

THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO LEGAL REPRESENTATION IN THE GREATER PHILADELPHIA AREA

PHILADELPHIA'S
BEST
LAWYERS®

2010 EDITION

SHANIN SPECTER'S
PERSONAL INJURY
VICTORIES

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LAWYERS OF
THE YEAR?



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THE WORLD'S PREMIER GUIDE

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THE GUIDE TO PHILADELPHIA'S TOP ATTORNEYS

It's inevitable—at some point in your life, you're going to need a lawyer, and you won't always be able to predict when that need will arise. Whether you're starting a business or selling one, getting married or divorced, patenting your invention, litigating a contract, or buying a home—there is a talented and highly competent attorney listed in this guide who can help. Perhaps you or a family member is involved in an accident or accused of a crime. These are all serious matters for which you need first-rate legal representation.

Philadelphia's Best Lawyers® helps take the mystery out of locating a high-quality advocate to protect you, your family, your business and all other assets. The exceptional attorneys listed in this guide are only those attorneys listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*®.

These attorneys were nominated by and voted in by their peers. Lawyers cannot buy their way into this guide. They must earn a spot through exemplary legal work that attracts the notice of their colleagues. To remain on the list, they must be at the top of their game, year after year. *Best Lawyers*, the leading referral list in the legal profession, and ALM, the nation's leading legal journalism and information company, have teamed up to provide this invaluable resource for readers, whatever your legal needs may be. Lawyers in this guide are arranged by their legal specialty—from Alternative Dispute Resolution to Workers' Compensation Law—which makes it easy to find the professional advice you need.

Keep this comprehensive guide available for those times when you need a first-rate advocate to assist you. The lawyers listed in *Philadelphia's Best Lawyers* are eager to help.

PHILADELPHIA'S BEST LAWYERS®

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METHODOLOGY

This list is excerpted from the 2010 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*®, the preeminent referral guide to the legal profession in the United States. Published for more than a quarter of a century, Best Lawyers® lists attorneys in 79 specialties, representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia, who have been chosen through an exhaustive survey in which thousands of the nation's top lawyers confidentially evaluate their professional peers. The 2010 edition of *Best Lawyers*, which was published in November 2009, is based on more than 2.8 million evaluations of lawyers by other lawyers.

The method used to compile *Best Lawyers* remains unchanged since the first edition was compiled more than 26 years ago. Lawyers are chosen for inclusion based solely on a vote of their peers. Listings cannot be bought, and no purchase is required to be included. In this regard, *Best Lawyers* remains the gold standard of reliability and integrity in lawyer ratings.

The nomination pool for the 2010 edition consisted of all lawyers whose names appeared in the previous edition of *Best Lawyers*, lawyers who were nominated since the previous survey, and new nominees solicited from listed attorneys. In general, lawyers were asked to vote only on nominees in their own specialty in their own jurisdiction. Lawyers in closely related specialties were asked to vote across specialties, as were lawyers in smaller jurisdictions. Where specialties are national or international in nature, lawyers were asked to vote nationally as well as locally. Voting lawyers were also given an opportunity to offer more detailed comments on nominees.

Voting lawyers were provided this general guideline for determining if a nominee should be listed: "If you had a close friend or relative who needed a real estate lawyer (for example), and you could not handle the case yourself, to whom would you refer them?" All votes and comments were solicited with a guarantee of confidentiality – a critical factor in the viability and validity of *Best Lawyers* surveys. To ensure the rigor of the selection process, lawyers were urged to use only their highest standards when voting, and to evaluate each nominee based only on his or her individual merits. The additional comments were used to make more accurate comparisons between voting patterns and weight votes accordingly. *Best Lawyers* uses various methodological tools to identify and correct for anomalies in both the nomination and voting process.

Ultimately, of course, a lawyer's inclusion is based on the subjective judgments of his or her fellow attorneys. While it is true that the lists may at times disproportionately reward visibility or popularity, the breadth of the survey, the candor of the respondents, and the sophistication of the polling methodology largely correct for any biases. For all these reasons, *Best Lawyers* lists continue to represent the most reliable, accurate and useful guide to the legal profession in the United States.

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The 2010 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* is available from the publisher. For information call 803-648-0300; write 129 First Avenue, Aiken, SC 29801; email info@bestlawyers.com or visit www.bestlawyers.com. "The Best Lawyers in America" and "Best Lawyers" are registered trademarks of Woodward/White, Inc. "Incisive" and "Incisive Media" are trademarks of ALM Media Properties, LLC. The Legal Intelligence editorial staff had no involvement in the development of this section.

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SHANIN SPECTER'S PERSONAL INJURY VICTORIES

The life of a trial lawyer makes the country a little safer one case at a time, one product improvement at a time, one policy change at a time,” Shanin Specter says. “We aren’t legislators. We don’t engage in sweeping changes; we produce incremental changes. But these incremental changes add up.”

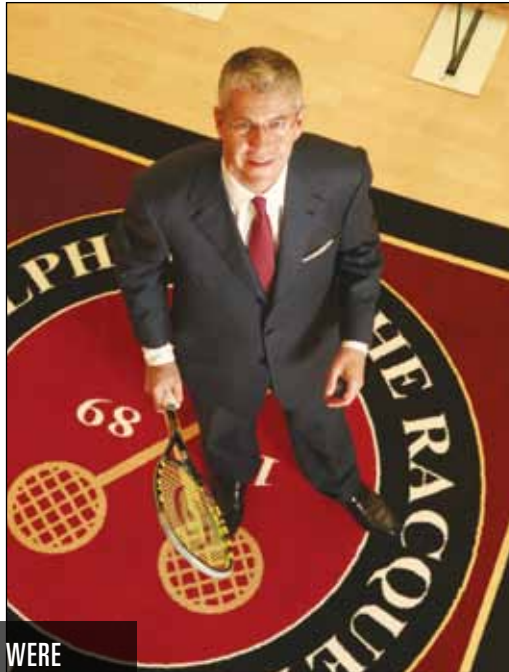
Specter’s impact on individuals and families both in Pennsylvania and beyond can be seen through numerous multi-million dollar verdicts and settlements, plus various changes in law and policy. Specter finds it gratifying to help families of individuals who have suffered catastrophic injury or wrongful death.

“Families who have had a loved one sustain a severe injury need help in every way imaginable from nursing care to income replacement to wheelchairs, lifts and customized vans,” he says. “In these cases, there is someone at fault who needs to be held accountable and responsible for what they’ve done.”

In January and February 2009, Specter worked with colleagues Andrew Youman and Gary Zakeosian to try the case *Volutza v. McBryan*. After experiencing chest tightness, thickening in his throat, lightheadedness and other symptoms, a pharmacist went to see his internist. The internist diagnosed the man with non-cardiac chest pain instead of possible acute coronary syndrome. The man suffered a fatal heart attack four days later. After a two-week trial, a Berks County jury awarded \$4 million to the victim’s family.

“The case was tried in a rural jurisdiction where malpractice cases are rarely successful. The doctor was a well-known, likable and respected member of the community,” Specter says. “But we were able to show the jury that it was important to hold a doctor accountable for his mistakes. The substantial verdict will permit Volutza’s daughter to receive a proper education and will protect her from the economic loss her father’s absence has created.”

In March 2009, Specter and colleagues Kila Baldwin and Dominic Guerrini, helped another family in the case of *Blumer v. Ford Motor Company*. The team secured an \$8.75 million jury verdict for the wife and daughters of a tow truck operator who was killed when the parking brake on his 2002 Ford F-350 tow truck spontaneously disengaged, trapping him underneath.



**“WE WERE
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SHOW THE
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DOCTOR ACCOUNTABLE
FOR HIS MISTAKES.”**

This wasn’t the first time Specter took on Ford. In 2008, Specter represented the family of a three-year-old boy who was killed when the parking brake in his father’s F-350 disengaged. Specter won a \$153 million verdict and a \$52 million verdict in *White v. Ford*. The case was settled just before its scheduled third trial in June 2008. Specter asked the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to review the safety of the brakes which were installed in the 1999-2004 F-Series trucks.

In November 2009, Specter secured a \$7.5 million settlement against La Salle University for an injured football player. In 2005, the football player suffered a concussion in practice and was prematurely cleared to play again. The man then suffered a severe brain damage in a game. The settlement will support his need for lifelong, 24-hour care. “Many of my clients agree to sign a confidentiality agreement in a settlement because they have no particular interest in publicizing what happened to them, or how much they’ve received,” Specter says. “In this case, my clients did not agree to sign. They did a great service to literally hundreds of thousands of athletes from peewees to the pros in educating them and their families about the importance of following a few basic rules when it comes to head injuries.”

Specter earned a JD from the University of Pennsylvania in 1984 and an LL.M. with First Honors from Cambridge University. The Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association honored Specter with the Michael A. Musmanno Award. Specter also received the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association’s (now the Pennsylvania Association for Justice) Milton D. Rosenberg Award. In addition, *The National Law Journal* selected Specter as one of the top ten litigators in Pennsylvania. Specter says that his greatest personal accomplishments are his four daughters. Professionally, it’s the law firm he built with Thomas R. Kline.

“I was recently told that students in a law school class were discussing a hypothetical problem, and our firm name was used to describe the plaintiff’s firm,” Specter reflects, with a laugh. “It was nice to know that we have achieved that measure of immortality. Now we’re part of the lexicon.”

—Ashley Cisneros



2010 LAWYERS OF THE YEAR

BEST LAWYERS HAS NAMED INDIVIDUALS AS LAWYERS OF THE YEAR IN THE PHILADELPHIA, BASED ON THEIR PARTICULARLY HIGH LEVEL OF PEER RECOGNITION.

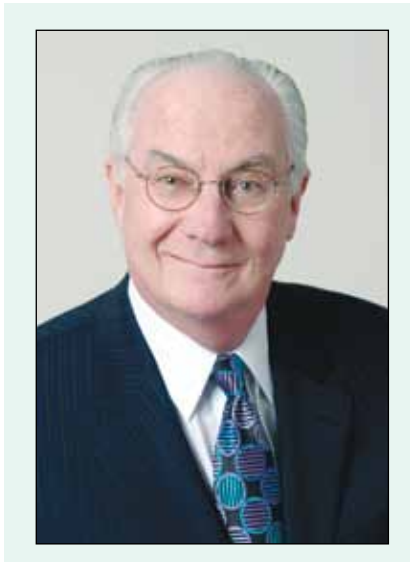
Joseph A. Tate

Dechert

ANTITRUST LAW

Early in his career, Joseph A. Tate, 68, had the option to accept lucrative sales job offers, be a jet fighter pilot in the US Air Force, or attend law school.

He chose law school and became a premiere defender of domestic and international corporations, high-ranking executives, fellow attorneys and other professionals against allegations of white collar crime with emphasis on antitrust, patent fraud, and other regulatory issues.



Tate takes pride in forming personal relationships with the clients he represents, most of whom are repeat clients. He says that the work of his colleagues Stephen D. Brown and Christine C. Levin, his longtime assistant Diane Thompson, and the team at Dechert are directly related to his success.

In 2005, FMC Corporation, one of Tate's oldest clients, faced anticompetitive practice charges in the European Union.

"My team and I went over there and won that case," Tate says. "We were the only American lawyers in that courtroom, and the only team to get an acquittal."

What followed was a four-year legal journey including criminal proceedings and class action litigation. Ultimately, FMC was acquitted, while five other companies were found guilty of price fixing.

"Our client was thrilled with the result, and it was a tremendous achievement," Tate says.

Tate attended Villanova University for both undergraduate and law school. He earned his JD in 1966.

Tate advises new lawyers to think outside the box for solutions to their clients' problems.

"In law school you're taught to look at precedence. Try the opposite and keep your eyes open to new approaches," he says.

—Ashley Cisneros

Robert I. Whitelaw

Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel

FAMILY LAW

Robert I. Whitelaw will tell you that a 40-year career in family law, 25 of which entail managing a century-old law firm, requires energy and a strong ethic.

Whitelaw, 64, arises at 4:30 a.m., goes on a bike ride and arrives to the office by 6:15 a.m.

"Keeping more than 100 attorneys with strong personalities moving in the same direction is challenging," he says, with a chuckle.

Whitelaw earned his JD from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

He is a fellow with the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, and serves as Vice President, Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. Whitelaw has been selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® since 1995.

He points out four tips to being successful in family law. The first is to avoid getting emotionally involved in a client's case. Second, avoid going in too strong, too soon.

"Coming in as a gang buster usually does not work in the best interests of the client," he says. "Younger lawyers tend not to know that. They think they are gladiators, but gladiators wind up dead on the ground of the coliseum."

Third is patience.

"Family and divorce law moves slowly. If you're not patient, you will drive yourself crazy and give your clients unreasonable expectations," Whitelaw says. "Fourth is humor; you have to be able to laugh."

Whitelaw is actively involved in the community, and has dinner every two weeks with one of his former little brothers in the Big Brothers and Sisters of Philadelphia program.

"My 'little' brother is now 26, and the father of three children," Whitelaw says.

—Ashley Cisneros



PHILADELPHIA'S LAWYERS OF THE YEAR

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ENVIRONMENTAL LAWYER OF THE YEAR:
ROBERT D. FOX

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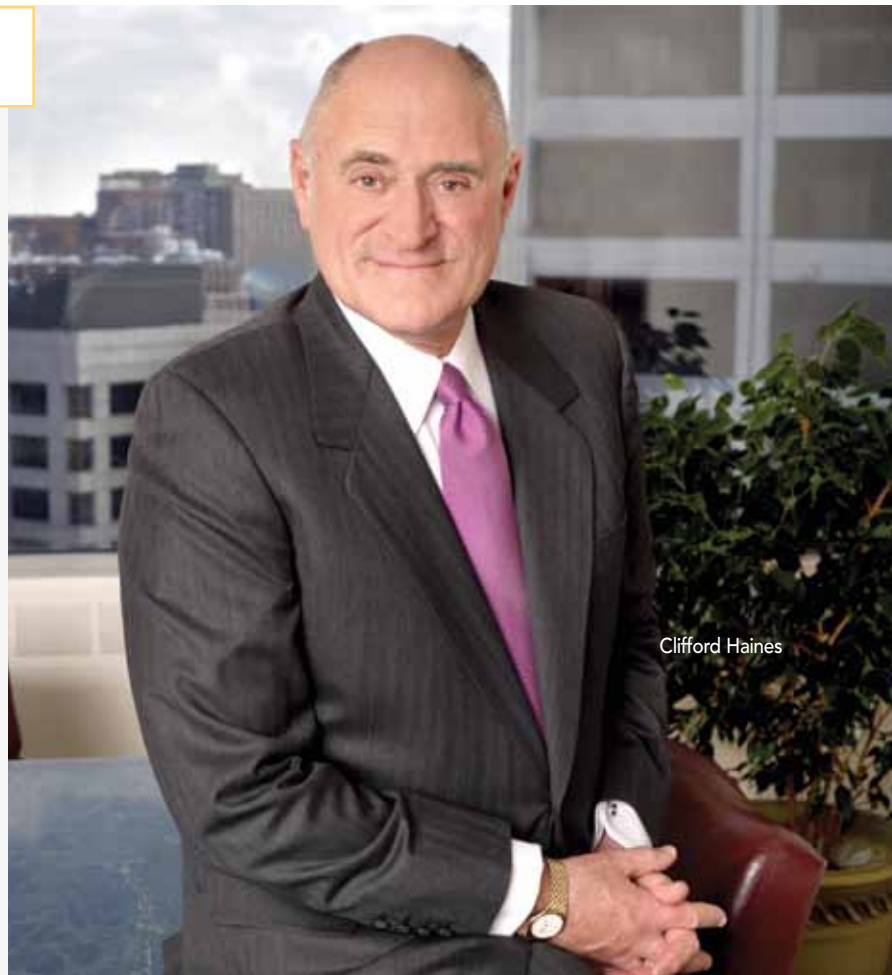


HAINES & ASSOCIATES

Originally founded in 2004 by legal community leader and current Pennsylvania Bar Association President Clifford Haines, Haines & Associates has grown from two to ten attorneys, all of whom carry the same values and litigational prowess as the firm's founder. Under Mr. Haines' direction, the firm's practice has evolved to compliment the collective experience and talents of all of its members, including partners Andrew Chirls, Kathleen Milsark, and James Wells.

This close-knit team of 'lawyer's lawyers' focus solely on litigation, handling a variety of cases relating to intellectual property, professional negligence, business, medical malpractice, personal injury and civil rights. The firm's solid record of successes has made it the place to which individuals, businesses, and other law firms turn for their litigation needs.

The size and structure of Haines & Associates lends it an agility unseen in larger corporate firms—attorneys are able to be creative in their fee agreements and take on clients who would ordinarily not have access to the justice system. "Our lawyers are here because they want to be lawyers. They want to take on interesting cases, advocate for their clients, and go to court," says Mr. Haines.



Clifford Haines

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Problems in Workers Compensation and for the Association for Rehabilitation Professionals. Jason has also lectured to various businesses and educational facilities about issues surrounding injured workers. He has also done consulting work for a foreign government on issues involving workers compensation law. Jason is currently working on legislation to help expand injured workers rights. He is dedicated to representing individuals injured in Pennsylvania. He is ready to take on the employers and insurance companies who want to strip injured workers of their rights under the Pennsylvania Workers Compensation Act.

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Anna Durbin's practice focuses on criminal defense, primarily federal. She represents students on state alcohol and drug charges. She litigates civil rights cases, obtaining a significant settlement for women raped in federal jail by a guard. Ms. Durbin earned an English AB at Stanford University and JD from Yale Law School. She clerked for Federal District Judge Norma Shapiro, then worked as Assistant Federal Public Defender. Ms. Durbin graduated from the National College for Criminal Defense and Trial Lawyers College founded by Gerry Spence. She enjoys winning jury trials and appeals for clients in extortion, mail fraud, false statements, drug conspiracy, and weapons cases. Her sentencing memos help obtain sentences less than expected under the Sentencing Guidelines. She has been selected by her peers for inclusion in *Best Lawyers in America*®.

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Robert C. Gerhard III Esq. is an elder law specialist with expertise in representing seniors entering a nursing home. He helps seniors legally protect assets from nursing home costs. Attorney Gerhard limits his practice exclusively to elder law matters and is certified as an elder law attorney by the National Elder Law Foundation, which is accredited by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. He has been honored by Martindale-Hubbell's highest peer-review rating of AV for both legal ability and ethics. Mr. Gerhard teaches continuing legal education courses regularly, and serves as Chair of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Elder Law Section. He wrote Pennsylvania's leading law treatise on the subject of financing long-term care, *Pennsylvania Medicaid-Long-term Care, 2010 Edition*. He has been selected by his peers for inclusion in the 2010 edition of *Best Lawyers in America*®.

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Howard is a leading trial lawyer and legal educator. He practices in his own firm in the areas of White Collar Criminal Defense, Civil Litigation and False Claims Act cases. He has successfully represented individuals, corporations, chief executive officers, and employees of corporations in the full range of economic and white collar cases, including Health Care, Pharmaceutical Litigation, Antitrust, Securities, Tax, Financial Institution Fraud, Defense Contracting and Public Corruption. Formerly, he was a Partner and Litigation Department Chairman of Blank Rome LLP and Chief of the Criminal Division of the Philadelphia U.S. Attorney's Office. A graduate of Georgetown Law School, he is also Director of In-House Training for ALI-ABA, teaching Trial Advocacy, Depositions and Evidence to government agencies and law firms, and the author of the *Deposition Guidebook* (ALI-ABA 2007). He is also listed in *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers* (white collar defense).

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Michael A. Raffaele is a founding partner of Raffaele & Puppino, L.L.P. Michael V. Puppino, Jr., co-founding partner, has served as member of the Delaware County Council. While Mr. Raffaele has a concentration in Family Law, the Firm provides representation in Municipal Law, Education Law, Personal Injury Litigation, and Estate Administration. The Firm currently serves as solicitor for several Delaware County municipalities and school districts and is listed in the *Bar Register of Preeminent Law Firms*. Mr. Raffaele has served the Court of Common Pleas of Delaware County as a Juvenile Court Master and has also served on the Board of Directors of the Delaware County Bar Association. He was the first recipient of the Eric D. Turner Award of the Family Law Section of the Delaware County Bar Association.

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LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW

Ms. McKinley is a graduate of the Temple University School of Law. Long a familiar face in Philadelphia's public interest community, Ms. McKinley is now a partner at McKinley & Ryan, LLC in West Chester, PA, where she focuses her litigation practice in the areas of disability, employment, and education. She has taught at the University of Pennsylvania and Villanova University and is a frequent lecturer in her field. In 2005 she was elected to the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers. She has received additional honors for her employment and education advocacy including the 1991 Justice William J. Brennan, Jr. award and the 1998 Legal Leadership Award from PhilaPOSH. She is an active member of the National Employment Lawyers Association. Her career of volunteer service includes coordinating the Eastern District's Plaintiff's Employment Panel. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for MARC Advocacy Services.

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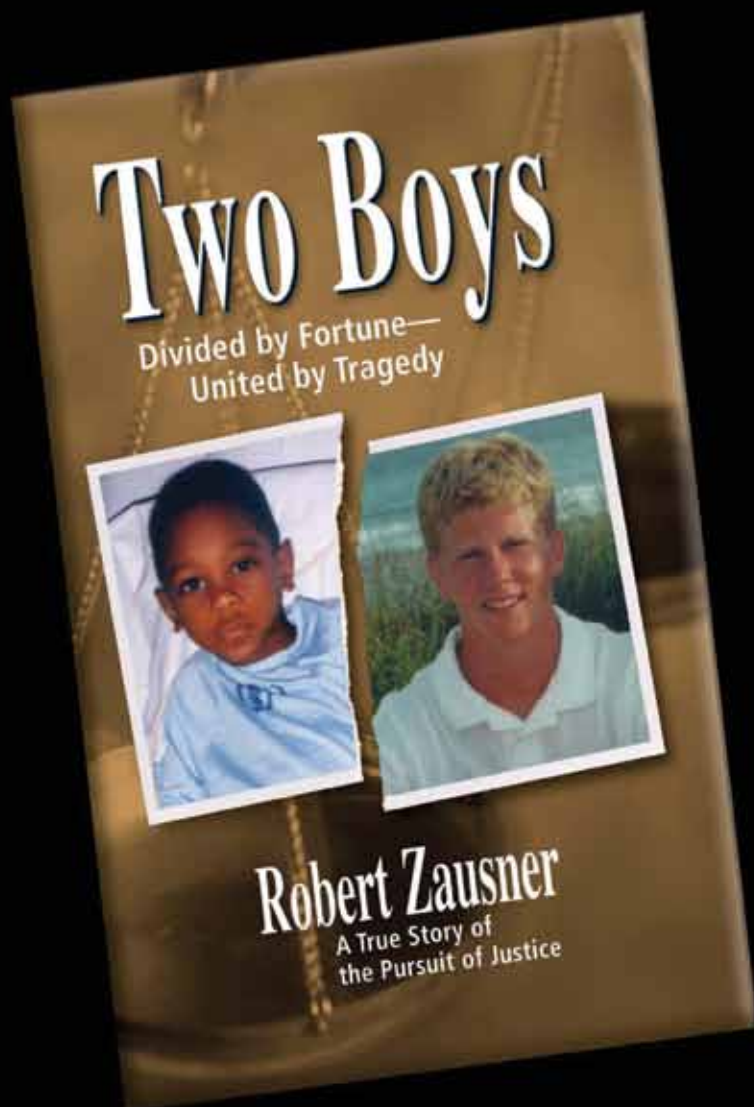
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After many years at a large firm, Ms. Wescott founded her own firm in 2004, to practice criminal defense, primarily federal, and complex commercial litigation. She has obtained significant settlements in civil rights and personal injury cases. She represents individuals and corporations in the full range of economic and white-collar cases. She has won jury trials and appeals in fraud, environmental, obstruction of justice and drug and weapon cases. A graduate of Temple Law School, she holds an MBA, is active on the boards of non-profits renewing developing areas in Philadelphia and numerous legal organizations. Ms. Wescott is licensed in PA, NJ, NC and DC. She was selected by her peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*®. She is the author of books and numerous articles.

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