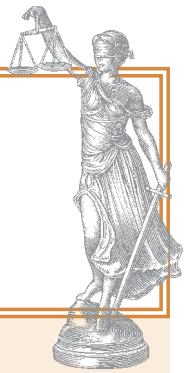




Law Offices of **ADDISON-DARDEN, P.C.**



FALL 2003

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Law Offices of
Addison-Darden, P.C.

Chatham Executive Office Park
1412 Crain Highway North
Suite 1B

Glen Burnie, MD 21061

410-760-6077

FAX: 410-760-7609

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday

8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Web site:

www.addisondardenlaw.com

GENERAL PRACTICE

- Personal Injury
- Auto Accidents
- Medical Malpractice
- Criminal/DWI/Traffic
- Wills/Deeds/Estates
- Adoption/Guardianship/
Custody

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.



HOME APPOINTMENTS

If you are injured and cannot travel to our office for an appointment, we can visit your home to talk to you when necessary.

Case settled

The mother of the youth who was killed at Edgemoade/Raymond A. Rogers, Jr., School, in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, as well as the young mother of the youth's minor child, were both very satisfied with the settlement reached, after extensive mediation before the Honorable Judge Chasanow, retired Judge of the Court of Appeals. The **Law Offices of Addison-Darden, P.C.**, and the Chicago law firm of Cochran, Cherry, Givens, Smith & Montgomery were also pleased to settle the case for their clients for a "nondisclosable" amount. The settlement occurred less than 30 days prior to the commencement of the specially set two-week trial in August 2003.

Protect your family

Here are some basic and enhanced auto insurance coverages to talk to your auto insurance agent about.

Uninsured motorist coverage protects you when another driver at fault in an automobile collision has no insurance at all. It covers lost wages, medical costs, and other expenses associated with serious injuries.

Underinsured motorist coverage safeguards you if you are injured by a careless driver who has only minimal insurance. Since uninsured motorist coverage doesn't apply, the other driver's minimal liability policy may not cover injuries you suffer. Your own policy may not cover injuries, either.

Coverage "stacking" can help if your household insures more than one car. Stacking increases uninsured/underinsured motorist limits based on the number of autos covered. If you purchase \$100,000/\$200,000 coverage and insure two cars, stacked limits equal \$200,000/\$400,000.

Add a wage-loss benefit. If your insurance company doesn't provide a wage-loss benefit, request it. Although many carriers cap benefits at 80 percent, some insurance carriers offer additional wage-loss expense enhancements.

Increase medical expense to obtain additional coverage for larger medical bills in case of serious injury. Many policies place a limit of \$10,000 for medical expenses, but that may not be adequate. Health-insurance coverages have large deductibles for serious injury, and auto insurance medical coverage may pay for chiropractic or other specialized medical treatment excluded by health insurance.

Purchase more bodily injury insurance. The customary \$20,000 minimum coverage may not protect you if you are sued for causing a collision in which someone else is seriously injured. Bodily injury coverage can protect your home, cars, and other assets.

Auto accidents and DUI

According to Mothers Against Drunk Driving, in 2000 there were 17,380 alcohol-related deaths among the 41,945 total traffic fatalities. In 2001, there were 17,448 alcohol-related deaths among the 42,116 total traffic fatalities. The ratio stayed at 41 percent, but 68 more people died in 2001.

As the nation's most frequently committed violent crime, DUI takes its toll on the young. Among all children ages 0-14 killed in fatal DUI accidents in 2000, nearly half—223—were passengers in a vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking.

DUI and the innocent

Anyone involved in an accident in which another driver was DUI should seek legal counsel. A woman already suffering from a brain injury was struck from behind by a driver who allegedly refused to take a sobriety test, had balance problems, and smelled of alcohol. The jury that heard the case gave the victim an award plus punitive damages.

We take pride in the quality of our legal work.

OUR UNSUNG HEROES

One of the definitions for hero is a person noted for special achievement in a particular field or one who performs outstandingly despite all odds. That being the case, two young women closely associated with the **Law Offices of Addison-Darden** may just fit that bill as our “unsung heroes,” whom we believe deserve special recognition.

Suzanne Mundella (formerly Suzanne Marshall) at age 16 was not your average teenager. She was teased, criticized, humiliated, and frowned upon by many young and old individuals alike for having become pregnant at her age. During that time, her boyfriend and now her husband, Tony (“the love of her life”), faithfully stood by her side. As she



*Suzanne and Tony
(9th-grade prom)*

continued through the 11th grade, she had no idea of the many obstacles that she would have to face as a parent. In August 1990, she became the mother of a beautiful daughter, Samantha. Suzanne knew at that time that her summers would no longer be spent running around with her friends or making plans to attend a four-year college to major in criminology, a goal she desperately wanted to achieve. Reality sunk in; she was a mother.

On September 16, 1990, during her senior year at Glen Burnie High School, Suzanne applied to the Law Offices of Addison-Darden, as a part of the Glen Burnie High School Work Study Program, seeking part-time employment. I could not believe that this young high-school student was coming for a job interview with a newborn baby in her arms; however, whatever doubts that I may have had about whether or not this young applicant could handle the multiple tasks ahead were quickly put to rest by the assurance I received from my then paralegal/office manager Susan Contrino (now **Susan Fales Smith**, an associate attorney in our office).

Susan quickly responded, “She already has child-care arrangements set up, and she has good skills and great potential.” With that vote of confidence, Suzanne was hired and the rest is history.

During her senior year, Suzanne attended school in the morning, worked at our office from mid-morning to evening, and then went home to complete her homework and take care of her daughter. That became her routine throughout the school year. Notwithstanding all of the above, Suzanne managed to be an honor roll student and was awarded and acknowledged at the La Fontaine Bleu as the “Student of the Year” for office technology studies in June 1991. During the banquet, while Suzanne delivered her speech, **Evelyn Darden** came to the forefront and provided Suzanne with a \$500 bond and offered her a full-time position. I recall Suzanne stating, “I was able to prove not only to everyone who criticized me, but most of all to myself, that I could do anything that I put my mind to.”

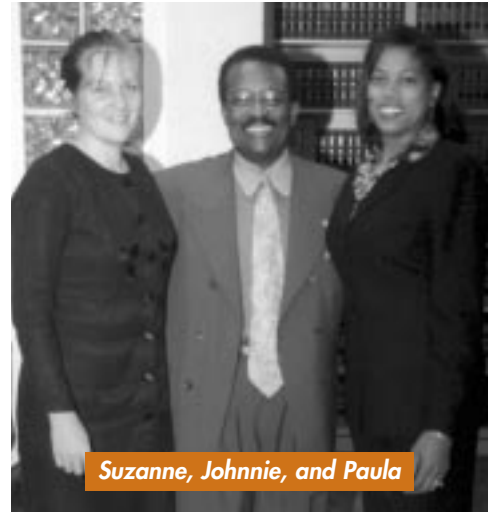


Susan, Suzanne, and Evelyn

And she did. Suzanne continued her employment in this firm and is the one employee who has truly celebrated every major life event with us: her graduation from high school; the birth of her daughter, Heather; her marriage to Tony; her first apartment; the purchase of her first home; and the birth of her son, Tony Michael.

Today, 13 years after being hired by our office, Suzanne continues her employment with us while always playing a very active role in her children’s lives (volunteering as manager of softball, Team Mom for T-ball, and volunteering at school functions), being a devoted wife, an active member in her community, and a dedicated and hard-working employee. Fifteen years later, Suzanne and Tony are still together. On

September 11, 2003, they celebrated their ten-year wedding anniversary. These once young teenagers, faced with life’s harshest trials and tribulations, have now become two fine responsible adults, and their love for each other continues to grow.



Suzanne, Johnnie, and Paula

I would rank Suzanne as among the best paralegals in the state of Maryland or anywhere in the nation. She has worked closely with the attorneys in this office in providing paralegal services on all of our major cases. She has received glowing compliments from Johnnie Cochran and the partners in his firm for the services she has rendered on the various joint-venture cases between the Law Firm of Addison-Darden and the Cochran Firm.

Suzanne’s response to this special tribute:

*“I would like to respond by acknowledging and thanking Evelyn and Mark (“Skip”) for not judging me and for giving me a chance to be a positive and productive member of this firm. Both of you are more than my employers, you have become a part of my family. Susan, thank you for having confidence in me even before you knew me. Furthermore, I could never forget to thank my mother and my husband. They are my backbone. My children, well, they are the force that drives me to become who I am today. And Tony, **everyone** doubted us, and look at where we are today—two people who have become one. Looking back on the decisions I made then, I would not change a thing. God truly has enriched our lives. Thank you.”*

OUR UNSUNG HEROES

As a single mom who has just delivered premature twins and is recovering from c-section surgery, you try your best to be present with your babies in the neonatal intensive care units of two different hospitals for over the first two months of their precious lives.

For **Karen Johnson**, this scenario describes the beginning of her life with Timothy and Rachel, born June 1, 1997. Timmy, twin A (delivered first), remained hospitalized for the first 110 days after his birth; Rachel, twin B, was hospitalized for 61 days. Although Karen was aware that Timmy's condition was more precarious, she only began to grasp the severity of it when discussions were raised about transferring him to Johns Hopkins Hospital, where he would receive care from a team including Dr. Ben Carson, a world-renowned pediatric neurosurgeon. During those early days, she recalls it being a rough time as she faced the challenge of accepting the situation and trying to balance herself between the needs of the two children. Her surgery had complicated her

ability to get around, but she received constant support from her family, her church family, and caring friends.

Undoubtedly, Timmy had many more medical needs than Rachel, and Karen was determined to make sure that he was receiving the best care. He was moved from Howard County Hospital, 11 days after his birth, to Johns Hopkins—a teaching hospital where Karen was encouraged to fully participate in his care.

Timmy's brain injury occurred due to a combination of bleeding and hydrocephalus, a condition resulting in a buildup of fluid on the brain. To date, he has had three surgeries related to placing and modifying a shunt, a temporary drain through which the fluid escapes. His brain injury resulted in multiple disabilities, including severe cognitive delays, extreme visual impairment, a seizure

disorder, and moderate cerebral palsy. (Cerebral palsy (CP) is a mixture of muscle tone, alternating between overly tense and abnormally limp.) Medications are given daily to help control his CP and seizures. Long-term prospects for Timmy are uncertain at this point; presently, his cognitive and developmental abilities—what he comprehends and his level of functioning—are comparable to an infant of 6–8 months of age. He cannot crawl and is not able to sit upright without support. His confinement to a wheelchair



Karen and Timmy

is only one of many limits that impact family activities on a daily basis.

Although Timmy qualifies as legally blind, he is able to sense when someone enters the room he is in. "These things may seem small to someone else," Karen said, "but to me, they are so significant; they are something to build on." Despite his tremendous disabilities, Karen and her husband Philip, whom she married in 1999, are still hopeful for further progress as Timmy grows.

Every morning, Karen gets Timmy ready for his day at school. He is picked up by the school bus at 6:50 a.m. and taken to Cedar Lane School in Howard County, a public school with mostly "Level Five" students—children with severe disabilities who are not able to be mainstreamed into typical classroom settings. In Maryland, laws provide for

children with disabilities to receive public special education services from ages 3 to 21 years old. Timmy, now in kindergarten, was given early admittance to Cedar Lane School when he was just two years old. Karen sought these early services because she felt he would benefit from the increased therapies he would receive there.

Through Cedar Lane School, Karen has formed strong bonds with other mothers of children with severe disabilities. They regularly meet for dinner and time-out, an opportunity she rarely misses. She finds that the exchange with these moms is vital to her outlook and need for information and friendship. These moms truly understand her situation because they are living it themselves. "These moms understand my life, that I'll always have a child in diapers," said Karen, "just like I understand they too will always have a child in diapers."

Karen is a strong advocate for children with disabilities. She attended several Howard County School Board meetings and spoke in support of the continuation of Cedar Lane School. On July 24, 2003, the School Board approved the construction of the new Cedar Lane School at Fulton Campus. From Karen's perspective, the resources available to parents of children with disabilities—whether they are behavioral or medical impairments—are still insufficient. Timmy is a patient of the Kennedy-Krieger Institute in Baltimore; there he receives regular medical attention, and Karen is given guidance with setting goals and evaluating his progress.

Karen describes her marriage with Philip as strong, and she tries to offer her children as typical a family life as possible. Still, the intense demands of caring for Timmy affect everyone. Going out as a family is difficult; for instance, advance preparations include making sure

Extra! Extra! Special Edition!

Law Offices of Addison-Darden celebrates 15th anniversary! Thank you!

On Sunday, July 17, 2003, the **Law Offices of Addison-Darden** celebrated the 15th anniversary of the law firm with staff, clients, suppliers, colleagues, associates, family, and friends on the lawn of the Chatham Executive Office Park. If you missed it, you missed a treat, especially all the treats distributed by the Good Humor man, compliments of the law firm.

Good food was provided by Culinary Innovations. Music was provided by James Williams of Severna Park, Bill Johnson of Columbia, and the Hopkins Choir. Randy Walters painted the faces of the children in between all the games and frolicking on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. The photographer was Andy Timmons, whose work appears in the picture collage.





OUR UNSUNG HEROES (continued from page three)

that his wheelchair can be accommodated at their destination: “I try not to allow all of Timmy’s disabilities to stop whatever we’re doing as a family; as much as possible, we try to include him and make necessary provisions.”

In addition to Timmy’s twin-sister Rachel, who functions at an age-appropriate level, Karen has a three-year-old son, also named Philip. Both children do well with including Timmy, and in interacting with each other. Karen commented that she believes people with questions about Timmy should just ask. “We get a lot of stares, since he has infant-like qualities,” she said. “But I appreciate when people take time to ask, if they are comfortable.”

During the twins’ infancies, Karen was on extended leave from her teaching position with Baltimore City Public Schools. During that time, she commenced part-time employment with the Law Offices of Addison-Darden as an administrative assistant. She subsequently enrolled in the graduate program at Johns Hopkins University and

received a certificate in school guidance counseling.

Due to the demands on her time, she turned down a full-time counselor’s position and accepted a part-time position with the Montgomery County school



system. In addition to her job as a school guidance counselor, she coordinates her hours to be available as a special consultant for the Law Offices of

Addison-Darden and provides counseling and career services to many of the Boot Campers, who are entitled to benefits under the Education Fund made available as part of the Boot Camp settlement.

Like every mom, and more so, Karen has up-days and down-days. “But then I have to get focused again,” she said. In talking to God through her prayers, Karen seeks to become more accepting of everything in terms of what God’s plan is for her and her family.

For everything she faces, Karen receives unwavering support from her husband, her family, the MOPS group (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers), and the network of parents at Cedar Lane. Yet, overall, she credits God as the source of her true strength: “This is a daily struggle I can handle, with deep prayer and divine guidance. The Lord is the only One who’ll ever get you through tough times.” And the truth she clings to? *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.* (Philippians 4:13)

This article is an adapted excerpt of an article written by Sue White for the “MOPS” (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) newsletter.

Retroactive abrogation of parent-child immunity

By written opinion filed on July 31, 2003, the Court of Appeals affirmed the decision of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Maryland. In *Allstate Insurance v. Kim*, the court made it quite clear that the law made effective October 1, 2001, which abolished the defense of parent-child immunity in a motor tort action was intended to apply retroactively.

In its 2001 session, the General Assembly abolished the defense of parent-child immunity in a tort action arising from the operation of a motor vehicle up to the minimum amount of liability insurance coverage required. Allstate Insurance Company mounted a multifaceted constitutional attack on any retroactive application of the law. The court did not agree with Allstate’s position.

As many of you will recall, our clients, Kelvin and Cheryl Johnson, were instrumental in providing testimony before the 2001 General Assembly to support the passage of the bill. Unfortunately, Kelvin Johnson died in a tragic workplace accident five days after the law became effective. However, the Court of Appeals’ opinion directly and positively affects the three surviving sons of Kelvin Johnson in that they can now collect from Allstate Insurance the maximum amounts allowed by the new law. Allstate Insurance previously denied the children the opportunity to collect under the new law by arguing that the law was not retroactive and therefore not applicable to their vehicular accident, which occurred in 1999. The Court of Appeals made it quite clear that the law was retroactive, thereby allowing the three young sons of Kelvin Johnson to benefit from the new law that their late father, Kelvin Johnson, so fervently supported through his testimony before the General Assembly, which made a new law.

Thank you!

You are so kind, so considerate, so down-to-earth, so friendly, so loveable, and just SOoooo amazing!

What a super-fantastic occasion you provided for your clients. I had a great time. It was so nice to see so many people.

My grandson (2) had an enjoyable time also. He liked the games and the prizes he won.

The two of you made certain that you got around to all of your guests. I admired that greatly. It's so pleasurable being in your presence.

The Christmas parties you've given prove that you love your clients and appreciate them.

The decorations were so colorful. I felt like I was in the Bahamas. (smiles)

The food, the food, the FOOD—so plentiful and FREE!

Thank you again for being such terrific people.

May God continue to bless you.

Peace & Love

Ida M. Mundell



Ida and Evelyn



John Edward Hunt, Sr.

Sunrise: January 22, 1907

Sunset: August 27, 2003

In memoriam

*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the
crown of righteousness, which the Lord the righteous Judge,
will give to me on that Day, and not to me only
but also to all who have loved his appearing. II Timothy 4:7-8*

Rev. Daniel Adusei-Poku
James H. Gilliam, Jr., Esquire
Delores E. Burton
Ruth Portee
Charles Bangert, Sr.



WELCOME TO HOLLAND

By Emily Perl Kingsley

Editor's note: The following essay was submitted by Renda Costa. She summarized the significance of this essay as capturing the essence of "how I felt when I had Danya, and my present feelings as well."

I am often asked to describe the experience of raising a child with a disability—to try to help people who have not shared that unique experience to understand it, to imagine how it would feel. It's like this: When you're going to have a baby, it's like planning a fabulous vacation trip—to Italy. You buy a bunch of guidebooks and make your wonderful plans. The Coliseum. Michelangelo's *David*. The gondolas in Venice. You may learn some handy phrases in Italian. It's all very exciting.

After months of eager anticipation, the day finally arrives. You pack your bags and off you go. Several hours later, the plane lands. The stewardess comes in and says, "Welcome to Holland." "Holland?!" you say. "What do you mean, Holland? I signed up for Italy! I'm supposed to be in Italy. All my life I've dreamed of going to Italy." But there's been a change in the flight plan. They've landed in Holland and there you must stay.

The important thing is that they haven't taken you to a horrible, disgusting, filthy place full of pestilence, famine, and disease. It's just a different place. So you must go out and buy new guidebooks. And you must learn a whole new language. And you will meet a whole new group of people you would never have met. It's just a different place. It's slower-paced than Italy, less flashy than Italy. But after you've been there for a while and you catch your breath, you look around. And you begin to notice that Holland has windmills...and Holland has tulips. Holland even has Rembrandts.

But everyone you know is busy coming and going from Italy...and they're all bragging about what a wonderful time they had there. And for the rest of your life, you will say, "Yes, that's where I was supposed to go. That's what I had planned." And the pain of that will never, ever, ever, ever go away...because the loss of that dream is a very, very significant loss. But...if you spend your life mourning the fact that you didn't get to Italy, you may never be free to enjoy the very special, the very lovely things...about *Holland*.

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Chatham Executive Office Park
1412 Crain Highway North, Suite 1B
Glen Burnie, MD 21061

L a w O f f i c e s o f
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CHUNGA NEWS

Team Chunga increased their numbers when **Mark A. Darden** was accompanied by several of his former Hobart College lacrosse teammates and other legendary collegian lacrosse players who traveled to Lake Placid, New York, during the first week of August 2003 to form an all-African-American lacrosse team to compete in the lacrosse tournament. They all performed well.

Did you know?

Mark and Evelyn Darden continue by the grace of God to experience good health as they approach the fifth anniversary of the husband/wife kidney transplant. On Saturday, August 2, 2003, Mark and Evelyn Darden were spotted at the new Washington Convention Center in downtown Washington, D.C., witnessing the ordination of their two Ghanaian sons, **Laud Abban Brown** and **Jonah Ghartney**, in the presence of top leadership of the General Council of the Assemblies of God. It was a historic moment, as it is believed to be the first-ever official full ordination of two African pastors of the Assemblies of God Church to occur in the United States. Another historic moment occurred on the previous day, August 1, 2003, when the General Council passed a resolution granting foreign Assemblies of God ministers the USA credentials to enable them to minister in the United States. The leadership of the National African Fellowship (NAF) will hold its first strategic planning summit/retreat in Dayton, Maryland, in the fall of 2003.

Congratulations to our pastor, **Sandra Demby**, who was ordained an elder at the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church. The ordination service took place at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., on June 13, 2003.



Check out our Web site,
www.addisondardenlaw.com,
for past issues of our newsletter
and our updated Web site.

Ad campaign and referrals

Once again, we are launching an aggressive ad and public relations campaign in an effort to increase our client base and to provide broader and more efficient services to our clients. In the upcoming months:

- Look for our newsletter online.
- Find us through **FindLaw.com**.
- Look for our new billboard on Crain Highway.
- Check the latest edition of the *Yellow Book* for our new ad.
- Continue to locate us in the *Shepherd's Guide* and the *Community Red Book*.
- Most of all, if you are one of our many satisfied clients, tell a friend, neighbor, or coworker about us, and share our newsletter with them.

We appreciate the referrals.