

YEAR

Best Lawyers has named three individuals as Lawyers of the Year in the Washington DC area, based on their particularly high level of peer recognition.

2009

LAWYER
OF THE
YEAR

Personal Injury
Litigation

Best Lawyers®

Stein says his is a 'pike practice'—

"I'll take anything that comes down the pike!"

But it is one historic case that stands out in his mind after all these years of practice.

"In 1970, I was involved in the biggest case of all time—the Watergate cases," recalls Stein, who defended lawyer Kenneth Parkinson against charges of conspiring to hinder the investigation. "Everyone in the case was convicted except for him."

Thomas W. Williamson, Jr.

Williamson & Lavecchia

PERSONAL INJURY LITIGATION (VIRGINIA)

Asked about the key to his success, personal injury attorney Thomas W. Williamson, Jr. has a simple response: "insomnia."

"I think anybody that succeeds as a trial lawyer just has to allow themselves to be consumed by the subject matter of the case," says the 58-year-old partner of Richmond's Williamson & Lavecchia law firm.

Specializing in medical-malpractice and complex product

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—THOMAS W.
WILLIAMSON, JR.



Sheila Chavez

liability cases, Williamson has been a trailblazer since the 1980s, when he scored the area's first seven-figure verdict in a med-mal case. Over the years, he has continued to rack up multi-million dollar verdicts and settlements for his clients.

A graduate of the Virginia Military Institute and the University of Richmond's T.C. Williams School of Law, Williamson was named in *Richmond Magazine* by his peers as the top lawyer in his practice area, and has been also selected by his peers for inclusion in *Best Lawyers in America*®.

The former president of the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association, Williamson says he is best known for his work in *McMunn v. Tatum*, a dental malpractice case that established the parameters for what is allowed in expert testimony, an area that Williamson has lectured on extensively.

"For all of my career, I have wrestled with expert witnesses," says Williamson. "In modern tort litigation, to paraphrase Reggie Jackson, experts are the straws that stir the drink."

One of Williamson's most memorable experiences, however, wasn't a win but a loss, where the parents of his deceased client later gave him a treasured piece of Russian art.

"It was a favorite of their daughter's," he remembers. "When you're not successful in a case and a client still thinks that highly of you, that's a very special feeling."

—Jeannie Greeley