

Defining Tradition in Connecticut Silver Golub & Teitell LLP's long history of protecting people's rights

Silver Golub & Teitell LLP is a Stamford-based firm that was founded on a simple philosophy: "Our goal is to provide clients with the finest representation possible, regardless of the effort and expense required," says senior partner Richard Silver.

By holding itself to this standard, Silver Golub & Teitell has set the bar for complex litigation in Connecticut. Since its inception in 1978, the firm has obtained some of the largest verdicts and settlements in state history for victims of fraud, medical malpractice, and other instances of catastrophic negligence. "When we accept a case, we make sure that our clients receive the same high-quality legal representation that is available to America's largest corporations," says partner Angelo Ziotas.

To provide clients with extensive resources, Silver Golub & Teitell is highly selective about the cases it takes on. "We're looking for cases we really believe in," says partner Paul Slager. "Whether it's representing a person who needs and deserves a voice, or taking a case where there's an important issue at stake, our mission is to protect."

Many of the firm's cases have had a significant impact on state and national law. In addition, the firm's work has led to the creation of life-saving safety procedures, the removal of dangerously defective products from the marketplace, and the elimination of deceptive corporate practices. "Our cases make a difference for people, especially those cases involving children," Ziotas says.

Ziotas and partner Peter Dreyer, for example, recently attained a confidential settlement against a local municipality for an inexperienced young swimmer who suffered brain damage after spending almost five minutes underwater. "The medical care required for a child in this situation is enormously expensive," Ziotas notes. "But this settlement will ensure that our client is able to live a fulfilling life, without his family having to worry about any financial strain."

In another case, Ziotas and Silver obtained a \$38.5 million jury verdict against a physician whose negligence during the birth of a baby caused severe physical and cognitive injuries. The result was the largest personal injury verdict in state

history at the time. "Policies and procedures change when we identify how mistakes are made," Silver says. "So these cases are important not only for our individual clients, but for all patients."

Partners Ernie Teitell, Dreyer, and Slager are currently representing the family of a 6-year-old boy who drowned after becoming entrapped in the drain of the family swimming pool; the suit is against a local municipality and one of the country's largest pool supply manufacturers. According to Teitell, "The case is about compelling the pool and spa industry to make safety their number one concern." The

clients in the case are donating all net proceeds from the lawsuit to the ZAC Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to advancing principles of water safety and strengthening pool and spa safety requirements.

Silver Golub & Teitell also has a proud history of protecting the rights of veterans and service members. Silver and partner Kathleen Brandt won a recent settlement against a Veterans Affairs hospital on behalf of the estate of a former Marine who suffered a fatal stroke as a result of an inadequate evaluation in the VA emergency room.

Brandt expresses a theme common in the firm's cases: "Hopefully this tragedy will lead to revisions in VA emergency room procedures so that veterans will receive the best possible care when they need emergency treatment."

Partners David Golub, Jonathan Levine, Marilyn Ramos, and Craig

Yankwitt also won a recent victory for a service member: When a serviceman lost his position at a national bank following his deployment overseas, the firm was able to prove in a groundbreaking trial that the bank had failed to honor a federal statute protecting the jobs of reservists who are sent to serve overseas.

"It was gratifying to secure the rights of someone who dropped everything to serve his country, only to have his employer turn its back on him," Golub says.

Silver Golub & Teitell has been ranked Tier 1 in Stamford in a number of practice areas by *U.S. News – Best Lawyers*® "Best Law Firms," and Ziotas credits the firm's success to the skill and depth of its 14 attorneys. "We're committed to maintaining the highest standards of the legal profession," he notes. ■



Left to right: Angelo A. Ziotas, Paul A. Slager, Richard A. Silver, Ernest F. Teitell, David S. Golub