SZAFERMAN LAKIND TRUE COUNSEL®

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SUMMER 2026

LEGAL HIGHLIGHTS

TWELVE SZAFERMAN LAKIND ATTORNEYS INCLUDED IN THE 2026 SUPER LAWYERS® LIST

BRYCE S. CHASE HONORED BY PRINCETON MEN'S LACROSSE FOR A LIFETIME OF SERVICE

JANINE DANKS FOX SWORN IN AS NEW JERSEY SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

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WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE INJURED IN A WORKPLACE ACCIDENT

BUYING YOUR FIRST HOME IN NEW JERSEY? LEGAL ISSUES TO CONSIDER BEFORE CLOSING

BARRY D. SZAFERMAN RECEIVES NEW JERSEY STATE BAR ASSOCIATION PROFESSIONAL LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Co-Managing Partner Barry D. Szaferman has been honored with the New Jersey State Bar Association's Professional Lawyer of the Year Award, one of the state's highest recognitions for attorneys who exemplify integrity, professionalism, leadership, and dedication to the practice of law. The award was presented during the 2026 Professionalism Awards Luncheon by the New Jersey Commission on Professionalism in the Law.



Barry has spent decades serving clients, the legal profession, and the Mercer County community. In addition to representing individuals, families, and businesses throughout New Jersey, he has held numerous leadership positions within both legal and civic organizations. He previously served as President of the Mercer County Bar Association and the Mercer County Bar Foundation, and as Mercer County Trustee to the New Jersey State Bar Association.

Throughout his career, Barry has earned a reputation for sound judgment, steady leadership, and a commitment to mentoring younger attorneys. His practice has included complex family law matters, business transactions, commercial real estate, and cases involving substantial financial and valuation issues. He has also served as Mercer County Counsel and General Counsel to the Mercer County Improvement Authority.

"Barry's recognition reflects the tremendous respect he has earned throughout New Jersey's legal community over many decades," said Brian G. Paul, co-managing partner of Szaferman Lakind. "He has spent his career proving that true legal excellence is not measured only by the ability to master complex matters, but by the judgment, integrity, civility, and respect one brings to clients, colleagues, and adversaries alike. Having had the privilege of practicing alongside him and watching him set that example firsthand, I know how deeply ingrained those values are in his daily practice. Our entire firm is immensely proud to celebrate this distinguished honor with him."

The Professional Lawyer of the Year Award recognizes Barry's accomplished legal career and his longstanding contributions to clients, colleagues, and the broader legal community. The honor reflects the respect and admiration he has earned through decades of service, leadership, professionalism, and dedication to others.

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CELEBRATING OUR 2026 SUPER LAWYERS® HONOREES

Szaferman, Lakind, Blumstein & Blader, P.C. is pleased to announce that twelve attorneys from the firm have been selected for inclusion in the 2026 New Jersey Super Lawyers list, recognizing attorneys across several practice areas, including family law, personal injury litigation, employment litigation, and workers' compensation.

This year's recognition also includes several notable milestones for the firm. Brian G. Paul has once again been named to the Top 100 New Jersey Super Lawyers list, marking the fifth time he has received this distinction.

In addition, several attorneys at the firm have reached significant milestones for years of recognition. Barry D. Szaferman, Brian G. Paul, Brian M. Schwartz, and Samuel M. Gaylord have each been selected by Super Lawyers for 20 years, reflecting long-standing recognition from peers throughout the New Jersey legal community.

The attorneys selected for the 2026 list include:

BARRY D. SZAFERMAN
FAMILY LAW



Super Lawyers
Since 2007

BRIAN G. PAUL
FAMILY LAW



Super Lawyers
Since 2007
Top 100 New Jersey Super Lawyers
(5th Time)

BRIAN M. SCHWARTZ
FAMILY LAW



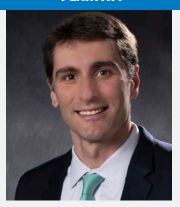
Super Lawyers
Since 2007

CRAIG J. HUBERT
PERSONAL INJURY
PLAINTIFF



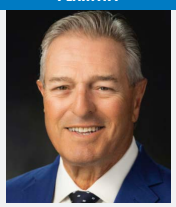
Super Lawyers
Since 2005

THOMAS J. MANZO
PERSONAL INJURY
PLAINTIFF



Super Lawyers
Since 2024

MICHAEL R. PAGLIONE
PERSONAL INJURY
PLAINTIFF



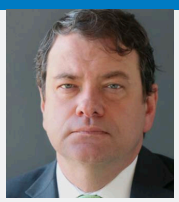
Super Lawyers
Since 2014

DANIEL SWEETSER
EMPLOYMENT LITIGATION
PLAINTIFF



Super Lawyers
Since 2015

CRAIG VOORHEES
WORKERS' COMPENSATION



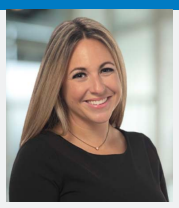
Super Lawyers
Since 2025

SAMUEL GAYLORD
WORKERS' COMPENSATION



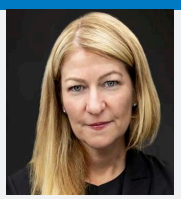
Super Lawyers
Since 2007

JENNA SHAPIRO
FAMILY LAW



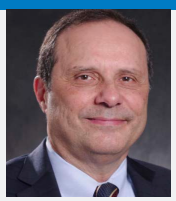
Super Lawyers
Since 2014

TERRYANN K. BRADLEY
FAMILY LAW



Super Lawyers
Since 2015

JEFFREY K. EPSTEIN
FAMILY LAW



Super Lawyers
Since 2005

Super Lawyers is a legal rating service that recognizes attorneys who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. The selection process includes peer nominations, independent research, and peer evaluations across numerous practice areas.

"It's always an honor to see our colleagues recognized by their peers," said Barry D. Szaferman, co-managing partner of the firm. "We are proud of the work our attorneys do for clients across New Jersey, and it's rewarding to see their dedication reflected in this year's selections."

No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey. Information regarding the selection methodology for Super Lawyers and Rising Stars is available on the Super Lawyers website.

BRYCE S. CHASE HONORED BY PRINCETON MEN'S LACROSSE FOR A LIFETIME OF SERVICE



Congratulations to Bryce S. Chase on being honored by Princeton Men's Lacrosse during the University's Alumni Day celebration.

A member of Princeton's Class of 1963, Bryce has been a part of the men's lacrosse program for more than 60 years. After his time as a student-athlete, he went on to serve as an assistant coach and mentor, helping shape generations of Princeton players and contributing to one of the most successful periods in the program's history.

During halftime of the Princeton-Penn game on April 11, 2026, Bryce was recognized for his decades of dedication and lasting impact on Princeton Athletics. Family, former players, alumni, and friends gathered to celebrate his remarkable legacy and commitment to the University and its student-athletes.

As part of the celebration, Princeton announced the establishment of the Bryce Chase '63 Offensive Coordinator position, an endowed coaching role that will permanently honor Bryce's contributions to the men's lacrosse program and preserve his legacy for future generations.

Bryce's commitment to leadership, mentorship, and service has extended well beyond the athletic field. Throughout his legal career at Szaferman Lakind, he has brought those same qualities to his work with clients, colleagues, and the community.

Congratulations, Bryce, on this well-deserved recognition and on the lasting impact you have made both at Princeton and at Szaferman Lakind.

JANINE DANKS FOX SWORN IN AS NEW JERSEY SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE



Szaferman Lakind proudly congratulates Janine Danks Fox on being sworn in as a Judge of the New Jersey Superior Court following her nomination by Governor Phil Murphy. Judge Danks Fox concluded her 25-year career with the firm on January 30, 2026, leaving behind a lasting legacy of exceptional advocacy, professionalism, and service.

Throughout her career at Szaferman Lakind, Judge Danks Fox played a significant role in strengthening the firm's reputation through diligent advocacy, sound judgment, and thoughtful representation of clients in complex legal matters.

"This moment is both proud and bittersweet for our firm," said Barry D. Szaferman, Esq., Co-Managing Partner. "Janine has been a valued colleague and trusted professional partner for 25 years. We worked closely on many challenging matters, and I had the privilege of watching her grow both professionally and personally. While her departure will be deeply felt, her appointment to the bench is a gain for the State of New Jersey."

Mr. Szaferman added, "Judges have a profound impact on the lives of those who appear before them. Janine understands that responsibility. With her work ethic, good judgment, and knowledge of the law, she will serve litigants and the court with fairness and integrity."

We congratulate Judge Danks Fox on this significant professional achievement and thank her for her many years of commitment, professionalism, and service to our firm.



Angelina Sferra, Esq.

DIVORCE IN THE DIGITAL AGE: HOW TEXT MESSAGES, EMAILS, AND SOCIAL MEDIA CAN AFFECT YOUR CASE

Divorce involves deeply personal and emotional issues, and today, much of daily life is documented digitally. Text messages, emails, financial apps, and social media can become important evidence in family law cases involving child custody, alimony, equitable distribution, and financial disclosures.

Understanding how digital evidence may affect your case is essential to protecting your legal rights and personal interests.

Digital Communication Can Become Important Evidence

Electronic records, including text messages, emails, photos, banking records, GPS data, and parenting app communications, may become relevant during divorce proceedings.

Like traditional documents, these records may be subject to discovery and can provide valuable timelines, context, and documentation.

Social Media Can Influence More Than You Realize

Social media posts can affect divorce cases in unexpected ways. Photos of expensive purchases or vacations may become relevant in financial disputes, while posts about parenting could be examined in custody matters.

Although courts consider social media alongside other evidence, individuals should avoid emotional comments, negative remarks about a former spouse, or posts that could be taken out of context.

Financial Records Are Increasingly Digital

Bank accounts, investments, cryptocurrency, and mobile payment apps create electronic records that may be relevant during divorce.

Because New Jersey law requires accurate financial disclosures, these records can help identify marital assets, verify income, and document transactions. Keeping financial records organized can simplify the process.

Communication Matters Throughout the Divorce Process

Text messages and emails often document parenting schedules, financial agreements, and other important matters. Since these communications may be reviewed in court, maintaining a respectful and cooperative tone is important.

When children are involved, communications that demonstrate flexibility and a commitment to their best interests can support healthier co-parenting relationships.

Deleting Information Is Rarely the Answer

Deleted messages and social media posts may remain accessible through backups, screenshots, or forensic recovery.

Once litigation is pending or reasonably anticipated, individuals generally have a duty to preserve relevant evidence. Deleting information or accessing another person's private accounts without authorization can create additional legal complications.

Technology Continues to Shape Family Law

Artificial intelligence, encrypted messaging, location tracking, and cloud storage continue to expand the types of digital evidence used in family law cases.

Despite these advances, courts evaluate evidence based on relevance, reliability, and authenticity.

Careful communication, organized recordkeeping, and an understanding of digital evidence can help reduce complications during divorce.

If you have questions about how digital communications may affect your divorce, consulting an experienced New Jersey family law attorney can help you understand your rights and protect your interests.

WHAT DRIVERS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT NEW JERSEY'S PROPOSED CHANGES TO AUTO ACCIDENT LITIGATION



A bill that could reshape how certain car accident cases are handled in New Jersey is no longer just a proposal. It's moving forward.

S3173 Moves Forward in New Jersey

After passing the State Senate in March 2026, S3173 is now under review by the Assembly Judiciary Committee, indicating that the proposal is gaining momentum. But key voices, including the New Jersey State Bar Association, caution that the bill would affect the way a jury hears your case.

Mariam S. Zein, Esq.

Understanding Uninsured and Underinsured Motorist Claims

The bill requires defendants, including insurance companies named as defendants, to be properly identified throughout lawsuits involving uninsured and underinsured motorist ("UM and UIM") claims. UM and UIM coverage comes into play in cases where you are injured in an accident and must seek compensation through your own auto insurance because the at-fault driver lacks sufficient coverage.

This matters because national averages show that more than one in three drivers is either uninsured or underinsured, making UM and UIM claims a routine part of motor vehicle litigation. For many injured drivers, this is not a technical scenario. It is the only real path to recovery after a serious accident.

How S3173 Could Influence Jury Decisions

Traditionally, juries in UM and UIM trials are not informed that the defendant who would pay a judgment is an insurance company. Rather, the jury is instructed to focus on whether the conduct of the tortfeasor driver was or was not negligent, without mention of any insurance company identity.

Introducing the name of an insurance company has the potential to shift the focus away from the facts of the accident and toward the specific insurance company that would ultimately pay the claim if liability is found and damages are awarded.

While S3173 is intended to promote litigation transparency, many argue that the reality is more complicated. Changing what a jury is told could make outcomes less about the facts and more about juries' perception of the insurance industry, its ability to pay judgments or the potential for judgments to affect insurance premium costs for the public.

While these and other related topics are generally up for debate, none is germane to the specific questions a jury is called to decide in a motor vehicle trial.

What This Means for Injured Drivers

For individuals pursuing UM and UIM claims, this proposed law change matters. These cases are often built around detailed evidence focused on how the accident occurred, the extent of the injuries, and the lasting impact on the client's life.

When additional factors enter the picture, even indirectly, they can influence how that evidence is received and weighed by a jury.

With the bill now pending before the Assembly Judiciary Committee, it is one step closer to becoming law. If it becomes law, it would shape how future uninsured and underinsured motorist cases are litigated and tried.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE INJURED IN A WORKPLACE ACCIDENT



by Samuel M. Gaylord, Esq.

Every day, hardworking employees suffer injuries on the job. Unfortunately, many injured workers jeopardize their rights by waiting too long to report the accident or seek medical treatment.

If you are injured at work, taking the proper steps immediately can make all the difference in protecting your health and legal rights.

Five Things to Do Immediately After a Workplace Accident

1. Report the accident immediately
Notify your supervisor or employer as soon as the accident occurs, even if the injury seems minor. Prompt reporting creates an official record and helps protect your right to workers' compensation benefits.

2. Seek medical treatment
Your health should always be your first priority. Seek emergency treatment if necessary, or follow your employer's workers' compensation procedures for authorized medical care.

3. Describe every injury
Identify every body part that was injured when speaking with your employer and physician. Injuries that initially seem insignificant can become more serious over time.

4. Document the accident
If possible, take photographs, preserve evidence, and obtain the names and contact information of witnesses. These details may become important if questions arise about the accident.

5. Speak with an experienced workers' compensation attorney
Before giving recorded statements or signing documents, understand your legal rights. An experienced attorney can explain the process and help ensure your rights are protected.

Why Prompt Reporting Matters

One of the biggest mistakes injured workers make is waiting days or weeks to report an accident because they believe the injury will improve.

Delaying a report can seriously jeopardize your claim. Your employer or its insurance carrier may dispute that the injury occurred at work, potentially delaying or preventing medical treatment and disability benefits.

Many employers also require injuries to be reported within a short period, sometimes within 24 hours.

When reporting an accident, explain what happened, identify every injured body part, and request a copy of the accident report for your records.

Prompt reporting protects your health and legal rights while allowing your workers' compensation claim to begin without unnecessary delay.

We're Here to Help

Every workplace accident is different, and every injured worker deserves to understand their rights.



BUYING YOUR FIRST HOME IN NEW JERSEY? LEGAL ISSUES TO CONSIDER BEFORE CLOSING

By Zachary M. Jaffe, Esq.

Purchasing your first home is an important financial and legal decision. Understanding the legal aspects of buying a home in New Jersey can help buyers make informed decisions and avoid unexpected complications.

The Purchase Contract Sets the Foundation

Before submitting an offer, buyers should understand any brokerage agreement, including its duration, exclusivity, and compensation terms.

In New Jersey, most residential contracts prepared by real estate agents include a three-business-day attorney review period. During this time, either party may have an attorney review, revise, or disapprove the contract.

This provides an opportunity to address financing contingencies, inspection rights, closing timelines, and deposit protections.

Inspections and Due Diligence Matter

Property inspections can identify potential issues involving the roof, foundation, plumbing, electrical systems, or environmental concerns such as radon, mold, and underground oil tanks.

Buyers should also review seller disclosures, including property condition and flood-risk information. Inspection findings may lead to requests for repairs, credits, or contract adjustments.

Understanding Title and Ownership

A title search helps confirm the seller's right to transfer ownership and identify liens, judgments, easements, or other restrictions.

Title insurance provides protection against certain covered ownership defects that may not have been discovered during the title search.

Financing Is More Than Mortgage Approval

Mortgage preapproval does not guarantee final approval. Lenders may require updated financial documents, appraisals, and employment verification before closing.

Buyers should avoid significant financial changes, such as opening new credit accounts or making large purchases, that could affect loan approval.

Understanding Long-Term Responsibilities

Buyers should consider property taxes, insurance, and homeowners' association fees or restrictions when evaluating a property.

Before closing, reviewing the Closing Disclosure and completing a final walk-through can help identify unexpected costs, unfinished repairs, or property condition concerns.

Preparing for Homeownership

Understanding contracts, inspections, title requirements, and financing can help buyers address potential issues before closing. Every transaction is different. For assistance with a New Jersey residential real estate purchase, contact Zach Jaffe at Szaferman Lakind.

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PER COMMITTEE ON ATTORNEY ADVERTISING ETHICS OPINION 42, THIS ADVERTISING IS NOT APPROVED BY THE NEW JERSEY SUPREME COURT.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE...

Szaferman Lakind is pleased to announce that the Honorable Thomas W. Sumners Jr., recently retired Chief Judge of the New Jersey Superior Court, Appellate Division, is joining the firm as Of Counsel.