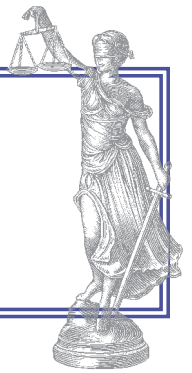




Law Offices of ADDISON-DARDEN, P.C.



SUMMER 2003

Brought to you by the
Law Offices of
Addison-Darden, P.C.

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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.

Law Offices of Addison-Darden Celebrating 15 years

We could not dream of a better way to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the **Law Offices of Addison-Darden** than to have the "The 2003 Trial Lawyers of the Year" award bestowed on us by the Maryland Trial Lawyers Association (MTLA) at the 2003 President's Dinner on Friday, May 30, 2003, at The Center Club, 100 Light Street, in Baltimore City. It was an exciting and electrifying night for us as we accepted the beautifully engraved plaques and rendered the following speech, which received a standing ovation. Allow us to share an excerpt from our speech.



2003 Trial Lawyer of the Year speech

First and foremost, we thank God for this wonderful opportunity to stand here and accept this distinguished award as Trial Lawyers of the Year. We thank our family and friends, our clients, our **terrific office staff** (without whom we couldn't accomplish the things we do), the Awards Committee, and the Officers and Board of Governors of MTLA. A very special thank-you goes to Henry Dugan of Dugan, Babij, Tolley & Spector for nominating us for this award.

Allow me to reflect just a bit on a moment in time when I believe the path leading to this night began. Let me take you back to a hot, humid, muggy day in August 1973, in the old building of the University of Maryland School of Law at the corner of Baltimore and Paca Streets, in one of the small upstairs classrooms with the rectangle tables placed end to end in a box shape. I was one of 25 African-American students (including the likes of Elijah E. Cummings, now a U.S. Congressman; Askew Gatewood, now a District Court Judge; Al Nance, now a Circuit Court Judge; Clayton Greene, Jr., now a Maryland Court of Special Appeals Judge; and Kenneth Thompson, a long-time partner in the prestigious firm of Piper and Rudnick) attending a special orientation session held by Professor James P. Chandler, who had a genuine interest not only in the admission of black students to Maryland Law School, but also an interest in us staying the course, graduating, and becoming members of the Bar. So on this particular day, our invited guest speaker was a fast-talking, articulate, very intelligent young trial attorney who challenged us and startled us as he emphatically proclaimed, "The law is a jealous mistress! It will require all of your time plus some. Over the next three years, you will eat, sleep, and breathe law." With great fervor, he went on and on about the responsibilities and demands of the law, but near the end he said "from time to time, you will reap rewards and benefits from this great profession." When that young trial lawyer concluded his closing argument to us, I, a mother, wife, and teacher, wondered if I had embarked on the right choice as my second career. I went home and promptly repeated that same speech to the love of my life and said, "What do you think?" halfheartedly hoping that he would console me by saying, "Well, just look for another choice." But instead, he quickly volunteered to be chief cook, bottle washer, and housekeeper. He suggested that we pack our preschooler and second-grader in the car and head downtown to show them the place where mommy would be most of the time for the next three years.

Well, I'd like to tell you that the three years quickly passed, and the rewards came rapidly, and

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We take pride in the quality of our legal work.

Law Offices of Addison-Darden *(continued from front page)*

we lived happily ever after; but for those of us who have completed law school, we know that those are the three longest years of our lives, and for me, no rewards came quickly thereafter. As a matter of fact, no jobs came for nearly a year after tons of résumés had been sent out. At that point in my life, I felt the meaning of what Langston Hughes wrote in his famous poem, *Mother to Son*, "Life for me ain't been no crystal stair."

But, what I can tell you is that after all these years, the love of my life is still in my life as the love of my life; the pre-



Karen, Evelyn, & Mark in 1973.

schooler is now herself a working mom with three wonderful children and is a well-respected guidance counselor and educator along with her husband in the Montgomery County public school system; and the second-grader is now a husband and father of two fine sons and has been my law partner in the firm of Addison-Darden for the

past ten years. And that guest speaker who put the fear of God in me about the demands of law school was none other than the Honorable, been there, done that, preeminent trial lawyer in both the criminal and civil area, Billy Murphy. Billy is not here tonight with us to accept his award because of the recent passing of his father, Judge William H. Murphy, Sr.

From that hot, humid, muggy day in August 1973, Billy Murphy became a secret role model for me and later, after meeting and working in the court system with his dad, I came to know Billy as a friend and mentor. So to share this award with Mark Addison Darden, my son and law partner, and Billy Murphy, my mentor and my friend, allows me to come full circle in truly appreciating the rewards that Billy spoke of 30 years ago and to appreciate the rewards this great profession offers. Before concluding, Mark will briefly highlight a few aspects of this case for which we were nominated as Trial Lawyers of the Year.

For all of us involved in this class-action litigation, we came to realize the importance of a litigation skill that many

of us as trial lawyers take for granted, and that is the skill of listening. As we listened to these young males, we realized that we were not just listening for facts to determine a cause of action, we were listening to the point of feeling and sharing the pain of these juveniles and were motivated and determined to do something about it.

By carefully listening, we learned firsthand of the atrocities that were standard operating procedures at the three boot camp facilities nestled in the beautiful mountains of western Maryland. Broken and fractured bones, bruised and damaged internal organs, missing teeth, and cracked ribs were common injuries to many of these juveniles. One young victim even lost sight in one eye. Through investigation and discovery, it became glaringly clear that not just a few, but many, were physically and emotionally injured.

As individual claims under the Maryland Tort Claims Act, most of these acts of violence would have never reached the courts or would have been dismissed or minimized for one reason or another. Therefore, we brought this case as a class action in the U.S. District Court of Maryland in order to obtain benefits for the entire class.

In addition to monetary damages, the most important aspect of this case was the creation of the Education Fund, which made it possible for nearly 1,000 young males to receive—free of charge—the opportunity to obtain a college education at any state school or attend a community college or trade or vocational school of their choice, which made the total settlement value of this case approximately \$5 million. The Educational Fund will be available to these young men through 2008. Special legislative action and top government

approval were required to obtain these benefits for the entire class. That is why we urge continued support for state funding and legislation that benefit youngsters within the juvenile system. In so doing, we can continue to keep Maryland families safe and can provide the juveniles of our state a hope and a future. Again, we thank you.

Billy, Mark, and I were honored to be the recipients of this distinguished award. The plaques hang

prominently in our office. Drop by soon to see them and us, or plan to attend our 15th Anniversary Open House celebration on **Sunday, July 20, 2003, 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.**, and receive a complimentary gift.



Evelyn & Mark with family at the 2003 President's Dinner, May 30.



Contingency fees Helpful and valuable

Contingency fees offer personal injury clients a valuable advantage. They enable anyone who suffers an injury to bring a lawsuit without having the money up-front to pay an attorney. With contingency fees, attorneys agree to accept a portion of the recovery and agree that if the client does not win and there is no recovery, there will be no fee.

Why does the contingent-fee system serve clients and work so well? Contingency fees...

- give everyone—regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, marital status, age, or other factors—an equal chance to have their day in court, no matter what their financial resources may be. Individuals with limited assets can sue the richest, most powerful corporations, which often have unlimited money for legal defense fees.
- promote efficiency and discourage frivolous lawsuits by motivating lawyers to make sure that the cases they accept have legitimacy and merit.
- are fair, since there is no cost to the client unless he or she wins.
- discourage wrongdoers from continuing inappropriate behaviors.

Law Offices of Addison-Darden celebrates 15th anniversary!

In a proud statement issued from their firm headquarters, **Law Offices of Addison-Darden** announced that 2003 is the 15th anniversary of the founding of their business. The firm was started back in 1988, the same year that fax machines began to appear almost everywhere. Their increased popularity was attributed to the greater speed of transmission and the continued drop in the price of the machines. You can now send a document around the world in only 20 seconds.

WHAT ELSE HAPPENED IN 1988?

Clayton Greene, Jr., became the first African-American to be appointed a judge in Anne Arundel County, Maryland.

Yes, when you think about it, things have changed a lot in 15 years. But after all this time, there are some things that have remained the same.

One good thing is that the Law Offices of Addison-Darden is still around and thriving after 15 years of hard work and lots of dedication by everyone involved and, most importantly, caring about clients who helped us reach this milestone.

Value-added CLIENT SERVICE

At our law firm, client service isn't just a catch phrase that merely gets lip service. We strive to provide "value-added" service to each client. That means a level of *individual attention* and *personal service* clients appreciate.

- We know that prompt, reliable, and professional legal service is what our clients want—and what we must deliver.
- Our goal is to efficiently respond to client requests. We strive to answer all questions and inquiries promptly, and follow through on what we say we will do.
- We do our utmost to maintain the same sense of urgency that our clients feel about their issues and cases, and to stay in frequent communication.
- To every extent possible, we try to make the legal experience as personal and pleasant as we can.
- When we find them, we correct client-service deficiencies right away. We want to hear what you like about us and what we can improve.

Whiplash injury

Whiplash, a common and potentially serious soft-tissue injury resulting from auto accidents, occurs when the head is snapped violently backward and then forward. It can injure intervertebral discs and joints, as well as nerves, ligaments, and muscles. Although insurance companies often trivialize such injuries, they can be serious and painful.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, more than 800,000 American drivers and passengers suffer whiplash annually, with total associated medical and lost work-time costs amounting to \$5.2 billion.

To reduce whiplash-injury potential, adjust car headrests per owner's manual guides, practice defensive motoring, and avoid speeding or unsafe drivers. Properly restrain all children.

Physicians use x-rays and physical examinations to diagnose whiplash, which may be treated with medications as well as with surgical or physical therapies. Whiplash injuries may take weeks to appear.

Anyone who is involved in an auto accident and suspects whiplash injury should consult a physician and an attorney.

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L a w O f f i c e s o f
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Did you know?

Christal Wasmus is attending a “Mistake-free Grammar and Proofreading” seminar in the summer of 2003.

Suzanne Mundella was away for a much-needed R&R vacation in upstate New York and Canada, but is now back in the office to provide the same outstanding services to our clients.

Susan Fales Smith is working diligently on several major cases that have been filed in the District Court of Maryland as well as the Circuit Court for Maryland.

Evelyn Darden attended the ATLA seminar on “Litigating Toxic Mold Cases” in Chicago, Illinois, from June 6–8.

In addition to her duties as public relations coordinator for the Law Offices of Addison-Darden, **Paula House Darden** continues as an event management consultant with S. D. White & Associates. She is handling sponsorship development for the Tavis Smiley Foundation’s first National Youth 2 Leaders Summit in Washington, D.C., August 7–12, 2003.

Karen Johnson continues to provide counseling services to many of the “Boot campers” as well as provide guidance counseling services at Rockville High School.

In addition to the award of “Trial Lawyer of the Year,” **Mark A. Darden** was named “Coach of the Year” by the Glenelg High School Athletic Department. Coach Mike Williams, director of the Athletic Department, also recognized Mark’s award as Trial Lawyer of the Year at the school’s spring banquet award ceremony. Mark coaches varsity boys lacrosse at his alma mater. His team participated in the state finals.

“**Team Chunga**” has rested for the past several months; however, the Scions are continuing to pursue their athletic ventures to the extent that Mark IV was named to the all-star lacrosse team for the Howard County Lacrosse Program. He is a member of the Blue Sharks; his brother, Elijah, scored two goals for the Golden Eagles. The young Johnsons attended the State Track and Field Events at UMBC to watch their dad, Coach Johnson, rally on his All-State team members. Rachel also runs track for the Howard County Athletic Program.

Mark and Evelyn Darden, by the grace of God, continue to experience good health as they mark 4 1/2 years since the husband-wife kidney transplant. They were recently spotted with family and friends celebrating Mark’s big 6-oh.



Judge William H. Murphy, Sr.

In memoriam

*O God, our help in ages past
Our hope for years to come
Our Shelter from the stormy blast
And our eternal home.*

James I. Darden, Sr.
Jane E. Glenn
Judge Milton B. Allen
Judge William H. Murphy, Sr.
Melvin Wroten
James Keith Schools, Sr.
Gladys Appiah

Case dismissed

A home day-care provider walked out of the Circuit Court of Anne Arundel County with tears of joy streaming down her face after hearing that all felony criminal charges against her for child abuse and shaken baby syndrome were dismissed.

After extensive investigation and discovery, her attorney, **Evelyn Darden**, a former Assistant State’s Attorney, was successful in persuading the State to enter a nolle prosequi in the case against her client. She is hopeful that the administrative charges and the civil lawsuit seeking \$25 million against her client will also be dismissed.