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CLIFFORD LAW OFFICES**AMOUNT** \$133,465,000
CASES 29**ATTORNEYS** Robert A. Clifford • Keith A. Hebeisen • Kevin P. Durkin • Sarah F. King, Bradley M. Cosgrove • Sean P. Driscoll • Susan A. Capra • Joseph L. Rourke, Jr. • Charles R. Haskins • Tracy A. Brammeier • Robert P. Walsh, Jr. • Marta M. Davidson • James C. Pullos**TOP CASE** \$22,900,000**Medical Malpractice** Baby sustained disabling brain damage because signs of fetal distress were ignored.

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SALVI, SCHOSTOK & PRITCHARD PC**AMOUNT** \$113,505,000
CASES 20**ATTORNEYS** Patrick A. Salvi • Patrick A. Salvi, II • Jeffrey J. Kroll • Aaron D. Boeder • Brian L. Salvi • Matthew L. Williams • Tara R. Devine • Elizabeth R. Olszewski • Thomas R. Mulroy, III • John A. Mennie • Carly E. Shannon • Eirene N. Salvi • Heidi L. Wickstrom**TOP CASE** \$20,600,000**Medical Malpractice** Patient was paralyzed due to delayed diagnosis of a ruptured common iliac aneurysm.

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LEVIN & PERCONTI**AMOUNT** \$75,846,106
CASES 58**ATTORNEYS** Steven M. Levin • John J. Perconti • Margaret P. Battersby Black • Michael F. Bonamarte, IV • Susan L. Novosad • Cari F. Silverman • Jaime A. Koziol Delaney • Eric J. Meli • Daisy Ayllon Castaneda • Andrew J. Thut • Bryan Anthony Ruggiero • Michael L. Shanahan • Colleen M. Mixan • Gabriel J. Aprati • Megan M. Shore • David K. Bulgarelli • Pamela Dimo • Wafeek M. Elafifi • Daniel A. Goldfaden • Jared M. Reynolds**TOP CASE** \$10,500,000**Medical Malpractice** Failure to timely diagnose patient's lung cancer permitted metastasis and led to her death.

FRONT AND CENTER

Levin & Perconti's Battersby Black takes charge as first chair on 20 settlements in this year's JVR Settlement Report.

BY JOHN MCNALLY

Levin & Perconti was a busy firm based on the 2019 *Jury Verdict Reporter* settlement report, and partner Margaret Battersby Black was one of the busiest.

The River North firm reported 58 cases for a total of more than \$75 million and Battersby Black sat first chair for 20 of these cases — the most by any lawyer reporting for this year's JVR rankings. She was a part of 24 total Levin Perconti cases with a focus on nursing home cases.

Battersby Black joined Levin & Perconti as a law clerk in 2006, became an associate in 2008 and a partner in 2014. Battersby Black credits the people who helped her grow both in early life and at the outset of her professional career for creating someone who takes charge.

"Being first chair forces you to take a leadership role. I have been a natural leader all of my life, a quality I attribute to my parents," she said. "Of course, my role in cases has evolved over my career. I had the benefit of sitting back and being led by wonderful mentors Steve Levin and John Perconti for several years before I took over the first chair role."

Battersby Black knows now is the time to continue her growth and help her group of associates to excel under her tutelage.

"Now the challenge for me is to lead by example and step up," she added. "Sometimes this involves doing things outside your comfort zone that make you uncomfortable. This challenge also has to be balanced by letting go sometimes to allow my associates to learn, encourage them to step out of their comfort zones and grow as I was encouraged to by my mentors."

Battersby Black highlights a case she handled for this year's report where a man came to a supportive living facility in July 2013. He was independent,

but still required medical care relating to the monitoring of his Coumadin medication.

He had blood drawn and the test shows his International Normalized Ratio was elevated. The results were faxed to the physician who responded with instructions. Those instructions were allegedly unclear and the staff administered an improper dosage. This resulted in a spinal epidural hematoma and paralysis in his lower extremities.

The patient underwent decompression surgery, but did not recover his mobility. While there, he developed a sacral pressure sore and those injuries caused his death in January 2014. Battersby Black was able to get a nearly \$3.2 million settlement for his family.

Battersby Black believes she can connect on a deeper level because she understands family dynamics as a mother.

"I bond with them and listen to their stories," Battersby Black said. "I can express how these cases impact families."



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