

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2007

LAWDRAGON

500

LEADING PLAINTIFFS' LAWYERS IN AMERICA

BY KATRINA DEWEY

I LIVE MY LIFE so little, so small in a world so big. Survival impels me to believe I am not connected to others. I am the master of my ship, which sails on waves that bend to my will.

I am not the blind man inching his way across the street who is killed when struck by a van rushing to deliver an extra-large pepperoni pie.

I will never become the woman whose cancer went undiagnosed while she worried about her children, who needed new clothes and had runny noses.

I take comfort that it's some other investor who tied up her life's savings in a company that committed fraud and lost it all.

That's life, I say. Bad things happen — to other people.

For mortality, there are gravediggers.

For justice in this life, there are the folks on the following pages.

The Lawdragon 500 Leading Plaintiffs' Lawyers in America are the watchdogs of our nonchalance toward the fate of those who aren't us.

Forget everything you've read about plaintiffs' lawyers. The truth is life happens, and they are the

ones we call to sort it out with the help of narrative

Fewer than 1 percent of the nation's 1.1 million lawyers, judges and academics are selected for the Lawdragon guide to the nation's leading legal minds. Some 10,000 different people were nominated by someone. The Lawdragon 500 is based on three months of interviews with clients and peers conducted by a reporting staff with 100 years experience reporting on lawyers.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY HUGH WILLIAMS

RESEARCH DIRECTED BY DRAEGER MARTINEZ



Jan Conlin & Michael Ciresi

Debra Hayes *Woska & Hayes (Houston)* When clients invested in stocks and mutual funds, only to watch their money

vanish, Hayes hit back against shady investment brokers. **Steven Heimberg** *Heimberg Law Group (Los Angeles)* Take two

depositions and call him: Dr. Heimberg holds the California med-mal verdict record, part of \$500 million in recoveries. **John**

Hepworth *Hepworth Lezamis (Twin Falls, Idaho)* From burn injuries to farming mishaps and hospital negligence, Hepworth

has proven worthy of some of Idaho's largest personal injury verdicts and settlements ever. **Russ Herman** *Herman*

Herman (New Orleans) Among this Bayou Boss' accomplishments, he homed in on Big Tobacco for his home state, land-

ing \$4.6 billion for Louisiana. **Nancy Hersh** *Hersh & Hersh (San Francisco)* This pioneer in women's health law won

big for mothers who took anti-miscarriage drug DES, which was found to damage the fetus's reproductive system. **Ian Herzog**

Law Office Of (Santa Monica, California) Herzog manhandled the Sav-On drugstore chain for a labor-law client, then strutted

his stuff when the court approved fees of \$800-per-hour. **Mark Hiepler** *Hiepler & Hiepler (Oxnard, California)* Hiepler took

on his sister's HMO when they denied her life-saving bone marrow transplant. Result: \$89 million. **Barry Hill** *Hill Toticova*

(Wheeling, West Virginia) A veteran of prescription drug litigation, Hill was a key member of the ICAAM that brought a \$70 million

settlement for users of Propulsid heartburn medicine. **Albert Hofeld** *Hofeld & Schaffner (Chicago)* A Windy City Wiz-

ard in personal-injury, Hofeld has also held up under scrutiny stemming from sexual molestation claims filed by his niece. **Ben**

Hogan *Hogan Law Firm (Birmingham, Alabama)* Hogan obtained \$1.25 million for a factory owner who lost his plant after

a defendant provided inferior cast-iron drums, not the promised steel drums.