members, Jean Baumgartner, Lou Clark and Kevin Clark.

W E L C O M E

LRCF@W is pleased to introduce you to a new member of our team.



Elizabeth A. Zwibel
ASSOCIATE

Elizabeth A. Zwibel was born in Washington, D.C. and grew up in northern Virginia. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Broadcast Journalism from Boston University in 1985 and received her Juris Doctorate degree in 1988 from the George Mason University School of Law. Elizabeth was admitted to the Virginia Bar Association in 1988.

Prior to moving to Palm Beach County, Elizabeth spent several years as a senior associate with an insurance defense law firm in the Washington, D.C. area. There she developed an impressive track record in legal malpractice, personal injury, products liability, workers' compensation and appellate litigation. Upon being admitted to the Florida Bar Association in 2000, Elizabeth worked with area law firms in complex medical malpractice litigation gaining valuable experience in medical malpractice defense. Elizabeth now works with LRCF@W in the areas of products liability litigation and personal injury law.



CASES *in* BRIEF

\$1.4 Million Settlement

Rental Car Crash / Knee Injury

Chaplic v. Budget Rent-a-Car ► Carey Chaplic sustained injuries to her right knee when a vehicle rented from Budget Rent-a-Car hit the vehicle she was operating. The driver of the rented vehicle was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the crash. Ms. Chaplic sustained a laceration and chondromalacia of the right kneecap requiring surgery. After surgery she developed a skin breakdown over her kneecap requiring a skin graft to close the wound. Thereafter, she developed osteomyelitis (bone infection) at the surgery site requiring debridement and insertion of antibiotic beads to treat the infection. Ms. Chaplic was hospitalized for approximately six weeks to treat the bone infection.



Mark W. Clark

Attorneys Mark Clark and Scott Smith brought suit against the rental car company and the driver of the rental car. The case was settled with Budget Rent-a-Car for \$1.4 million on August 15, 2000, during the second day of the jury trial. The defendant's pre-trial settlement offer had been \$600,000.



Scott B. Smith

\$575,000 Settlement

Crane Accident / Head, Spine, Leg Injuries



David C. Prather

Armetta v. R&J Crane Service, Inc. ► On July 5, 1997, Bartholomew Armetta was part of a construction crew installing floor joists on the second floor of a home in Jupiter, Florida. The crane operator did not have a direct line of vision to place the joists and was being directed by a co-worker from atop the second floor wall of the home. There was also a second signalman flagging the crane from inside a doorway in front of the residence. This co-worker did not have a direct line of sight to the load or the co-worker on the second floor.

The operator lowered the 400-500 lb. floor joist and was in the process of raising the crane when a cable caught the joist and sent it crashing to the ground floor and on top of Bartholomew Armetta. Mr. Armetta suffered serious spine and leg injuries and had to have four cervical discs in his spine fused and plated. He continues to suffer from headaches, diminished vision, ringing in his ears and has had additional surgeries to insert plates and screws in his left knee and right ankle.

Attorney David C. Prather discovered that the crane operator was inexperienced in the operation of the type of crane being used for the job. Additionally, the crane operator was utilizing an inappropriate signal system in the operation of the crane. The crane company asserted that the Mr. Armetta's employer was responsible for the accident since it was his co-workers who were signaling the crane operator when the accident occurred.

A settlement of \$575,000 was reached with the crane company and operator to compensate Mr. Armetta for his considerable injuries.



CASES • in • BRIEF

\$1.5 Million Settlement

Auto Accident / Wrongful Death

Mervil v. The City of Delray Beach > This month, the City of Delray Beach approved a \$1.5 million settlement for the family of a young woman who was killed when her car was struck from behind by a speeding police vehicle. Nancy Mervil, a 24 year-old nursing student and mother of two young children, had stopped in a turning lane on Linton Boulevard in Delray Beach. Officer James Schmidt was on his way to a domestic violence call and was traveling at nearly 90 miles per hour in a 45 mile per hour zone when he lost control of his police cruiser and slammed into the rear of Ms. Mervil's Chevy Cavalier. The force of the collision sent her car into oncoming traffic where it flipped before being struck by another vehicle. Ms. Mervil died at the scene leaving behind her husband, Jesner Exaner, her 7 year-old son and 1 1/2 year-old daughter.



Lake Lytal, Jr.

Lake Lytal, Jr. filed a wrongful death suit against The City of Delray Beach Police Department. Initially, the City of Delray will pay the family \$195,000 of the \$1.5 million settlement. The Florida Legislature must approve the remainder in its 2002 session.

\$1 Million Settlement

Wrongful Death / Brevital Overdose



Kevin C. Smith

John Doe v. Medical Center* > Following a successful triple coronary artery by-pass surgery at a south Florida medical center, John Doe developed an atrial flutter, a condition where the contractions of the heart become very rapid. Twice within a day, Mr. Doe's cardiologist ordered an elective cardioversion, a procedure where the patient receives intravenous conscious sedation and the heart is given an electrical shock to restore normal rhythm.

The following day, Mr. Doe converted to atrial flutter again and a third cardioversion was recommended. A nurse was ordered

to administer 30 mg. of Brevital, a barbiturate, for the I.V. conscious sedation. The nurse instead administered 300 mg. of Brevital to Mr. Doe, ten times the ordered dose. Four hours later, Mr. Doe died.

Attorneys Mark Clark and Kevin Smith filed a wrongful death suit against the medical center and cardiologist on behalf of Mr. Doe's 74 year-old wife. An expert witness for the plaintiff testified that the excessive dose of Brevital was the catalyst that lead to Mr. Doe's death by causing him to go into cardio-pulmonary arrest and aspirate his gastric contents resulting in respiratory acidosis. The defendant's experts testified the Brevital was an ultra short acting drug and, while Mr. Doe did code, he was resuscitated by the code team and that a clot in his by-pass graft caused him to suffer a fatal heart attack.

Ultimately, a \$1million settlement was negotiated on behalf of Mrs. Doe.

**(Due to a confidential settlement agreement, the name of the plaintiff has been changed.)*

WELCOME

LRCF@W is pleased to introduce you to a new member of our team.



Katherine A. Spangler
NURSE PARALEGAL

Katherine Spangler has come to LRCF@W from Connecticut where she had extensive experience in the areas of forensic science, legal consulting and critical care nursing. She earned her A.S. in Nursing in 1976 and worked for many years as a registered nurse in home health care and critical care. In 1994, she earned a B.S. in Behavioral Science from Charter Oak College in Farmington, CT. where she also minored in Criminal Justice. In 1996, while working as a staff nurse for a critical care unit, Katherine earned her M.S. in Forensic Science Advanced Investigation from the University of New Haven in CT.

Katherine has served as an adjunct professor teaching Forensic Science and co-developed a Forensic Nursing program for nurses and paramedics from organizations throughout CT. Just prior to joining LRCF@W, she served as a Nurse Consultant for attorneys and individuals in conjunction with criminal and civil litigation.

Katherine now concentrates in research and analysis for the firm's medical malpractice department.

CASES • in • BRIEF

\$1.896 Million Verdict

Auto Accident / Ankle and Knee Injuries

Koenke v. Allstate Insurance Company ▶ Tamara Koenke's ankles and the patella in her right knee were shattered when a driver cut in front of her on an I-95 exit ramp forcing her vehicle into a concrete barrier. The negligent driver, who Tamara could only identify as driving a white vehicle, fled the scene of the accident. Tamara was transported by ambulance to the hospital where she underwent the first of multiple surgeries to repair the fractures in her ankles and right knee. Tamara carried an uninsured motorist policy with Allstate Insurance Company and filed a claim to compensate her for her injuries. Allstate contended that the white vehicle did not cause the accident and that Tamara was solely responsible for her injuries. Allstate offered \$100 to settle the claim. Attorneys William S. Williams and Lake Lytal, III represented Tamara in the ensuing litigation against Allstate. A jury ultimately found in favor of Tamara and awarded its verdict of \$1.896 million.



William S. Williams



Lake H. Lytal, III

\$640,000 Settlement

Rear End Collision / Back and Neck Injuries



David M. Gaspari

Oyer v. Donlen Corporation ▶ On January 29, 1999, Robin Oyer had just exited Okeechobee Blvd. onto Australian Blvd. in West Palm Beach when she had to stop before merging into traffic on the busy thoroughfare. Unfortunately, the truck behind her did not stop and slammed into the rear of Robin's vehicle. Ms. Oyer's car was totaled and even her seatbelt could not prevent the extreme neck and back injuries she received upon impact. Over the next several months she was treated for neck and back pain, and numbness in her arms and legs. In October of 1999, Robin underwent surgery on her lower back to repair two herniated discs. Her surgeon has recommended additional surgery to repair two discs in Robin's neck.

The driver of the vehicle who hit Robin was employed by the Donlen Company and reported to the officer at the scene of the accident that the brakes on his company vehicle were not performing properly. Although the officer tested the brakes and found them to be firm, the driver contended that he had reported brake problems to his supervisors on two separate occasions prior to the accident.

Attorney David Gaspari assisted Ms. Oyer in settling her case against the Donlen Company for \$640,000.

JANUARY - JUNE 2001

VERDICT & SETTLEMENTS

A T - A - G L A N C E

AUTO ACCIDENT / QUADRIPLEGIC

\$13.15 Million

Verdict Upheld by 4th District Court of Appeals
*Joe Reiter, Michael Overbeck
& Julie H. Littky-Rubin*

DEFECTIVE TIRE / QUADRIPLEGIC ACCIDENT VICTIM

\$6 Million

Joe Reiter & Don Fountain

AUTO ACCIDENT / SPINAL INJURIES

\$600,000

David C. Prather

MED MAL / WRONGFUL DEATH

\$1 Million

Mark Clark & Kevin Smith

REAR-END COLLISION / NECK AND BACK INJURIES

\$640,000

David M. Gaspari

PREMISES LIABILITY / SEXUAL ASSAULT

\$555,000

Joe Reiter

MED MAL / FAILURE TO DIAGNOSE LUNG CANCER

\$700,000

Nancy La Vista

CONSTRUCTION ACCIDENT / SPINE AND LEG INJURIES

\$575,000

David C. Prather

MED MAL / SPINAL NERVE DAMAGE

\$532,000

Joe Reiter & Michael Overbeck

AUTO ACCIDENT / WRONGFUL DEATH

\$3.755 Million

Mark Clark & Scott B. Smith

MED MAL / FAILURE TO DIAGNOSE PROSTATE CANCER

\$750,000

Lake Lytal, Jr. & Kevin C. Smith

AUTO CRASH / CERVICAL FUSION

\$775,000

William S. Williams

TIRE FAILURE / WRONGFUL DEATH

\$1.9 Million

Joe Reiter & Don Fountain

AUTO ACCIDENT / MULTIPLE LEG INJURIES

\$1.869 Million

William S. Williams & Lake H. Lytal, III

Adult Children Receive Significant Settlement for Death of Parents

Michelin North America settles with children whose elderly parents lost their lives in a car accident caused by a faulty tire.

Bonnie Brock saw the entire tread peel from the front tire of the southbound vehicle and then screamed as she watched the car careen out of control, cross the median of the interstate into the northbound lanes of 70 mph traffic. Her husband, George, riding in the passenger seat, looked up just in time to see the vehicle literally bounce in front them, leave the interstate and crash through a group of trees on the side of the roadway.



The Brock's pulled to the side of the interstate and rushed to assist the couple who appeared to be in their 70's. Their vehicle had slammed head-on into a Palmetto tree. Mr. Brock got into the car to comfort the elderly gentleman and his wife. The gentleman's leg was pinned, he was barely conscious and kept looking to his wife who was motionless in the passenger seat beside

him. Mr. Brock asked the gentleman how he was doing and the man, who seemed to be speaking to his wife, repeated over and over that he was sorry; there was nothing he could do, that the tire blew.

It took paramedics 45 minutes to remove the gentleman and his wife from the crumpled wreck. As they removed the man's wife from the car

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S



Chris Lytal
PARALEGAL / INVESTIGATOR

The firm is pleased to congratulate Chris Lytal on his recent promotion to the position of paralegal/investigator. Chris has worked summers and part-time with the firm since he was in high school. In 1996, he joined the firm full-time and worked under the tutelage of firm Chief Investigator Marty Kerner. Now, as a paralegal/investigator, Chris' responsibilities include taking witness statements, gathering evidence and developing medical and insurance histories to support litigation.

Chris attended Florida State University and Florida Atlantic University where he received his B.A. in Criminology with a minor in Political Science in 1998.

they gently covered her lifeless body with a sheet. The man was transported to a medical facility where he passed away shortly thereafter.

Attorneys Joe Reiter and Don Fountain were contacted by the couple's adult children and subsequently filed a wrongful death suit against Pan American Tire Company, which was now under the auspices of Michelin North America. During Reiter and Fountain's investigation, they learned that Pan American had ceased manufacturing the particular tires on the couple's car due to significant problems with tread separation. The attorneys also uncovered internal correspondence from the manufacturer which stated that tread separation in this style of tire could occur without warning and may change the vehicle's handling characteristics thus causing a crash resulting in serious injury or death. A substantial, confidential settlement was reached with Michelin North America.

Appellate Court Upholds \$13.5 Million Verdict



Wanda Lynn Ure

On January 31, 2000, a Palm Beach County Circuit Court jury delivered the largest verdict in the county's history for a case involving a paraplegic accident victim.

\$13.15 million was awarded to Wanda

Lynn Ure, a Royal Palm Beach mother of two who was left paralyzed from the waist down when a garbage truck plowed

into the rear of her car in the summer of 1998.

BFI Waste Systems attempted to reverse the \$13.5 million award by arguing several issues before the 4th District Court of Appeal, primarily regarding the behavior of one of the jurors. In March 2001, attorney Julie H. Littky-Rubin convinced the appellate court to uphold the award. BFI is now attempting to take the case to the Florida Supreme Court, which has not yet decided if the case will be heard.



Julie H. Littky-Rubin
APPELLATE ATTORNEY

While the skills of our trial lawyers are the driving force behind successful verdicts and settlements, mastery of the subtle legal issues often make the difference in maximizing the recoveries for our clients. Because our firm employs its own appellate lawyer, we are able to handle cases from beginning to end, even through the appellate process or to the Supreme Court, if necessary. Julie H. Littky-Rubin is involved in the myriad of complex legal issues of cases from start to finish, thereby providing a great advantage to all of our clients. In addition to her work with the firm, Julie also contributes considerable amounts of time to the legal community. This June, she completed her term as President of the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Florida Association of Women Lawyers (FAWL). During her term, she was recognized by the Palm Beach County Legal Aid Society for recruiting members of FAWL to provide pro bono legal representation to victims of domestic violence.

Helping Shape the Law of Our State

The Firm's involvement in so many major cases provides us the opportunity to deal with complex legal issues, many of which have never been considered by the appellate courts of Florida.

In the past year, our firm has been successful in persuading the Florida Supreme Court to rule in favor of our clients on three major legal issues in three different cases. As a result of our Firm's efforts, the precedent set by these cases benefits everyone who is forced to bring a claim after becoming injured because of someone else's negligence.

In the case of *Rollins v. Pizzarelli*, our client, 15 year-old Carlene Pizzarelli, was injured in an automobile accident. The defendant in the case sought a credit for the full no-fault benefits Carlene's parents had paid to cover her irrespective of the fact that she had not used all of those benefits. Our firm persuaded the Supreme Court to overturn a prior ruling, ultimately holding that wrongdoers are only allowed a credit for No-Fault benefits actually paid to accident victims.

In another case handled by attorney Julie Littky-Rubin, the Florida Supreme Court adopted the "indivisible injury rule" which benefits those who are injured in multiple accidents. In *Gross v. Lyons*, our client, Rebecca Lyons, was allowed to recover fully for her injuries even though she was in two accidents close in time. In this

case, the Supreme Court held that it was impossible to "divide" her injuries between the two accidents.

In yet another tragic case, *Mogler v. Franzen*, young Michael Mogler had died as a result of medical malpractice in 1993. The parties agreed to arbitration where the defendant doctor admitted liability and the claims for non-economic damages would be limited to \$250,000 for each claimant parent. The defendant appealed. Appellate Attorney Jane Kreuzler Walsh and our firm partner, Lake Lytal, Jr., argued the case before the Supreme Court. As a result of a favorable decision, each claimant is now entitled to \$250,000 in non-economic damages in medical malpractice arbitration cases.

Our firm has also had many major victories in the intermediate appellate court in recent years. This past year, Ms. Littky-Rubin urged the court to uphold a \$5,000,000 verdict partner Joe Reiter procured on a negligent stillbirth case. The appellate court also reversed a judgment for a group of defendant doctors who argued that the plaintiffs did not bring their claim in time.

Medical Malpractice

Medical malpractice is often not pursued by patient victims or their families simply because health-care providers do not admit they may have made a mistake. Often, when claims are pursued, the settlement is confidential.

Recent settlements include:

R *Baby Doe v. Hospital*
LRCF@W obtained a multi-million dollar recovery for a family whose newborn daughter became severely brain-damaged when the hospital failed to diagnose and treat an infection while the baby was in the hospital's nursery. The parent assumed infections could happen and delayed obtaining any legal advice until prompted by a friend to "check it out." The now 5 year-old child will never walk, talk, roll, scoot or have any meaningful interaction. She requires around the clock nursing care and treatment for the rest of her life, whatever age that may be.

Another law firm turned down this claim based solely upon the delay of the parent to investigate. If you or someone you know may have been injured by medical negligence, DO NOT WAIT – INVESTIGATE!

Jane Smith v. Healthcare Providers

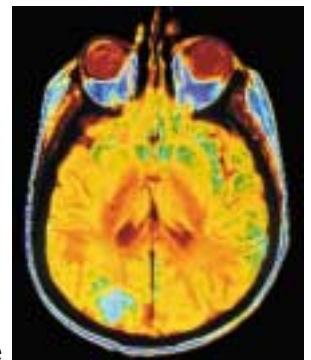
In this case, multiple healthcare providers were sued on behalf of a wife and husband. Experiencing severe chest pain, the wife had gone to a hospital emergency room where she was diagnosed with gastroesophageal reflux and sent home. Soon thereafter, the wife saw her dentist because of ongoing

jaw pain. The dentist removed several of the woman's teeth. That evening the woman suffered a massive heart attack. She went to the hospital emergency room but did not receive a cardiac catheterization because the doctors were afraid of excessive bleeding from her gums. This determination was made without consulting the dentist who later testified that any bleeding could have easily been controlled. As a result of this decision, and further incidences of miscommunication between the hospital and other healthcare providers, the woman lost a tremendous amount of heart muscle. She subsequently had to have a complete heart transplant. The family's medical bills alone were over a million dollars. LRCF@W obtained a substantial confidential settlement on behalf of the client who may ultimately face a second heart transplant in the future.

Mary Doe v. Radiologist

This client had opted to have a brain CAT scan to eliminate possible causes of her chronic dizziness. The radiologist who performed the scan pronounced it as normal. Two years later, the woman was still suffering from dizziness and now had memory loss and frequent seizures. Another brain scan was done and the woman's new doctor discovered a substantial brain lesion. In his analysis, the doctor also reviewed the brain scan taken two years previously and discovered that

the scan clearly indicated a lesion at the base of the woman's brain. The woman had to undergo brain surgery to remove the mass and still suffers ongoing symptoms. The claim brought against the original radiologist was settled for a significant and confidential amount.



Attorney Nancy La Vista's extensive medical background is invaluable to firm clients involved in medical



Nancy L. La Vista
Attorney & Registered Nurse

malpractice litigation such as those whose cases are featured in this article. Ms. La Vista spent several years as a critical care nurse prior to graduating cum laude from the University of Miami School of Law in 1990. She joined LRCF&W in 1995 and specializes in products liability and nursing home negligence in addition to medical malpractice litigation.

In The Community



Each year, the firm selects five United Way agencies to feature in television public service announcements. We are always enlightened by the dedication and commitment of the agencies to those they serve. These agencies are indeed touching lives, The United Way.

Attorneys Joe Reiter (1) and Kevin Smith appeared in an ad to support Café' Joshua (5) at the Lord's Place, an agency dedicated to breaking the cycle of homelessness by providing housing, food, education and support services.



Don Fountain (2) appeared with volunteers of The Center for Information and Crisis Services, Palm Beach County's central "hotline" for information, referral services and suicide prevention.



Mark Clark (6) and David Prather (7) chose to feature the Oelsner Skate Park (8), one of the numerous community programs offered by the YMCA.



William S. Williams featured the Boys & Girls Club (3, 4) of Wellington where families are provided a safe and stimulating environment for their children in day care, after school and summer camp programs.



Lake Lytal, Jr. and Lake Lytal, III promoted the volunteer programs of the United Way. Hundreds of retired seniors, teens and working professionals, including personnel from LRCF@W, contribute time and expertise to the community through the United Way.



At Lytal, Reiter, Clark, Fountain & Williams LLP, contributing to the advancement of our community is a fundamental part of our business philosophy. Each member of our firm is active in professional, civic, charitable and religious organizations that make Florida a better place to live, work and raise a family.



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