## SZAFERMAN TRUE COUNSEL

# TRUE COUNSEL®

**FALL 2020/WINTER 2021** 

### LEGAL HIGHLIGHTS

STUART TUCKER RECEIVES \$2.65 MILLION IN SETTLEMENTS IN 2 AUTO ACCIDENT CASES

MICHAEL PAGLIONE SETTLES TWO ACCIDENT CASES FOR \$485,000

MICHAEL BROTTMAN ACHIEVES \$122,000 WORKER'S COMP SETTLEMENT

2020 NEW JERSEY SUPER LAWYERS LIST INCLUDES 10 SZAFERMAN LAKIND ATTORNEYS

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JUDGE LINDA FEINBERG (RET.)
PRESENTS MULTIPLE PROGRAMS ON
PROFESSIONALISM

## SZAFERMAN LAKIND INCLUDED IN 2021 "BEST LAW FIRMS" LIST BY *U.S. NEWS - BEST LAWYERS*®

The firm was ranked Tier-1 in four practice areas in the New Jersey Metropolitan area.

Szaferman, Lakind, Blumstein and Blader, P.C. has been included in *U.S. News - Best Lawyers*\* "Best Law Firms"\* rankings for 2021. The firm was recognized as a New Jersey - Metropolitan Tier 1 law firm for the eighth consecutive year for the following practice areas:

- Commercial Litigation
- Family Law
- Land Use & Zoning Law
- Personal Injury Litigation Plaintiffs

According to *U.S. News - Best Lawyers®*, "The U.S. News - Best Lawyers® 'Best Law Firms' rankings are based on a rigorous evaluation process that includes the collection of client and lawyer evaluations, peer review from leading attorneys, and review of additional information provided by law firms as part of the formal submission process."

Also noted, "All of the quantitative and qualitative data were combined into an overall 'Best Law Firms' score for each firm. This data was then compared to other firms within the same metropolitan area and at the national

level. Because firms were often separated by small or insignificant differences in overall score, we use a tiering system rather than ranking law firms sequentially."

Each firm recognized on the "Best Law Firms" list, "must have at least one attorney who is recognized in the current edition of *The Best Lawyers\** in a 'Best Law Firms' ranked practice area/metro area." In the 2021 edition of *Best Lawyers*, five (5) Szaferman Lakind attorneys were recognized in five (5) practice areas including Commercial Litigation, Family Law, Land Use and Zoning Law, Personal Injury Litigation - Plaintiffs and Real Estate Law.

"We are honored that Szaferman Lakind has been recognized by *U.S. News - Best Lawyers*" for the eighth consecutive year" commented Managing Partner Barry Szaferman. "We thank our fellow attorneys in the New Jersey Metropolitan area for including us in this prestigious list, as well as our staff for all of their hard work and dedication in serving our clients."

### BARRY D. SZAFERMAN Family Law



Best Lawyers in America™ 2016 - 2021 Lawyer of the Year 2019

ARNOLD C. LAKIND
COMMERCIAL LITIGATION +
LAND USE & ZONING



Best Lawyers in America™ 2009, 2011, 2014 - 2021 Lawyer of the Year 2017

CRAIG J. HUBERT

PERSONAL INJURY
LITIGATION - PLAINTIFF



Best Lawyers in America™ 2013 - 2021 Lawyer of the Year 2019

BRIAN G. PAUL



Best Lawyers in America™ 2013 - 2021 Lawyer of the Year 2015, 2018

JEFFERY M. HALL LAND USE & ZONING



Best Lawyers in America™ 2019 - 2021











Super Lawyers<sup>\*</sup>

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**Stuart Tucker** Partner

## STUART TUCKER RECEIVES \$2.65 MILLION IN SETTLEMENTS IN TWO AUTO ACCIDENT CASES

Partner Stuart Tucker achieved significant settlements for clients in two separate motor vehicle cases.

The first case occurred in September 2015 as our client was driving on Franklin Corner Road in Lawrence Township, NJ when a truck collided with her vehicle. The collision caused our client's vehicle to jump the sidewalk and hit a tree. As a result, she was transported to an emergency room with severe pain in her chest, pelvis, cervical spine and left arm.

The client underwent spinal surgery in April of 2017 but continued with pain in her neck and lower back. She underwent a second spinal surgery in January 2019 to place a permanent epidural spinal cord stimulator. While the surgery was without complications, our client was placed in the intensive care unit following surgery and remained there for three days before succumbing to a pulmonary embolism at age 48.

The firm brought suit against the trucking company and the vehicle operator. Stuart, with the assistance of Partner Brian Heyesey, participated in mediation before retired Federal Judge John J. Hughes and negotiated a \$2 million settlement on behalf of the client's estate and her family.

In a second, unrelated case in June of 2013, a client was traveling southbound on Route 18 in New Brunswick, NJ, when a tractor-trailer merged on to the roadway without yielding to oncoming traffic. As a result, a second vehicle shifted into the middle lane where our client was traveling. To avoid an impact with the second vehicle, the client slowed only to be struck severely in the rear by a Mack dump truck operated by the defendant.

The client sustained multiple injuries to her back, neck and arms requiring medical treatment and three subsequent surgeries from 2015 through 2017 including two spinal procedures and a shoulder procedure.

On behalf of our client, Stuart settled this case against the operator of the truck and its owner, thereby achieving a settlement of \$650,000 for her injuries and ongoing pain and suffering.



**Michael Paglione**Partner

## MICHAEL PAGLIONE SETTLES TWO ACCIDENT CASES FOR \$485,000

Partner Michael Paglione settled two accident cases for a total of \$485,000.

The first case involved a motor vehicle accident on I-295 in Hamilton Township, Mercer County. Our client was driving in the middle lane of I-295 with a flat-bed truck in the right lane approximately 100 feet in front of her. Suddenly one of the left rear tires on the truck exploded sending shrapnel everywhere. A large piece of metal from the truck's wheel-drum crashed through our client's windshield severing one of her fingers. The truck continued without stopping and could not be identified. Mr. Paglione filed an Uninsured Motorist claim against the client's own insurance company and secured a settlement for the maximum amount of coverage available - \$275,000.

In a second case, our client was working on a crew that was dismantling a huge crane. As the crew was in the process of lowering the 30-foot main mast to secure the crane for transport, the multi-ton mast began to free-fall and ultimately crashed into our client's hardhat rendering him unconscious and bleeding profusely from a large gash in his head. Mr. Paglione traveled to Toronto, Canada with his heavy equipment expert to inspect and test the various components of the crane to determine the cause of this accident. Through expert analysis, Mr. Paglione proved that the foremen from the company in charge of dismantling the crane failed to properly bleed the air from the hydraulic lines before lowering the main mast which caused it to crash. Although our client recovered and returned to work, Mr. Paglione successfully secured a settlement in the amount of \$210,000.



**Michael Brottman**Partner

### MICHAEL BROTTMAN ACHIEVES \$122K WORKERS' COMP SETTLEMENT

On November 10, 2020, Partner Michael Brottman achieved a \$122,280 settlement on behalf of his client in a workers' compensation case. His client, an auto mechanic, injured his neck and shoulder while performing auto repairs during the course of his employment.

More specifically, our client tore his rotator cuff, glenoid labrum and bicep tendon, all of which required surgery to repair. He also sustained a herniated disc in his neck, which required an injection for pain relief.

Michael worked diligently to obtain the settlement for our client to compensate him for the disability he suffered. Workers injured during the course of employment are entitled to compensation for their lost wages and permanent injury. The New Jersey Workers Compensation Act also requires that the employers of injured workers provide them with all reasonable and necessary medical treatment for employment-related injuries.

Michael focuses his practice on workers' compensation, personal injury and employment matters.



Marc Brotman Associate



Reena Pushpangadan Associate



Raquel Catrocho Associate

### SZAFERMAN LAKIND ADDS THREE ASSOCIATE ATTORNEYS

Szaferman Lakind is proud to welcome three associate attorneys to the firm.

Marc Brotman, the most recent addition to the firm, is an experienced trial attorney in the firm's Personal Injury group. He started his legal career as a litigation attorney for a non-profit legal services firm and previously worked at other prominent New Jersey litigation firms. Marc has dedicated his career to achieving justice on behalf of victims injured by the wrongdoing of others, including victims of motor vehicle collisions, slip and falls, and abuse and neglect in long-term care facilities. He earned his law degree from Rutgers University School of Law and also has a master's degree from Rutgers' Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy.

Reena Pushpangadan is a member of the firm's Personal Injury group. She focuses her civil practice on cases involving motor vehicle accidents, slip and falls, nursing malpractice and victims of crime. Before her career in law, Reena was an emergency room Registered Nurse and a Clinical Nurse Manager at several major teaching hospitals in Philadelphia. Her background in

nursing and patient advocacy is a great asset to the firm's Personal Injury and Workers' Compensation practices and she maintains current nursing licenses in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Reena received her Juris Doctor from Widener University School of Law in Wilmington, DE and her nursing degree from Temple University School of Nursing in Philadelphia, PA.

Raquel Catrocho has joined the firm's Business Group. Prior to a career in law, Raquel worked in the corporate world. At Szaferman Lakind, Raquel currently focuses her practice on Trusts and Estates, helping clients with wills, trusts, advanced directives and estate planning and administration. Raquel received her Juris Doctor from Rutgers University School of Law - Newark in 2019 and her B.A. from Rutgers University - New Brunswick in 2013.

"Our new associates are worthy additions to our Personal Injury and Business practices." observed Managing Partner Barry Szaferman. "And they will help ensure continued quality service to our clients."



**Michael Brottman**Partner

### **CAN I GET WORKERS COMP BENEFITS IF I CONTRACT COVID-19?**

An Article By: Michael Brottman

Since mid-March when Governor Murphy implemented social distancing measures and other restrictions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, essential employees of grocery stores, pharmacies, gas stations and healthcare facilities have continued working, oftentimes under increasingly stressful circumstances. It is quite certain that these workers

are being exposed to the novel coronavirus through the course of their employment and some will, inevitably, contract COVID-19. Will these workers be able to obtain workers compensation benefits if they do?

N.J.S.A. 34:15-31, entitled "Compensable Occupational Disease" defined, has provided medical and monetary benefits to thousands of workers who suffer health problems as a result of the work that they do. The Act defines "compensable occupational disease" as any disease arising out of and in the course of employment, which are due in a material degree to causes and conditions, which are or were characteristic of or peculiar to a particular trade, occupation, process or place of employment.

In Lindquist v. City of Jersey City Fire Dep't, 175 N.J. 244 (2003), the Supreme Court of New Jersey interpreted this legislative history as suggesting that "in the future employees may contract occupational diseases, as yet unknown, that should nonetheless be compensated under the terms of the Act." Lindquist, supra, 175 N.J. at 257. This language would seem to indicate that a worker who contracts COVID-19 through their employment would be entitled to receive any applicable benefits provided by the New Jersey Workers Compensation Act. Like many things in the law however, one size does not fit all.

In *Bird v. Somerset Hills Country Club, 309 N.J. Super. 517* (*App. Div. 1998*), the Appellate Division affirmed the decision of a judge of compensation who found that Mr. Bird proved that he contracted Lyme Disease through the course of his employment. Beginning in 1989, Mr. Bird began working year-round for Somerset Hills Country Club as a groundskeeper in "a relatively undeveloped setting that is home to many types of wildlife such as woodchucks, squirrels, deer, ducks, geese, chipmunks, birds and other animals".

In 1992, Mr. Bird began experiencing extreme fatigue and was diagnosed with Lyme disease. Thereafter, he filed a formal claim petition with the New Jersey Division of Workers Compensation which was contested by his employer. Mr. Bird's doctors opined that he had probably contracted the disease on the job. His work often took him to the "rough", or the edge of the woods, where infected tick larvae are often found. Given that he spent about 40 hours a week outdoors at his workplace year-round, compared with only a few hours at home gardening, the judge of compensation ruled in Mr. Bird's favor.

Somerset Hills Country Club appealed the judge's decision arguing that he did not prove he contracted Lyme disease

through the course of his employment. The Appellate Division ultimately agreed with the trial judge who found that it was indeed, more likely than not he had contracted Lyme disease as a result of his work.

Fortunately, the New Jersey Workers' Compensation Act does not require a worker to prove absolute certainty that he or she contracted the disease at work. The injured worker need only show that it is **more likely than not** the occupational disease was contracted from work rather than somewhere else.

Employees who file workers' compensation claims alleging that they contracted COVID-19 through their employment will likely face the same argument made by Somerset Hills in the Bird case. However, the New Jersey legislature has taken important steps to safeguard those employees most likely to have been exposed to COVID-19 at work.

On July 8, 2019, Governor Murphy signed the Thomas P. Canzanella Twenty First Century First Responders Protection Act. N.J.S.A. 34:15-31.2, et seq. This Act was introduced in response to the significant number of public safety workers who reported illness after responding to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

The Canzanella Act creates a presumption of compensability for public safety workers who contract a serious communicable disease after being exposed through the course of their employment. In typical workers' compensation cases, an injured worker has the burden of proving that he or she has been diagnosed with the occupational disease and it is more likely than not that the occupational disease was contracted at work. The presumption created by the Canzanella Act assumes that the public safety worker contracted the disease at work and shifts the burden of proof to the employer to prove that the public safety worker contracted the disease somewhere else before that public safety worker can be denied compensation.

Public safety workers covered by the Canzanella Act include: Firefighters, Police officers, Community Emergency Response Workers employed by the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management; Employees of a Correctional facility; basic or advanced medical technicians working for a first aid or rescue squad; or any other medical professional responding to a catastrophic incident and directly involved and in contact with the public during such an incident. An injured worker who contracts COVID-19 through their employment may still be entitled to receive workers compensation even if their job title is not one expressly listed in the Canzanella Act.

Anyone seeking to file a workers compensation claim for COVID-19 should speak with an attorney whose practice is focused on representing injured workers in New Jersey Workers Compensation Courts. No infected worker should ever assume they cannot prove their case until they seek advice from an attorney. If you or someone you know has tested positive, or thinks they may have contracted the virus through the course of their employment, contact a worker's compensation attorney to protect your rights.

**Janine Danks Fox**Partner

### **UTILIZING A PARENTING COORDINATOR IN THE AGE OF COVID-19**

An Article By: Janine Danks Fox, Esq. | Parenting Coordinator/Mediator

In the best of circumstances, coparenting can be difficult. Without question, the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly increased the challenges of co-parenting. Now more than ever, it is critical that parents put their disputes aside

with the mutual goal of ensuring that their children are protected from parental disputes. Children are already facing enough uncertainty and anxiety due to the abrupt changes to their daily routines. At lightning pace, children were told that they could no longer attend school, engage in sports and activities or socialize with friends. They have also been deprived of the opportunity to open up to teachers, coaches and other school professionals about their fears and frustrations. As parents, it is up to us to act in the children's best interests to make them feel secure and safe during this difficult time, regardless of how challenging it may be.

Studies have shown that children benefit from the mutual love and support of both parents. To that end, notwithstanding co-parenting disputes or marital tensions, all parents should rise above their differences and find a way to reach common ground to ensure the children's best interests are being served. While some parents will succeed, others will stumble. As a parenting coordinator, mediator and family law attorney, I have assisted countless parents in amicably resolving their disputes. The following are some general guidelines to help parents manage disputes that may arise during this unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic.

If parents are divorced or separated, the vast majority adhere to a specific custody and parenting time agreement. Unless there is a true emergency, the custody and parenting time schedule should continue without disruption. This will provide children with continued stability and interaction with both parents. If there is no parenting schedule in place, efforts should be made to negotiate a schedule that accommodates both parents' schedules and maximizes each parent's time with the children.

In other circumstances, there are parents experiencing marital difficulties while living under the same roof. These marital tensions could have long predated COVID-19 or be exacerbated by the new COVID-19 directives to work remotely while the children engage in remote education. If parents find themselves engaging in disputes regarding

the balancing of their respective work obligations with childrearing, e-learning and household duties, parents should explore entering into an in-home parenting schedule. The schedule should set forth specific time frames or days that the parents will each assist with particular childrearing and household tasks to allow the other parent to focus on their work. If tensions are high within the house, parents may also wish to explore designating specific times for each to spend individually with the children. This approach should minimize tensions for parents and shield the children from unnecessary marital strife.

Although daily living and working circumstances have changed, that does not change the standard by which we should judge emergencies. COVID-19 itself does not qualify as an emergency that justifies disrupting a parenting schedule adhered to prior to the COVID-19 outbreak. Moreover, it does not deny a parent living under the same roof the opportunity to share equal time with the children, even if the parents are experiencing marital tensions. Emergencies are extraordinary circumstances that require immediate actions to protect a child from danger or harm. If your child is being physically or emotionally abused by a partner/spouse/co-parent, or is placed at risk due to a parent's failure to adhere to Governor Murphy's COVID-19 directives/restrictions, then those circumstances would reasonably permit a parent to contact legal counsel or law enforcement to inquire as to options available to protect the child. With that said, our judiciary and law enforcement officers are already stretched thin, so such actions should be used only in emergent situations.

As a parenting coordinator, I assist parents in navigating day-to-day disputes that may arise, as a form of alternate dispute resolution. I serve as a neutral professional who offers parents a forum to air their frustrations, and provides solutions to their disputes with the sole goal of serving the children's best interests. These unprecedented times have brought economic uncertainty, as well as new parenting challenges. Accordingly, use of a parenting coordinator to resolve ongoing disputes will not only allow for the opportunity to problem solve and ease parental stress, but will also serve to reduce legal fees.

If you have the need for a parenting coordinator, please don't hesitate to contact me to arrange for a consultation via phone or video conference. I can be reached via email at jfox@szaferman.com or via phone at (609) 275-0400.





**Jeffrey M. Hall** Of Counsel

### **EMERGENCY RULES FOR NEW JERSEY PUBLIC MEETINGS ADOPTED**

An Article By: Jeffrey M. Hall

With the advent of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, local government in New Jersey has had to scramble to continue to function while greatly restricting public access to government buildings and public meetings. Within weeks of Governor Murphy's issuance of emergency orders, the Division of

Local Government Services (DLGS) of the NJ Department of Community Affairs issued guidance on the conduct of remote public meetings, which has been in use since its publication in early April 2020.

#### **Remote Meeting Protocol**

In October, emergency rules proposed by DLGS to govern "remote meeting protocol for local public bodies during a declared emergency" were adopted. (52 N.J.R. 1944 et seq.) The overall purpose of the rules is to provide controlling principles concerning the conduct of remote public meetings during a state of emergency at or below county government level. These standards and procedures will allow for reasonable public notice and a means for public input.

It is important to note initially that these rules are applicable only in the event that a public body holds a remote public meeting. If that body determines to meet in-person, these rules require that the public also have equivalent in-person access to the meeting. The public body must also assure that the meeting place has sufficient capacity to accommodate the public and other participants in accordance with state of emergency rules.

#### **Remote Meeting Accessibility**

The rules establish a minimum technological and procedural requirement for remote public meetings. They mandate that a local public body use audio or audio/video electronic communications technology that "is routinely used in academic, business, and professional settings, and is widely accessible to the public at no cost." This rule appears to incorporate the widely accepted practice of using platforms such as Zoom, GoToMeeting, Microsoft Teams and the like. The public is to have a similar level of access to the audio and video platform as that of the local public body to the remote public meeting and requires that alternative access be provided through a telephone link.

#### **Document Access**

The rules have been designed to ensure that the public will have access to documents that are being presented at a public meeting. Access to documents must be spelled out clearly in the notice provided for the meetings. There are special requirements that are applied to hearings conducted by land use boards. The applicant seeking an approval, in addition to providing adequate notice,

must arrange for the delivery of materials pertinent to the application at least two days before the date of the hearing to the Secretary to The Board. These materials must be converted to an electronic format that can be readily uploaded to The Board's dedicated website (or through its Facebook page if it does not have a dedicated website), and easily accessible to the public or other interested parties

#### **Notices**

The rules in regards to notices augment the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) to a large degree. Thus, where the OPMA requires notice, there is a corresponding requirement to notice electronically for remote meetings. However, in addition to the content required under OPMA, notice of a remote public meeting must include "clear and concise instructions for:"

- · Accessing the meeting.
- Describing the means for one to make comments during the meeting.
- Identifying where relevant exhibits will be made available for review.

Hearings before land use boards must provide access to all plans and exhibits associated with the hearing and clear and conspicuous instructions on how to access them. The Land Use Board must also consider the ability to examine exhibits, the transcription of testimony and cross-examination of witnesses and the Board must make these considerations in the context of the development project's scale, the number of approvals requested, the degree of public interest and the extent of public opposition.

In conclusion, these emergency rules have the salutary objective of providing uniformity in the conduct of remote public meetings. In light of the fact that the pandemic continues to rage, these rules will be the standard for the foreseeable future. It is only when the emergency orders are lifted that these rules will not apply and the OPMA and the municipal land use law notice requirements will be the norm.



## SZAFERMAN LAKIND MAKES DONATION TO HOMEFRONT THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

In lieu of holiday gifts for our loyal and supportive clients, Szaferman Lakind has donated \$5,000 to HomeFront in Lawrenceville, NJ to help those who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic during this holiday season.

HomeFront works to end homelessness in Central New Jersey by providing a variety of resources to the community including emergency

shelter, transitional housing and permanent housing to over 450 people in Mercer County. They also provide emergency food, free clothing, household goods and job placement and training. HomeFront offers services for children such as pre-school, summer camps, after-school tutoring and grants holiday wishes during this season.

Szaferman Lakind is committed to supporting local nonprofits as we continue to navigate through this pandemic. The firm has donated a total of \$20,000 during the coronavirus crisis, supporting HomeFront and other organizations such as Trenton Rescue Mission, Trenton Area Soup Kitchen and the Princeton Area Community Foundation.

Managing Partner Barry Szaferman commented, "Through our donations to these local social service agencies our firm looks to help those most in need during this challenging period."



Judge Linda R. Feinberg (Ret.) Of Counsel

## HON. LINDA FEINBERG PRESENTS IN MULTIPLE PROGRAMS ON PROFESSIONALISM

Judge Linda Feinberg (Ret.) was a presenter in multiple programs in September and October for attorneys and judges in New Jersey.

On September 16, 2020, Judge Feinberg spoke during a New Jersey State Bar Association Continuing Legal Education program presented to attorneys in the state. The program focused on preparing and delivering opening statements during mediations. Judge Feinberg took the audience step-by-step through the mediation process and the importance of setting a positive tone, being impartial as well as creating the right psychological environment by appearing fair, consistent and inclusive of each party.

Judge Feinberg also participated in the Office of Administrative Law's Judges Training from the Commission on Professionalism in the Law on September 25, 2020. The Commission on Professionalism in the Law is a "consortium of the State and Federal Judiciaries, the New Jersey State Bar Association, Rutgers Law School and Seton Hall Law School whose members include attorneys, judges and academics who seek to identify the better practices of professionalism for attorneys and judges alike." Judge Feinberg currently serves on the Commission on Professionalism in the Law.

This program touched on the principles as well as the "dos and don'ts" of Judicial Professionalism. They also discussed a judge's responsibility to the litigants, the lawyers and to the public.

Judge Feinberg also participated in multiple programs for the Mercer County Bar Association's Xtreme CLE event in October 2020. She presented in the Land Use Update with Szaferman Lakind Partner Bruce Sattin, as well as the ADR program.

Since her retirement as Assignment Judge in the Mercer Vicinage, Judge Feinberg has focused on providing mediation and arbitration services. To contact Judge Feinberg please call (609) 275-0400 or email her at Ifeinberg@szaferman.com.

## TEN SZAFERMAN LAKIND ATTORNEYS INCLUDED IN 2020 SUPER LAWYERS LIST



Ten (10) Szaferman Lakind attorneys have been included in the 2020 New Jersey Super Lawyers list issued by Thomson Reuters. The list includes:

- · Barry Szaferman Family Law
- · Arnold Lakind General Litigation
- · Brian Paul Family Law
- · Craig Hubert Personal Injury: Plaintiff
- · Michael Paglione Personal Injury: Plaintiff
- Robert Lytle Class Action
- · Jeffrey Epstein Family Law
- Janine Bauer Environmental Litigation
- Thomas Manzo Personal Injury Litigation (Rising Stars)
- Christopher Myles Civil Litigation: Plaintiff (Rising Stars)

The attorneys included in the 2020 list represent six (6) practice areas including: Environmental Litigation, General Litigation, Family Law, Class Action, Personal Injury: Plaintiff and Civil Litigation: Plaintiff.

Partner Thomas Manzo and Associate Christopher Myles were recognized for the first time with their inclusion in the New Jersey Super Lawyers Rising Stars list, also issued by Thomson Reuters. All other Szaferman Lakind attorneys have been included in the list for three (3) years or more.

According to Super Lawyers, "Each candidate is evaluated on 12 indicators of peer recognition and professional achievement. Selections are made on an annual, state-by-state basis. The objective is to create a credible, comprehensive and diverse listing of outstanding attorneys that can be used as a resource for attorneys and consumers searching for legal counsel." Only 5% of attorneys are selected to the Super Lawyers list and only 2.5% are selected to Rising Stars. Candidates are eligible for Rising Stars if they under the age of 40 and have been practicing for less than 10 years.

"We are honored to have ten attorneys included in this year's Super Lawyers lists," expressed Managing Partner Barry Szaferman. "This is a testament to our firm's dedication to providing excellent service and creative solutions for our clients' legal needs."

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