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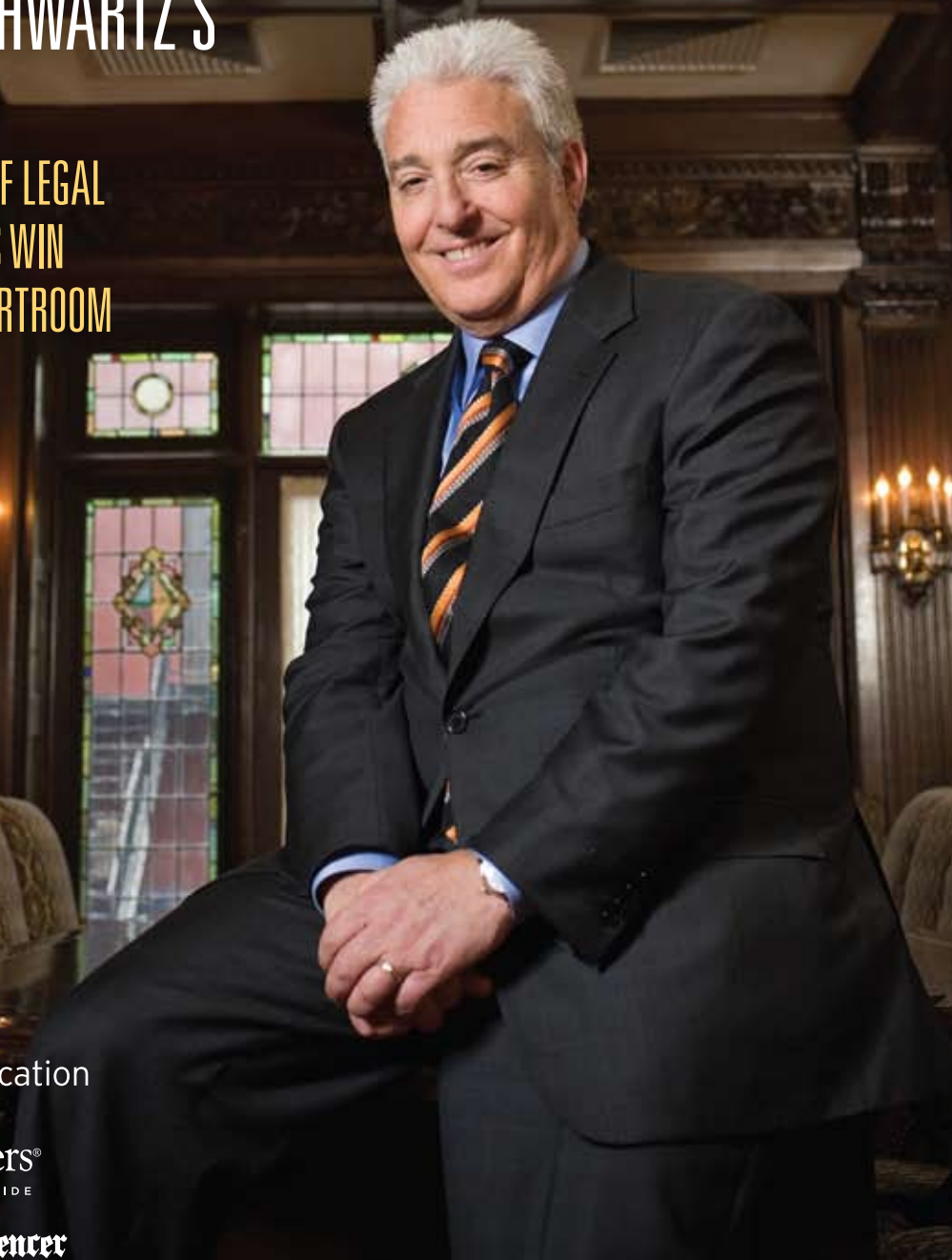
2011 EDITION

THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO LEGAL REPRESENTATION IN THE GREATER PHILADELPHIA AREA

## ANAPOL SCHWARTZ'S SOL WEISS

HOW 350 YEARS OF LEGAL  
EXPERIENCE HELPS WIN  
CASES IN THE COURTROOM

WHO ARE THE  
LAWYERS OF  
THE YEAR?



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THE WORLD'S PREMIER GUIDE

*The Legal Intelligencer*

# ANAPOL SCHWARTZ

MASS TORT LITIGATION

SELECTED FOR INCLUSION IN  
PHILADELPHIA'S  
**BEST  
LAWYERS**  
2011 EDITION  
SOL H. WEISS  
LAWRENCE R. COHAN

**A** NAPOL SCHWARTZ HAS BEEN FIGHTING FOR consumers and their families since 1977, and its leader has been shareholder Sol H. Weiss.

**WEISS, WHO ADVOCATES FOR INJURED CONSUMERS** throughout the country, has handled virtually every type of personal injury or death case in his more than 38 years at the bar. He says he is most proud of having built a firm of 28 lawyers who work assiduously for their clients.

**IT IS STANDARD PRACTICE AT ANAPOL SCHWARTZ TO** have weekly meetings on cases so that the collective experience of the nine partners—more than 350 years trying cases—can be used to strategize the best ways to prove the case and maximize the recovery for the client.

**"HELPING PEOPLE TO STAND UP FOR THEIR RIGHTS IS OUR** guiding principle," Weiss says. "By having courageous people fight in court, consumer products become safer and drug companies are held accountable."

**IN OVERSEEING THE FIRM'S CLASS ACTION AND UNSAFE** drug practice, Weiss leaves no stone unturned to succeed for his clients. He was co-lead counsel in the New Jersey State Court Vioxx litigation, achieved a \$68.5 million settlement for 168 people injured by the statin drug Baycol, and secured a \$3.75 billion settlement as one of seven class counsel in a national diet drug case. In 2009 the American Association of Justice, an organization of 25,000 consumer-oriented lawyers from across the country, presented Weiss with the Harry M. Philo award as its outstanding trial lawyer for leading a coordinated challenge against manufacturers' attempts to prevent consumers from bringing claims in state court when they were injured by dangerous products.

**WEISS'S FORMIDABLE WORK-ETHIC HAS ENABLED HIM TO** foster an impressive career as a litigator. He is past-President of the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates, and a member of the American, Pennsylvania and Philadelphia Bar Associations as well as the American Association of Justice and the Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association. His expertise and integrity as a lawyer have led to his inclusion in the Pennsylvania and Philadelphia *Super Lawyers* annually since 2004 and an AV-rating from Martindale-Hubbell.

**WEISS AND THE LAW FIRM GIVE BACK TO THE** community through the Anapol Schwartz Foundation, which contributes a portion of the firm's fees to local charities that help those who face obstacles similar to the firm's clients. More than \$200,000 has been given out over four years. Weiss says "We assist our clients and their families as their lawyers, but through the foundation we are able to help even more people who are suffering."



Sol H. Weiss



1710 SPRUCE STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103  
PH: 215.735.2098  
[www.anapolschwartz.com](http://www.anapolschwartz.com)

# PHILADELPHIA MASS TORT POWERHOUSE ANAPOL SCHWARTZ

*On How 350 Years of Legal Experience Helps Win Cases in the Courtroom*

The nine partners at the helm of Philadelphia's Anapol Schwartz, (one of Pennsylvania's oldest personal injury firms,) share more than 350 years of collective legal experience between them.

Because the firm takes a team approach with each case, each client that comes through the firm's door benefits from those 350 years of courtroom experience, record settlements and seven-figure judgments. It is this depth, says partner Joel, which has been so critical to Anapol Schwartz's success.

"Most of our cases get vetted and vetted and vetted," Feldman says. "We really cooperate very well, and it's an open-door policy. We screen cases and we continually talk about cases and we get it right the first time, through hard work and by putting in the time. It is hard work being a plaintiff's personal injury attorney, but we all also feel very privileged that our clients trust us with trying to set things right for them, when things have gone so terribly, terribly wrong. It's a heavy responsibility, and we don't take that lightly. We know that what we do can make a positive difference in people's lives."

To Anapol Schwartz, making that positive difference for their clients doesn't happen overnight. These are rather complex cases that can take years to resolve, says Sol Weiss, one of the firm's founding partners, who has been working in the mass tort arena for many years, teaming up with lawyers from all over the country to take on the manufacturers of dangerous medical devices and unsafe drugs.

"What we do is we keep the courthouse open for individuals," Weiss explains, adding that the civil justice system is important to him and the rest of the 30 attorneys at his firm, because they believe it keeps people and companies honest. "[We have] represented the small guy; whether it was a car dealer who wasn't receiving a fair amount of cars to sell because he was 'discounting,' or an injured person who has been maimed by a defective product sold by a multinational corporation, or all of these people who have unnecessary side effects when they take drugs that aren't all that great to begin with. It's what differentiates America from every other country in the world: We have a civil justice system, and people can come to court and have a jury determine whether they're entitled to compensation, and that's a really important thing."

Whether handling a workplace injury or a construction

site accident; a products liability or automobile defect case; a tractor trailer accident; or a medical malpractice case, the team at Anapol Schwartz works tirelessly to get results for their clients. Another part of the winning equation for the firm has been something they like to call "settlement brochures." Weiss, Feldman says, was instrumental in implementing this tactic at the firm.

"We started seven years ago with every large case that we handle, where we're going to go to mediation or even before trial," explains Weiss. Essentially, a "settlement brochure" is a well-produced DVD that lays out the client's case by way of interviews with the victim's family, friends, and critical experts in the case.

"The purpose is to demonstrate how strong our case is and take out all the weaknesses that the defense may raise," Weiss explains. "Everybody knows that seeing something is much more powerful than hearing. It has been very effective, and we have settled a whole number of cases—close to \$100 million in settlements—just from this method alone."

Anapol Schwartz is also active outside the courtroom. Two years ago, the Anapol Schwartz Foundation was founded and today, provides grants to numerous nonprofits which serve victims and their families. The foundation is funded by the firm's attorneys themselves, and has already provided more than \$175,000 to local charities, including Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Northern Home for Children, and the Nathan Speare Regional Burn Treatment Center at Crozer-Chester Medical Center.

"The whole idea behind the Anapol Schwartz Foundation was, 'Let's see if we can coordinate everything and pick charities that address issues, concerns, and obstacles that a particular client did,'" Feldman says. "One of the partners does magic shows for children and patients at four or five area hospitals. Some of the partners mentor inner city children. We do a lot of things outside of our practices."

—Chris Harris



Michael Pilla

"WE HAVE A CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM, AND PEOPLE CAN COME TO COURT AND HAVE A JURY DETERMINE WHETHER THEY'RE ENTITLED TO COMPENSATION, AND THAT'S A REALLY IMPORTANT THING"

—SOL WEISS