



FLANZIG & FLANZIG, LLP

Attorneys At Law

LEGAL UPDATE

FALL 2002

A newsletter from
Flanzig & Flanzig, LLP
Attorneys At Law

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**WE REPRESENT
CLIENTS WHO
HAVE SUFFERED
SIGNIFICANT
INJURIES AS A
RESULT OF:**

- Automobile Accidents
- Motorcycle Accidents
- Construction Accidents
- Medical Malpractice
- Defective Products
- Police Job-Related Injuries
- Firefighter Job-Related Injuries

Attorneys Sheldon Flanzig, Daniel Flanzig, and Cathy Flanzig launch Mineola-based law firm

*Flanzig & Flanzig to draw on
decades of experience in Personal
Injury, Medical Malpractice, and
Product Defect Liability cases*



Attorneys **Sheldon, Daniel, and Cathy Flanzig** announce the formation of their law firm, which draws on the partners' 68 years of collective experience in representing plaintiffs in personal injury cases.

Flanzig & Flanzig will represent clients on Long Island and throughout the five boroughs. In addition to representing clients in significant personal injury cases resulting in catastrophic injury, the firm will operate as part of a strong network of attorneys with related expertise, enabling it to fulfill all legal requirements for its clients.

Sheldon Flanzig has been representing plaintiffs in personal injury actions in New York for more than 45 years and has an outstanding reputation in the legal community.

Daniel and Cathy Flanzig collectively have more than 23 years of experience representing plaintiffs who have suffered significant injuries. The pair has been successful in recovering millions of dollars on behalf of injured victims. Their cases have consistently been reported in legal journals and periodicals.

One of **Daniel Flanzig's** most recent results was a verdict for \$1.3 million from a Kings County, Supreme Court jury in a case involving the death of a 76-year-old woman killed as a result of an automobile accident. The case was published in both the *New York Jury Verdict*

Reporter and the National Law Journal.

The three have extensive experience representing clients in significant personal injury cases arising from automobile, motorcycle, and construction accidents; medical malpractice; and defective products. They also have extensive experience representing police, firefighters, and other civil workers who have suffered serious job-related injuries.

David Bolton, Esq., formerly a litigator with Strock Strock & Lavan in New York City and Russ & Russ on Long Island, has become associated with the firm. His extensive litigation experience and superior trial skills will be a strong addition to the firm.

"The new firm will maintain a tradition of providing individual attention, detailed preparation of our cases, and superior results at trial," said Sheldon Flanzig.

Flanzig & Flanzig will continue to maintain their practice at their building located at 323 Willis Avenue, Mineola, New York, where **Sheldon Flanzig** has been a benchmark in the Mineola legal community for over 20 years. Although based in Mineola, New York, Flanzig & Flanzig will maintain space in New York City to service the needs of our clients in all five boroughs. For more information, call (516) 741-8222, or visit www.flanziglaw.com.

516-741-8222

LEGISLATION UPDATE

From time to time, our firm will update clients and friends on pending federal Congressional legislation and the potential impact it may have on all of our lives.

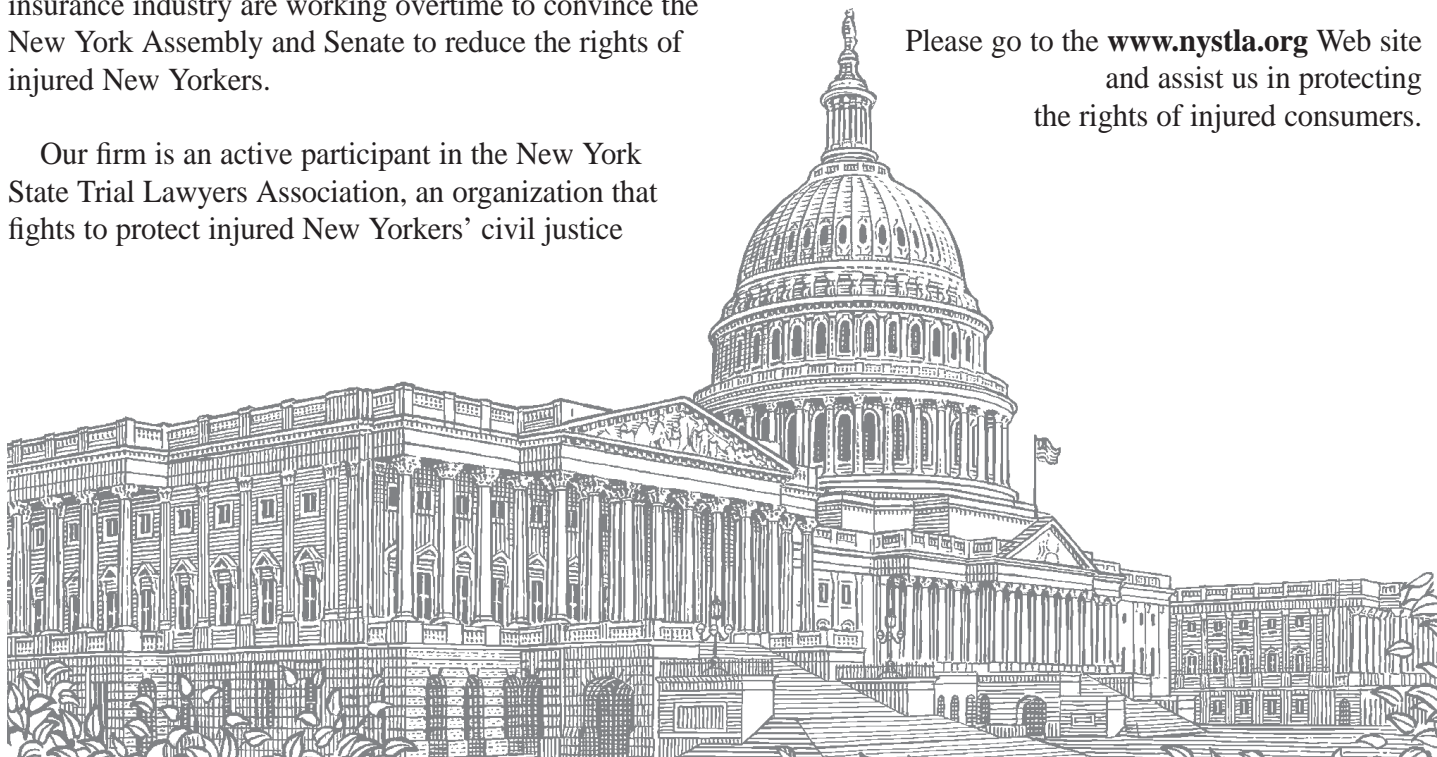
New York's civil justice system is currently under major assault in the New York State Legislature and the United States Congress. Large corporations and the insurance industry are working overtime to convince the New York Assembly and Senate to reduce the rights of injured New Yorkers.

Our firm is an active participant in the New York State Trial Lawyers Association, an organization that fights to protect injured New Yorkers' civil justice

rights. The NYSTLA Web site—www.nystla.org, at the site's **Legislation Action Center**—enables you to send pro-consumer messages to your representative by e-mail or by downloading a letter version.

The Center will locate your local representative based upon your address.

Please go to the www.nystla.org Web site and assist us in protecting the rights of injured consumers.



Tort reform



Q: What is tort "reform"?

A: It's a scheme corporations and medical institutions use to prevent juries from making fair decisions on business misconduct. It hands the court's powers to politicians and legislatures.

Q: How can they do this?

A: U.S. auto makers and the insurance industry paid lobbyists millions of dollars to promote reforms that include caps on financial damages, limits on corporate liability, and lids on medical malpractice awards.

Q: Why do corporations want "reform"?

A: They want to insulate themselves from responsibility and costs associated with injuries they may cause to you, your family, and friends.

Uninsured vs. underinsured motorists

When drivers buy insurance, they assume full protection from all eventualities. It's not always the case.

Most auto insurance consists of **coverage for property and collision damage** to vehicles and **liability** which safeguards drivers responsible for causing an accident and injury to others.

Next, there's **uninsured motorist liability coverage**. It protects drivers who have accidents with negligent, uninsured drivers. This coverage provides you with an economic recovery for the injuries you may suffer as a result of a negligent, uninsured motorist.



Underinsured motorist coverage safeguards individuals hurt by careless drivers with only minimal insurance. This coverage will provide you with an economic recovery if you are injured as a result of a negligent driver with a minimal liability policy.

It is important to talk with your insurance agent to be sure that you are adequately covered for both of these situations.

This is a potentially confusing area of the law, so call us if you have any questions on insurance coverages.

Breast implant litigation update

Developed for reconstructive surgery in the 1960s, breast implants shifted increasingly to cosmetic use in the 1970s.

In the 1980s, women reported increasing implant ruptures with accompanying breast tissue pain and scarring. The Federal Drug Administration ordered Dow Chemical Company and other manufacturers to submit evidence affirming implant safety, but they could not. The FDA banned the sale of silicone gel-filled implants in 1993. Dow filed for bankruptcy in 1994, and all claims were assigned to a Michigan court, where they remain.

Since many women with implants have suffered debilitating health problems (such as autoimmune disorders), thousands brought suit against Dow, contending it failed to warn them that the product might cause illnesses. Courts in California, Michigan, and New York dismissed 4,000 cases against Dow, finding it not liable for injuries. Dow filed a re-organization plan in hopes of settling pending claims. The viability of that plan has been in the Appellate Courts for many years.

Claimants are invited to check the status of the Dow Corning bankruptcy filing and the claims status at www.D.C.settlement.com or www.tortcom.org, or by calling toll-free at **866-874-6099**.



Let's all volunteer

Everyone in our firm wants to help improve the quality of life in our community. So we volunteer our energy and time, and contribute to many community organizations. We encourage you and your family to volunteer, too.

Volunteering, particularly for children, provides lots of benefits. When youngsters join an antilitter highway adoption campaign, they learn the value of hard work, making friends, and appreciating diversity. In learning new skills and sharing their own capabilities, children's self-confidence shoots way up.

We've seen many times that when families pitch in on a community project, such as painting a room at a children's aid agency, parents and kids understand each other better and become closer by working together. In short, volunteering lets family members see each other in a new and more understanding light.

Finally, there's nothing like learning the ever-valuable lesson that giving to others helps us all put our own problems in perspective.



Trial Lawyers Care

We are active members in Trial Lawyers Care, the largest free legal services program ever undertaken. Trial Lawyers Care provides legal help free of charge to all terrorism victims' families who made claims under the government's September 11 Victim Compensation Fund.

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Protecting children from burns

More than 150,000 children are burn victims annually. According to the National Burn Victim Foundation, hospital emergency rooms admit more children between newborn and two years of age with scald and burn injuries than all other age groups. Most burn injuries occur in kitchens.

Parents can take precautions to keep hot vessels and liquids away from children.

- Monitor children's whereabouts at all times.
- Reduce water-heater temperature to 120° or less, and fit faucets with antiscald devices.
- Eliminate tablecloths and keep hot liquids at the table's center.
- Use potholders or oven mitts to move hot pots.
- Turn pot handles inward to prevent them from being touched.
- Keep children away from hot stove surfaces, especially when cooking with oil.
- Avoid storing food in cabinets above stovetops.

A too-tight lid

No matter how many precautions parents take, children may still receive injuries caused by poorly designed kitchen equipment. The parent of a child burned by steam from a pot won a jury verdict after suing the manufacturer and retailer that marketed the product. The parent's attorney demonstrated to the jury that the pot, which had a lid that fit far too tightly, permitted steam to build up, causing the explosion that burned the child.

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Dear Dan & Cathy:

I am writing this letter as a sign of my gratitude for the wonderful job you did with my automobile accident case. Although my case was small by comparison to some of your other clients, you never made me feel as if I was unimportant. You always answered my calls, never rushed me off the phone, and alleviated all of my fears. You also took the time to get to know me on a personal level, as well as on a professional one. (Thank you once again for the well wishes on my impending nuptials.)

If I am ever in need of legal counsel, or know of someone who is, I will recommend your firm without hesitation or reservation. Once again, thank you for your personalized attention and professionalism.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey S. Littwin

REFERRALS

We want you to think of us as your law firm. If you have legal matters that need attention, please let us know. If we cannot handle the matter, we will refer you to a competent firm that can. Please feel free to refer us to your family, friends, and neighbors for their legal needs. We welcome the opportunity to help.