

Village law firm enjoys reputation as 'go-to' people

PBA SPOTLIGHT

BY LINDA RODRIGUEZ BERNFELD

The law firm of Panter, Panter and Sampedro has been in business since 1990, though it began as Panter and Panter. Brothers Mitch and Brett Panter were joined by partner David Sampedro in 1996.

"Together, we have handled thousands of cases helping victims obtain compensation," says Mitch Panter. "We've handled medical malpractice cases, nursing home abuse, product liability, wrongful death cases, auto accidents, premises liability (when you are injured on somebody's property), anything from negligent security to negligently maintained facilities."

The firm has also litigated complex construction site accident cases.

"And we work diligently to represent our clients and obtain the best results possible," Panter says. "We have all been involved in community activities, including the founding of and leading the Pinecrest Business Association to its current membership status."

Panter notes that the firm recently negotiated a multimillion dollar settlement for a worker who was injured in a construction site accident.

"So he and his family are taken care of for the rest of their lives," Panter says. "We've also represented a family with a minor child that was catastrophically injured in an automobile accident. We set up a structured settlement so that the minor child would receive the best medical care and treatment for the rest of her life."

Currently, the attorneys at Panter, Panter and Sampedro are working on Baycol lawsuits. Baycol is a cholesterol lowering drug that apparently has caused sometimes fatal rhabdomyolysis,



The staff of Panter, Panter and Sampedro outside the firm's office.

a severe muscle adverse reaction in some patients. They are also working with other national law firms in artery stent litigation cases. The coated stents are suspected of causing blood clots that can lead to a heart attack.

Panter says his firm is also working on several tobacco litigation cases and is even involved in cases centering on the arthritis drug Vioxx, which was pulled from the market because it was suspected of posing a heart risk.

The changes in state law relating to personal injury protection (PIP) coverage will be the subject of a seminar the firm will conduct to educate the public and physicians. PIP ensures that people who are injured in automobile accidents have their medical expenses covered. The state legislature allowed the law to

expire, but later enacted a modified PIP law in special session. The new law takes effect in January, but there will be several months where PIP will not be required.

"It will be a mess for all auto accidents that occur between now and January," Panter says.

The Pinecrest law firm, located at the corner of Kendall Drive and South Dixie Highway, recently set up the Panter, Panter and Sampedro Network, an organization of more than 80 lawyers specializing in virtually every field. The network allows clients to access all areas of law and enables the firm to work with other lawyers in referring cases.

Panter says he is particularly proud of the level of community involvement the three lead attorneys in the firm have been able to maintain. His broth-

er and partner Brett is a pilot and actively involved in Miracle Flights, an organization that provides air transportation for children who must travel to receive medical care, but cannot afford the expense of commercial air. At the same time, the third partner, David Sampedro, also has a high profile and is past president of the Dade County Bar Association's Young Lawyers section.

"We offer free consultations," Panter says. "We've always been accessible to speak with people. Either we'll be able to handle everyone's case or we'll find somebody to help them. We pride ourselves in being the "go-to" people in the community."

For information, call 305-662-6178 or go to <www.panterlaw.com>.