

## PERSONAL INJURY/MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

Cole Schotz has developed an excellent reputation in the area of personal injury law, advocating on behalf of individuals who have suffered catastrophic physical injury or illness, including conditions resulting from automobile negligence, medical malpractice, defective or unsafe premises, product defects and other general liability matters.

The financial impact on these individuals can often be profound and permanent. Our experienced trial attorneys work tirelessly to achieve results that help to ensure they receive proper treatment for their physical ailments, compensation for past and future financial losses and monetary awards to address their pain and suffering. The combination of our well-honed legal skills and support from highly respected experts enables us to build strong, convincing cases that achieve success for our clients.

### REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

**Automobile Negligence:** A 71-year old woman suffered multiple fractures and traumatic brain injury after being struck by a car while lawfully crossing the street. Despite multiple surgeries and more than a year of extensive therapy, our client was left with significant cognitive and physical impairments. Our attorneys, along with consulting engineers, accident reconstruction experts and investigators developed a convincing case establishing that the driver of the vehicle was distracted, probably by using a cell phone while driving, resulting in this serious accident. Although the driver told the police he never used a cell phone while driving, we conducted video surveillance of him driving on the highway with a cell phone in hand. We prepared a video presentation which included some of factual and scientific evidence we intended to present at trial, along with client and witness interviews that was presented to the driver's insurance company to facilitate settlement discussions resulting in a **\$1.9 million** award.

**Medical Malpractice:** We obtained a \$4.2 Million judgment following jury trial on behalf of a client who suffered an undetected bowel perforation during a cesarean section delivery. Within a day after the delivery, our client began to experience lower abdominal pain and discomfort; however, her initial complaints were ignored. Although her symptoms worsened, her doctor failed to consider the possibility of infection and signed her discharge orders after her second post operative day. The doctor then left the hospital to go on vacation. Another physician saw her and, realizing something was wrong, canceled her discharge and ordered a team of specialists to determine the cause of her complaints. It was determined that our client had suffered a significant perforation of her small intestine and had developed a life-threatening infection as a result. She required emergency surgery to repair the damage and treat the infection. She remained doctors care for the next six months and since has suffered recurrent, debilitating bowel obstructions that will require her to undergo additional surgery in the future. Working with top obstetric and surgical experts, we established at trial how the obstetrician damaged the bowel and failed to conduct an inspection

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before closing that would have prevented the complications. The proofs at trial were so convincing, the jury returned its verdict, one of the year's 10 highest awards, in less than 50 minutes.