

TEN LEADERS

OF NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

2003-2004

PERSONAL INJURY & TRIAL ATTORNEYS

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EDUCATION

Rutgers University, B.A., 1981
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AFFILIATIONS

Drew Britcher is a member of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America and ATLA-NJ, as well as the Bergen and Morris County bar associations in New Jersey, where his two offices are located. He is a Certified Civil Trial Attorney, and is admitted to practice before the New Jersey and New York Courts, the District Court of New Jersey and the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. He has risen through the leadership ladder of the New Jersey Chapter of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, beginning on its Board of Governors in 1995 and now serving as its first Vice President. He has been an ATLA member for 20 years, and is currently both the state chapter's Medical Malpractice and Amicus Committee Chairperson. Drew was one of the Founding members and current Directors of Trial Lawyers Care, a non-profit organization that provides free legal service to victims of the September 11th attacks. In 1988 Britcher received the Professional Achievement Award from the Young Lawyers Division of the N.J. State Bar Association and last year he received ATLA-NJ's Gold Medal for Distinguished Service. Britcher has lectured extensively and served as an instructor at ATLA, ATLA-NJ, and ICLE seminars. His published articles have focused on such issues as vaccine injury litigation and medical malpractice matters.

BIOGRAPHY

Just entering his professional prime, 44-year-old Drew Britcher is already one of the leading trial attorneys in the state, and is particularly recognized for handling complex and difficult medical-malpractice cases. Indeed, Britcher made his mark early: In 1987, at age 28, he became the youngest lawyer to win a million dollar verdict. The fast professional track has been hardly surprising: The son of a restaurateur who once ran the U.S. Senate dining room in Washington, Britcher was immersed in the law and politics from an early age. "I knew I wanted to be a lawyer since I was in kindergarten," says the North Jersey native who held a teaching certificate in social studies. After law school Britcher joined a prominent Paramus firm, where he built a reputation managing his own caseload and attracting other cases to the firm. He was named a partner at age 30. Three years ago, after four years with a Morristown firm, he and two former colleagues from the Paramus firm - Armand Leone Jr. and Mindy Michaels Roth - launched their firm, located today in expansive offices in Glen Rock of Bergen County. Polished, precise and knowledgeable, Britcher projects an authority of his subjects (especially medical subjects) rare even among well-prepared litigators. What's more, Britcher, while dynamic and effective in the courtroom, is more sensitive than most attorneys to the political issues facing the medical profession today. He is respected even with many physicians for his practical approach to resolving disputes and reaching agreements that are fair for his clients. Today, more than two thirds of Britcher, Leone & Roth's cases are medical malpractice-related, with the remaining cases general personal injury. Britcher and his partners are among several area attorneys working pro bono (as a volunteer) for families of victims of 9/11. Britcher and his family live in Parsippany, where he has served on various municipal and community Boards and continues to be an active soccer player on a competitive men's team.

Drew Britcher: Observations & Perspectives

The field of personal injury law involves a constant focus on trust and responsibility. The trust we all have of each other to ask responsibility and the obligation of people who fail that trust to take responsibility for the outcome of their actions or inaction. For example, when a doctor fails to make an obvious diagnosis or renders the wrong treatment and the patient loses the ability to function, we help people rebuild the future they've lost by seeing to it that doctor is forced to take responsibility for violating that trust.

We take our duty to screen cases carefully and very seriously. We receive 40 phone calls a week from people describing a possible claim - and we may act on only one of those. Such cases come to our office and are triaged - which is to say, we have a nurse who starts by taking a careful history of the events and then the physicians in our practice begin to evaluate the evidence. The essential question we ask is, does the matter have the hallmarks of a procedure or diagnosis done improperly, or wrong? What do the records indicate? Does the case look

like, sound like, taste like there is a malpractice claim? This is a continuous process - of gathering information, reviewing it with other experts and assessing the merits of the case.

We'll handle about 100 cases at a time, and most will be settled in a proper fashion. In 2001 we saw only 11 cases go to trial - of those, six settled before a verdict, and the other five went to verdict, with three in favor of our clients. Last year, we had to try very few. That's a record few firms in our field can match.

Our cases are complex. They take years to complete. At the same time, the courts receive criticism on how long it takes to

process a case - and so they are focused on how fast cases are processed, sometimes losing sight of how fairly they are processed. Outcomes are never easily predicted.

We make strong and lasting commitments to our cases, and we expect every client to do the same as well. It's a complete emotional and professional commitment, and the results - helping people who really need it - is often very gratifying.

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(This list is based on more than 95 interviews and 150 peer referrals in the first quarter of 2003. Attorneys listed here were referred by at least three of their peers. Survey conducted by the staff of Digital Press International, a provider of newfeatures and special editorial sections to weekly newspapers. The above information is provided by the participating attorneys; DPI and Newbridge Media, Fort Lee, N.J., are solely responsible for contents herein. "The Ten Leaders Program" is a product of DPI, Parker Plaza, Fort Lee, N.J. The above participating attorneys underwrote the promotion of this list. To read these "Ten Leaders" profiles and for additional details go to digitalpressintl.com)