

# DOUGLAS E. FIERBERG, Esq.

## LEGAL EXPERIENCE

BODE & GRENIER, LLP, Washington, D.C., May 2002 - Present, Partner

Catastrophic Personal Injury and Wrongful Death: Nationwide practice focusing on litigation at universities, high schools, lower schools, and other institutional settings, including cases arising in Alabama, California, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Colorado, Virginia, Michigan, Tennessee, Indiana, Texas, Mississippi, Nevada, Maryland, District of Columbia, and Ohio. Responsible for negotiating historic settlement between clients and the Commonwealth of Virginia for claims arising out of the April, 2007 massacre at Virginia Tech Litigation. Featured on ABC 20/20 (multiple times), CBS 48 Hours, NBC The Today Show and other national news broadcasts, The Legal Times, and Trial Magazine. Featured expert on John McGlaughlin's production, One-On-One, Fox TV, and Kweisi Mfume's production, The Bottom Line (WBAL-TV). Quoted as leading legal authority on school violence and related topics in The New York Times, USA Today, The Washington Post, The Christian Science Monitor, Sports Illustrated and other print and on-line publications. Retained lecturer on school violence or risk-management at universities, high schools, school districts, and academic advisory groups, including Wake Forest University, Middlebury College, and many others. Professional publications include: Civil Justice for Victims of Campus Crime, Sexual Assault and Other Wrongdoing, (NCVC, 2011 National Conference); Holding Universities, Campus Institutions, and Students Accountable for Mass Violence, Campus Crimes and Other Wrongdoing: Civil Justice for Victims, (NLADA, 2010 National Conference); Holding Universities, Campus Institutions, and Students Accountable for Mass Violence, Campus Crimes and Other Wrongdoing: Civil Justice for Victims at Virginia Tech and Other Schools, (AAJ, 2009 National Conference); School Safety: Threat Assessments, Rapid Response and Lockdowns, (ATLA, 2008 National Conference); Student Victims: Strategies and Issues for Successful Civil Litigation, (ATLA, 2007 National Conference, Education Program); Student Victims of Sexual Assault: An Overview of Administrative and Legal Remedies, (ATLA, 2006 National Conference, Education Program); Student Victims: An Overview of the Problem, Civil Litigation, and Related Proceedings, (National Student Legal Services Association, 2005 Conference); The Greek Industry: Strategies for Litigating Claims Involving Serious Injury, Death, Hazing, and Alcohol Misuse, (ATLA, 2005 National Conference, Education Program); Fraternity Litigation: A Basic Primer on the Status of Violence, Injury, Death, Alcohol Misuse, and Litigation Involving the Fraternity Industry, (ATLA, 2004 National Conference, Litigation at Sunrise); Victim Advocate, Representing Victims of Hazing and Other Group Violence on Campus, (Vol. 3, No. 2, Fall, 2001); Synthesis: Law and Policy in Higher Education, (Vol. 10, No. 3, Winter, 1999); and, The School Administrator: Hazing Prevention Deserves Attention, Too, (Vol. 57, No. 9, October 2000).

Commercial Counseling and Litigation: Serve as general and litigation counsel to national and local businesses and trade associations in several different industries, including mortgage lending, real estate financing, viatical and life settlements, titanium manufacturing and products, and professional personnel placement. Counsel clients on, and/or successfully litigated, wide-range of business and labor matters involving employment, stockholder, anti-trust, commercial lease, business insurance, promissory notes, insurance coverage and transactions, business services, commercial leasing, testamentary documents, licensing and other financial issues. Counsel for many of Washington area's largest neighborhood/civic associations, as well as numerous political Advisory Neighborhood Commissions. Representative cases: *Dyer v. William S. Bergman & Associates*, 657 A.2d 1132 (D.C. 1995); *North Lincoln Park Neighborhood Ass'n v. Alcoholic Beverage Control Bd.*, 727 A.2d 873 (D.C. 1999); *Oliver T. Carr v. Rose*, 701 A.2d 1065 (D.C. 1997).

SHERMAN, MEEHAN, CURTIN & AIN, P.C., Washington, D.C., 1988 to May, 2002, Partner

Began as associate upon graduation from law school and advanced to partner in general practice firm. Received advanced training at the National Institute of Trial Advocacy and conducted or participated in numerous bench, jury, and arbitration trials for commercial and serious personal injury matters.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Founder and Chair: Schools: Violence, Misconduct, and Safety (American Association for Justice ("AAJ") f/k/a Association of Trial Lawyers of America). Approval was sought and obtained from AAJ in 2004 for formal recognition of this national litigation group. First national Education Program was conducted at the 2005 Conference in Toronto, Canada.

*President (2003-2004):* National Advisory Board of the National Crime Victim Bar Association (“NCVBA”). NCVBA is comprised of lawyers who advocate for the rights of victims of crime to utilize the civil justice system to obtain justice. Current member.

*Other: Member,* Maryland State and District of Columbia Bar Associations; *Member,* American and District of Columbia Trial Lawyers Associations; *Co-Founder and Member,* Campus Victim Litigation Project, Security on Campus; *Member,* Executive Advisory Board, The Gordie Foundation.

## EDUCATION

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, NATIONAL LAW CENTER, Washington, D.C.

J.D., *with Honors*, 1988. Class rank: Approx. top 15%.

*Member,* George Washington Journal of International Law and Economics

*Member,* Moot Court Board

*Clerkships,* Michigan State Appellate Defender Office; Natural Resources Defense Council

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, Ann Arbor, Michigan

B.A., Psychology, *Class Honors*, 1981.

## PERSONAL

Born, 1959 (Detroit, MI). Married with two daughters.