



\*CHOSEN TO 2009 SUPER LAWYERS

## RHEINGOLD, VALET, RHEINGOLD, SHKOLNIK & McCARTNEY LLP

Clients deserve lawyers who are prepared and willing to take their cases to trial and win.

THE FIRM OF RHEINGOLD, VALET, RHEINGOLD, SHKOLNIK & McCARTNEY LLP specializes in representing plaintiffs in such complex litigation as drug and medical device mass torts, consumer rights class actions, auto products litigation, aviation, machine and heavy equipment products liability actions and medical malpractice.

The firm traces back more than 30 years to its founding by its senior partner, Paul D. Rheingold. Two of the firm's partners, Rheingold and Hunter J. Shkolnik, are honored this year by being named to the *Super Lawyers*® list.

In the mass tort field, members of the firm have been appointed by judges to leadership roles in such drug and devices cases as Medtronic defibrillators and lead wires, Guidant defibrillators, NuvaRing, Ephedra, Bextra, ReNu MoistureLoc, Sulzer and Fen-Phen. This work resulted in the award of substantial common fund fees in recognition of services that benefited all cases and with substantial settlements for our individual clients.

In the field of auto products liability, the firm has successfully handled major suits against numerous manufacturers involving vehicle fires, airbag and seatbelt failures and inadequate crashworthiness. Similarly, the firm has achieved great success in the trial and settlement of major malpractice suits, including claims relating to birth trauma, failure to diagnose cancer and complex surgical failures.

The firm attributes its success to the litigation philosophy of its partners, which involves intensive pre-suit investigation, medical and scientific analysis, legal research and trial savvy. Our belief is that every case should be prepared as if we were going to try it to a successful verdict.

Within the firm, Thomas P. Valet specializes in medical malpractice cases. David B. Rheingold specializes in emerging mass torts in state and federal litigation. Terrence E. McCartney handles products liability litigation, including complex auto product cases. Shkolnik is responsible for most of the trial work and has been heavily involved in handling mass tort cases. Laura Pitter, an associate, joined the firm two years ago.

Members of the firm participate actively in bar and educational activities and have held positions of leadership in the New York State Trial Lawyers Association, the American Association for Justice and the New York State Bar Association. Valet is chair-elect of the trial lawyer's section of the NYSBA and chair of the medical malpractice committee of the New York City Bar Association. McCartney is on the board of directors of the Attorneys Information Exchange Group, which deals with auto products litigation. Paul Rheingold is the author of *Litigating Mass Tort Cases* (Thomson/West) and has taught courses in a number of law schools.

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