

# Of Counsel

A REPORT TO CLIENTS & ATTORNEYS VOLUME 15, NUMBER 1

## \$8.5 million awarded for medical service's negligence, fraud, and false advertising

**Nationally recognized concierge medical service found responsible for patient's loss of leg.**

In February 2015, a Palm Beach County, Florida, jury found MDVIP, Inc., a medical concierge firm, responsible not only for a misdiagnosis by one of its doctors that resulted in the amputation of a Boca Raton woman's leg, but also for fraud and false advertising. The jury awarded the woman's estate \$8.5 million in damages. SDSBS attorneys **Karen Terry, Jack Scarola, and Andrea Robinson** represented the estate of Joan Beber, and her husband, Robert Beber, in a lawsuit alleging that MDVIP had promised, but had failed, to provide appropriate and timely medical care in its treatment of Joan Beber. Other defendants named in the lawsuit – Dr. Charles E. Metzger, Jr., Florida Back Institute, Inc., and other medical personnel – had reached settlements with Joan's estate prior to this trial. Those settlements did not reduce the damages this jury assigned to MDVIP, and did not include its liability for attorney fees and costs estimated at \$1 million or more.

In 2007, MDVIP advertised that it was associated with the best hospitals and doctors nationwide. (MDVIP is now owned by Summit Partners, a private equity firm.) In exchange for an annual membership fee of \$1,500, members would be assured that MDVIP would actively coordinate their medical care, provide comprehensive physical examinations, and facilitate referrals to specialists and leading national health centers. MDVIP, founded in 2000, had grown to one of the largest concierge medical providers in the nation. In May 2007, Joan and Robert Beber signed up for membership in MDVIP, seeking access to its guarantee of "exceptional doctors, exceptional care, and exceptional results."



*(l-r:) SDSBS attorneys Karen Terry, Jack Scarola, and Andrea Robinson.*

In early 2008, Joan visited Dr. Metzger, and other healthcare providers to whom she was referred by Dr. Metzger's nurse, complaining of persistent problems with her left leg. Over the ensuing weeks, her leg, calf, shin, and foot became cold, painful, and blue. Robert Beber wanted Dr. Metzger to send Joan to either Jackson Memorial Hospital or Mount Sinai Hospital, two exceptional medical centers in South Florida. Despite MDVIP's claim that only top doctors with access to the best hospitals participated in its programs, Dr. Metzger told Robert that he did not have privileges at either hospital. Instead, the doctor referred Joan to a community hospital.

For three weeks, all of the medical personnel treating Joan considered her leg problem to be related to an orthopedic condition. Despite indications that her problem could very likely have been the result of a vascular condition, the doctors failed to refer her to a vascular surgeon. Dr. Metzger had also failed to provide Joan's medical records to the orthopedists treating her – records which might have led them to an examination of her vascular system. Eventually, other medical personnel discovered that a blood clot had lodged in Joan's leg and had caused such severe damage that the leg had to be amputated above the knee. "The MDVIP doctor who treated Joan had tunnel vision and his blinders on since he never considered a vascular cause to her complaints," said Karen Terry.

For the next several years, Joan endured relentless pain and frustration learning to cope as an amputee. She required intense medical care, extensive therapy and rehabilitation, *(Continued on page three.)*



**CONSUMER NOTICE:**  
**Herbal Supplements . . .**  
**Bottles of fiction,**  
**inside and out**  
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## Confidential settlements on SDSBS mass tort actions involving defective drugs and medical devices

January and February 2015

- \$166,500** Personal injury settlement for elderly Alabama person injured by a drug
- \$166,500** Personal injury settlement for New York woman injured by a drug
- \$374,626** Wrongful death settlement for Pennsylvania woman who died due to drug injury
- \$374,626** Wrongful death settlement for Wisconsin man who died due to drug injury
- \$353,813** Wrongful death settlement for Jacksonville, Florida man who died due to drug injury
- \$374,864** Wrongful death settlement for Georgia man who died due to drug injury
- \$104,063** Personal injury settlement for California man injured by a drug
- \$416,251** Wrongful death settlement for South Florida person who died due to drug injury
- \$416,251** Wrongful death settlement for Tampa, Florida woman who died due to drug injury
- \$166,500** Personal injury settlement for South Florida man injured by a drug
- \$416,251** Wrongful death settlement for Broward County, Florida man who died due to drug injury
- \$416,251** Wrongful death settlement for Miami-Dade County, Florida man who died due to drug injury
- \$400,000** Personal injury settlement for Jacksonville, Florida woman injured by defective hip implants

**\$4,146,496 TOTAL**

*... and still counting ...*

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A REPORT TO CLIENTS & ATTORNEYS **VOLUME 15, NUMBER 1**

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NOTE: The accounts of recent trials, verdicts and settlements contained in this newsletter are intended to illustrate the experience of the firm in a variety of litigation areas. Each case is unique, and the results in one case do not necessarily indicate the quality or value of any other case. Omitting clients' names and/or defendants' names are the result of requests for anonymity.

## **\$8.5 million awarded for medical service's negligence, fraud, and false advertising**

*(Continued from page one.)*

and nursing and attendant care. Her health continued to deteriorate and in 2012 Joan died of leukemia at the age of 77. Robert was devastated by the suffering his wife of 55 years had endured because of the negligent and careless treatment provided to her by MDVIP's associates. Robert, former general counsel for W. R. Grace & Co., declined to seek damages for himself, asking only \$1 in recognition of his own loss. "It's not about him, it's about Joan, it's about their grandchildren, and about the charities they loved," said Karen Terry.

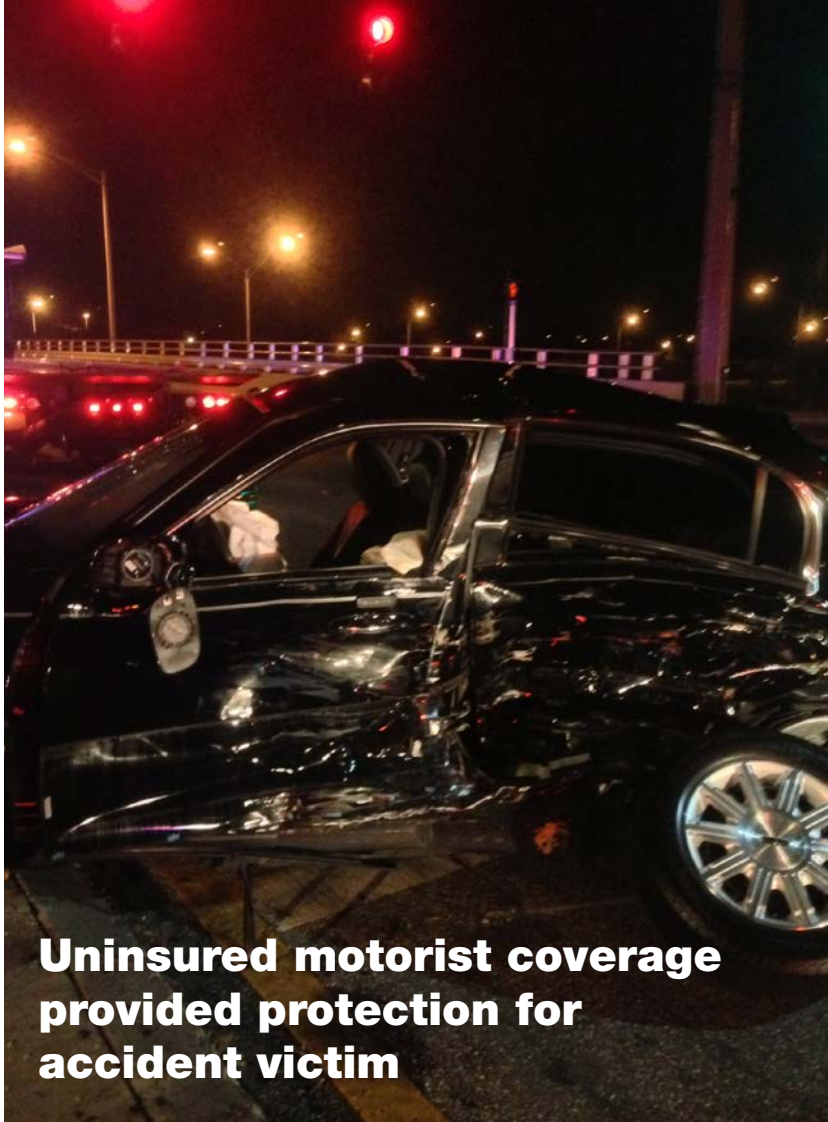
"MDVIP's very business model is at issue," added Ms. Terry. "The company convinces the public that retainer payments to a concierge ensure superior services. As this landmark case sadly demonstrates, we need to take a much more critical look at how this entire industry actually operates." Mr. Scarola stated, "MDVIP's scheme worked just like most other con games. MDVIP essentially took money for a service that did not exist and which they never intended to provide. Had Ms. Beber not been duped, she never would have suffered the tragic and traumatic injury that ensued."

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**MDVIP convinced the public that retainer payments to a concierge ensure superior services ... services that did not exist.**

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The Bebers had specifically sought membership in MDVIP because they wanted the top-rated professional, personalized, and focused medical care that MDVIP had advertised, and they were willing to pay the extra fees to obtain that care for themselves. MDVIP and its associates fraudulently took their fees and then provided totally substandard, inadequate, and untimely services. ♦



## **Uninsured motorist coverage provided protection for accident victim**

On June 18, 2013, an impaired driver, traveling at high speed, ran a red light and crashed into a vehicle driven by Jane Jones (not her real name). Ms. Jones was driving her company's car at the time of the collision. She suffered injuries to her neck and back, and her doctors recommended surgery. Recognizing the lengthy rehabilitation and expenses she faced because of the accident, Ms. Jones and her husband asked SDSBS attorney **Brian Denney** to represent them in a legal action. Mr. Denney's investigation revealed that the impaired driver had no insurance that would cover Ms. Jones' injuries. However, Ms. Jones and her husband had purchased stacked uninsured motorist coverage on both their company car as well as their personal vehicle. They asked the insurance companies covering both cars to compensate her for the injuries caused by the collision. The insurance company covering the company car tendered its policy limits after Mr. Denney advised that he would be filing suit in Palm Beach County Circuit Court. The insurance company covering the personal car declined his request, and Mr. Denney proceeded with a lawsuit against that company under the policy's uninsured motorist provision. With a trial date approaching, the insurance company settled the case with Ms. Jones for a confidential sum. "If not for the purchase of uninsured motorist coverage, my clients would not have had any recourse for their injuries, which would have been a gross injustice. This case is proof positive that all motorists in Florida should purchase uninsured motorist coverage," said Mr. Denney. For further information on the subject, Mr. Denney produced a video in which he discusses how insurance impacts litigation. The video may be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pX1IfcounqI> ♦

## Accolades



In a blog posted December 2014, the *Courtroom View Network* announced its selection of **Hardee Bass** as Plaintiff's Attorney of the Year. *CVN* noted

Mr. Bass's 3-0-1 record in Engle cases and, in particular, his \$20 million award in *Odom v. R.J. Reynolds*. Engle Progeny cases resulted from a 2000 Florida class-action case, *Englev. R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company*. In that ruling, a jury issued a verdict in favor of a class of Florida smokers. In 2006, The Florida Supreme Court reversed the class action award, but allowed potentially thousands of lawsuits to be filed separately.

*CVN* also named **SDSBS** as Plaintiff's Law Firm of the Year, recognizing its work in nearly 30% of *CVN*'s Engle Progeny cases during the year. "With a 6-2-1 record and nearly \$45 million in damages, they backed up their numerous appearances with stellar results," stated *CVN*. ♦



In November 2014, *U. S. News* announced that **SDSBS** was included in its 2015 Edition of *Best Law Firms*. The rankings by *U. S. News* are based on a rigorous evaluation process that includes client and lawyer evaluations, peer reviews, and additional information. In order to be included for consideration of a ranking of "Best Law Firm," a firm must have at least one attorney listed in the current edition of "Best Lawyers." A total of 14 SDSBS attorneys were listed in that same edition. ♦



### CONSUMER NOTICE:

## Herbal Supplements . . . Bottles of fiction, inside and out

A recent study reported by the New York State Attorney General found that four major retailers have been routinely selling herbal supplements that did not contain the principal ingredients identified on the label, or contained ingredients not listed at all.

*DNA testing revealed that the following store-brand supplements were found to contain either no trace, or very little trace, of the principal ingredient identified on the label:*

Retailer	Brand	Missing Ingredient
GNC	<b>Herbal Plus</b>	Ginkgo Biloba, St. John's Wort, Ginseng, Echinacea, Saw Palmetto
Target	<b>Up &amp; Up</b>	Ginkgo Biloba, St John's Wort, Echinacea, Saw Palmetto, Valerian Root
Walgreens	<b>Finest Nutrition</b>	Ginkgo Biloba, St. John's Wort, Ginseng, Garlic, Echinacea
Walmart	<b>Spring Valley</b>	Ginkgo Biloba, St. John's Wort, Ginseng, Garlic, Echinacea, Saw Palmetto

SDSBS attorneys **Jack Scarola** and **Mariano Garcia** announced that they are actively investigating claims on behalf of consumers who purchased any of these products from the listed stores. They are particularly interested in testing product samples.

If you have any of these products, or have information regarding the purchase of any of these products, contact us by email at [WAS@SearcyLaw.com](mailto:WAS@SearcyLaw.com), or call our office at (800) 780-8607, and ask to speak to Paralegal Walter Stein. Your cooperation with our investigation will be greatly appreciated. ♦

# Young girl seriously injured in fall from horse with violent history

SDSBS attorneys **Jack Scarola** and **Mara Hatfield** concluded a litigation brought on behalf of a young girl, 14-year-old Sally Jones (not her real name) who was thrown off a horse named Luke at Pine Creek Sporting Club, a private recreational center located in central Florida. Through discovery, the attorneys learned that Pine Creek was aware of Luke's dangerous propensities, including that Luke had thrown Pine Creek's trainers in the past. Prior to Sally's injuries, one trainer had informed the ranch manager that the horse was unsuitable for the ranch because of his dangerous past behavior.

**One trainer had informed the ranch manager that the horse was unsuitable for the ranch because of his dangerous past behavior.**

On February 14, 2010, Sally and three other children were provided horses for an unaccompanied trail ride. Because Sally was an experienced rider, the decision was made that she should ride Luke because the other horse that Sally customarily rode was better suited for her friend who had not ridden before. Neither Sally nor her friend were aware of Luke's violent past behavior. Despite the ranch manager's knowledge of the horse's behavioral issues, and the difficulties his trainers had controlling him, Sally was



provided Luke for the trail ride. The riders, all children, were otherwise unsupervised and allowed to roam the vast terrain of the ranch including un-gated areas where horses were known to take off galloping. As the horses took off running, Luke reared uncontrollably, throwing Sally to the ground.

Upon her return, the facility largely ignored her injuries. Later that evening, she was rushed to the emergency room where she was diagnosed with a lacerated spleen and an injured kidney, which she eventually lost within the next week. The case, which included claims brought by the victim and her mother, settled October 2014 for a total recovery of \$800,000. ♦

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## Mass Tort Projects of Interest

### **ACTOS, ACTOplus met, ACTOplus Met XR, and Duetact**

Bladder Cancer

### **Bard IVC Filter**

Heart and Lung Perforation  
Hemorrhagic Pericardial Effusion

### **Benicar**

Chronic Diarrhea  
Nausea and Vomiting  
Sprue-like Enteropathy

### **Bisphosphonates (Boniva, Fosamax, Zometa, Aredia, and others)**

Jaw Osteonecrosis  
Femur Fractures  
Esophageal Cancer

### **Fluoroquinolone Antibiotics (Levaquin, Cipro, Tequin and Avelox)**

Peripheral neuropathy

### **GranuFlo and NaturalLyte Dialysis Products**

Cardiac Arrest  
Death  
Cardiac Arrhythmia  
Metabolic Alkalosis  
Stroke  
Sudden Cardiac Death

### **Januvia, Janumet, and Byetta**

Pancreatic Cancer  
Thyroid Cancer

### **Laparoscopic Power Morcellator**

Uterine Cancer

### **Lipitor**

Diabetes

### **Medtronic Infuse Bone Graft**

Ectopic Bone Growth  
Respiratory Failure  
Nerve Damage  
Death

### **Metal-on-Metal Hip Implants (DePuy, Zimmer, Biomet, Wright Medical, and Smith & Nephew)**

Device Failure and Loosening  
Inflammatory Response  
Metallosis

### **Mirena IUD**

Device Migration  
Organ Obstruction  
Organ Perforation  
Peritonitis  
Device Erosion

### **Post-Operative Disposable Pain Pumps**

Chondrolysis  
Cartilage Destruction

### **Propecia and Proscar**

Sexual Dysfunction  
Male Breast Cancer

### **Risperdal**

Gynecomastia

### **SSRI Antidepressants (Paxil, Celexa, Effexor, Lexapro, Pristiq, Prozac, and Zoloft)**

Birth Defects  
Pulmonary Hypertension

### **Stryker Rejuvenate, ABG II, and Accolade Hip Implants**

Premature Device Failure  
Metallosis  
Inflammatory Response

### **Stryker ShapeMatch Knee Implant Cutting Guide**

Revision Surgery

### **St. Jude Riata Defibrillator Leads**

Lead Fracture

### **Testosterone**

Blood Clots  
Heart Attacks  
Stroke

### **Transvaginal Mesh, Bladder Slings, and TVT Tape (Bard, Johnson & Johnson, Mentor, Boston Scientific, AMS, and others)**

Tissue Erosion  
Device Failure

### **Viagra**

Melanoma

### **Xarelto**

Uncontrollable Bleeding  
Death

### **Yaz, Yasmin, Beyaz, Gianvi, and Ocella**

Heart Attack  
Deep Vein Thrombosis  
Pulmonary Emboli  
Stroke  
Sudden Cardiac Death

### **Zimmer NexGen and CR-Flex Knee Implants**

Device Failure and Loosening

If you have been harmed by a drug or medical device, please call our Mass Tort Unit.

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### Actos

**USE:** Lowers blood sugar levels and helps diabetics use insulin more efficiently.

**HARM:** Failure to warn of risks of bladder cancer.



### Xarelto

**USE:** Treatment for atrial fibrillation, and post-operative blood clot prevention.

**HARM:** Failure to warn of inability to reverse impairment of blood clotting, which causes uncontrollable GI bleeding, intracranial hemorrhaging, and death.



### Stryker Rejuvenate Hip Implant

**USE:** Modular, non-metal on metal hip implant.

**HARM:** Modular components corrode leading to metallosis, premature device failure, elevated cobalt levels, pseudotumor formation, and osteolysis.



### Viagra, Levitra & Cialis

**USE:** Treatment for erectile dysfunction.

**HARM:** Failure to warn of dangerous increase in the invasiveness of melanoma, thus reducing the window for effective cancer treatment.



### Metal-On-Metal Hip Implants

**USE:** Hip implant devices manufactured by DePuy, Zimmer, Biomet, Wright Medical, and others.

**HARM:** Breakdown of metallic surfaces, and abnormal wear, premature device failure, elevated cobalt and chromium, metallosis and pseudotumor formation.



### Power Morcellator

**USE:** Laparoscopic hysterectomy or fibroid removal surgery

**HARM:** Failure to warn of increased risk of invasive uterine cancer.

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## Speaking opportunities



On January 20, 2015, **Chris Searcy** spoke at the National Trial Lawyers' "Trial Lawyers Summit," in Miami Beach, Florida. His topic was "Close the Deal: Strategies for Delivering a Powerful and Persuasive Closing Argument." ♦



**Jack Scarola** spoke on "Diversity" at the Palm Beach County Justice Association's SCOPE VIII Brunch Seminar held on December 12, 2014, at the Bear Lakes Country Club in West Palm Beach, Florida. ♦



In December 2014, the Palm Beach County Bar Association's Personal Injury / Wrongful Death Law Continuing Legal Education Committee held a seminar on "What You Don't Know May Kill Your Case. What is the Jury Saying on the Web?" **Karen Terry**



moderated the panel. **Kelly Hyman** is co-chair of the CLE Committee. ♦



**Brian Denney** participated as a scoring juror at the Chester Bedell Memorial Mock Trial Competition held in January 2015 in West Palm Beach, Florida. The competition was presented by the Trial Lawyers Section of The Florida Bar Association. It is a long-standing program designed to assist in training students from Florida law schools. ♦



In January 2015, **Hardee Bass** and **Laurie Briggs** spoke to the Indian River County Bar Association in Vero Beach, Florida. The topic of their presentation was tobacco litigation. ♦



**Ed Ricci** participated in the First Annual Mentoring Marketplace sponsored by the Craig S. Barnard American Inn of Court. The event was held in February 2014 in West Palm Beach, Florida. ♦



In September 2014, **Brenda Fulmer** participated as chairperson and a speaker at the 360 Advocacy Institute's Annual Trial Skills from the Woman's Perspective held in New Orleans, Louisiana. Ms. Fulmer gave a presentation on "Case Management: Bringing in New Cases, Screening, and Initial Client Contact." Attorney **Sia Baker-Barnes** was also a presenter at this women's conference, and spoke about "Medical Malpractice with a Female Touch."



In December 2014, Ms. Fulmer was a presenter/speaker at the American Association for Justice's Education Seminar on the Stryker Rejuvenate and ABG II Hip Implant Settlement held in New York City. Her topic was "Enhanced Benefits Program and Future Enhanced Benefits Program." Also that month, Ms. Fulmer presented "Drug and Medical Device Safety for Consumers" to the Florida Alliance for Retired Americans, Inc., at their leaders' meeting in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.



In October 2014, both **Brenda Fulmer** and **Cal Warriner** conducted a webinar presentation on "Searching for Mass Tort Cases Hiding in Your File Cabinet" to workers compensation lawyers who are members of WILG (the Workers' Injury Law & Advocacy Group). In January 2015, **Cal Warriner** participated as a presenter/speaker on the subject of "Stryker Rejuvenate and ABG II Settlement Panel" hosted by the American Association for Justice's Education Seminar at its "Plaintiff-Only Hot Topics and Trends in Litigation."

In February 2015, Ms. Fulmer was a participant in the Urban League of Palm Beach County Minority Business Leaders Speakers Bureau. Ms. Fulmer gave a presentation to high school students on the topic of selecting law as a career choice. **Cal Warriner** and **Brenda Fulmer** also spoke at litigation group meetings relating to the Stryker Rejuvenate and ABG II and Pradaxa mass tort projects at the AAJ Convention. ♦





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## **Hospital misdiagnosed woman's life-threatening drug reaction after knee replacement surgery**

In late 2009, Jane Doe scheduled knee replacement surgery. During surgery, her orthopedic surgeon implanted an antibiotic spacer containing vancomycin. After the procedure, Jane began experiencing an unexplained rash. It began to worsen and, alarmed, she visited her local hospital three separate times. Each time, she was discharged. On her next visit to the hospital, she exhibited symptoms of a maculopapular rash, with swelling, spots, and sloughing off of skin. The hospital specifically noted that her rash was "consistent with Stevens Johnson Syndrome (SJS)," and they ordered a skin biopsy to rule out SJS. Unfortunately, the hospital cancelled the biopsy order and discharged Jane with the wrong diagnosis of "Red Man's Syndrome." SJS is a life-threatening condition usually caused by a drug reaction. Symptoms are similar to that of a burn victim – bumpy rash and sloughing skin. It should have been treated as a medical emergency requiring hospitalization.

After the last discharge, Jane's condition worsened and she again returned to the hospital. Upon arrival, her condition began to significantly deteriorate until an advocate insisted that she be transferred to a different hospital.

At the second hospital, Jane was placed in a medically-induced coma in the burn unit. Her condition continued to deteriorate to the extent that she sustained multi-system organ failure impacting 95% of her body. Miraculously, Jane survived this ordeal.

Seeking accountability for the inappropriate care she had received, Jane and her husband asked SDSBS attorneys **Brian Denney** and **Cal Warriner** to represent them in a legal action against the first hospital that failed to treat her properly, the infectious disease doctor attending her, and other hospital staff. The attorneys hired medical experts, took sworn depositions of the defendants, and then noticed the case for trial. At mediation prior to trial, the case was settled for a confidential sum, compensating Mr. and Mrs. Doe for the enormous suffering they had endured. ♦

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**After a number of misdiagnoses, Jane's condition continued to deteriorate to the extent that she sustained multi-system organ failure impacting 95% of her body.**

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**SDSBS team helped ‘Jack the Bike Man’ with his annual Christmas bicycle give-away**

In December 2014, an SDSBS team led by Mariano Garcia participated in “Jack the Bike Man’s” annual Christmas bicycle give-away in West Palm Beach, Florida. Since 1999, Jack Hairston (a.k.a. “Jack the Bike Man”) has gathered old bikes, new bikes, and pieces and parts of bikes to provide a bicycle to children in need. This year, over 800 bicycles were given away. Team members helped select a bike for each child, adjusted it to their size and need, and fitted each child with a proper bike helmet. The bike give-away also promotes education, guidance, and training for at-risk children of migrant workers and their parents. ♦



**Foster children benefited by ‘Holiday Market’ hosted by Junior League**

In December 2014, the Junior League of the Palm Beaches hosted their “Deck the Palm’s Holiday Market” program to benefit programs for foster children. SDSBS attorney Andrea Robinson chaired the event, and SDSBS was a sponsor. Over 1,200 people attended the market, raising over \$30,000 for foster children. ♦

**Taking...**

# Time to Care



## **SDSBS participated in 'Tallahassee Turkey Trot' to support local shelters and children's organizations**

On Thanksgiving Day in November 2014, staff from SDSBS offices in Tallahassee, Florida, participated in the Tallahassee Turkey Trot, the annual run/walk races that support The Tallahassee Shelter, The Refuge House, and Boys & Girls Club of the Big Bend. The Shelter feeds 500 hungry people every day and provides overnight safety for many of the area's homeless. For over 30 years, The Refuge House has provided safe shelter and hope for victims of domestic and sexual violence. And the Boys & Girls Club offers after-school and summer programs for several hundred kids at four Club locations in the Big Bend community. ♦



## **'Give Thanks Walk' raises \$75,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital; SDSBS in third year as a sponsor**

On November 22, 2014, Pat Quinlan and other SDSBS staff members, along with over 800 other individuals, participated in the St. Jude Give Thanks Walk held in Lake Worth, Florida, to benefit the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Pat's wife, Nancy, was instrumental in organizing this annual event. St. Jude leads the way in treating and defeating childhood cancer and other deadly diseases. St. Jude has helped push the overall childhood cancer survival rate from 20 percent to more than 80 percent since it opened in 1962. Families receive free treatment, travel, housing, and food so that they can focus on their child's health. And St. Jude freely shares its research and breakthroughs with other doctors and scientists, so that children worldwide can benefit. During the event, Pat and Nancy's son, Brian Quinlan, and their team celebrated Brian's successful leukemia treatment at St. Jude. The Palm Beach County Walk raised over \$75,000 for St. Jude programs. SDSBS was a sponsor of the event for the third year in a row. ♦



## **SDSBS participated in the 'Beach 2 Bar 5K Run' to support Cystic Fibrosis Foundation**

SDSBS staff members participated in a fundraising event held in November 2014 to provide support for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of Palm Beach County, Florida. The event, "Beach 2 Bar," was a 5K run from Stuart Beach to Carson's Tavern in Stuart, Florida. The SDSBS Team won "First Place Team Overall." The Foundation has invested millions of dollars to develop drugs, therapy treatments, and research to find a cure for victims of cystic fibrosis. ♦



A REPORT TO CLIENTS & ATTORNEYS VOLUME 15, NUMBER 1

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## 12 SDSBS attorneys selected as '2015 Top Attorneys' by South Florida Legal Guide

The South Florida Legal Guide recently published its 2015 selection of Top Attorneys, Top Up and Comers, and Top Law Firms. Included in this recognition were 11 SDSBS attorneys: **Chris Searcy, Earl Denney, Jack Scarola, Greg Barnhart, John Shipley, Brian Denney, Mariano Garcia, Chris Speed, Karen Terry, Cal Warriner, and Laurie Briggs.** Recognized as a Top Up and Comer was **Jack Hill.** **SDSBS** was selected as a Top Law Firm. At the 15th anniversary of *SFLG*, the publication asked several top attorneys who have been recognized since the first issue to reflect on their practices. **Chris Searcy**, recognized throughout the 15 years of the publication, commented, "The biggest change has been the amount and extent of mass tort litigation that our firm is handling. With the advent of Engle tobacco, Stryker and DePuy hip implant cases, Yaz/Yasmin and Pradaxa cases, our firm has expanded from 18 to 30 lawyers. [We] have recovered hundreds of millions of dollars for catastrophically injured victims who were in desperate need." ♦



Chris Searcy



Earl Denney



Jack Scarola



Greg Barnhart



John Shipley



Brian Denney



Mariano Garcia



Chris Speed



Karen Terry



Cal Warriner



Laurie Briggs



Jack Hill

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