



JIM REED
Injury & Malpractice Law



ADAM GEE
Injury & Malpractice Law



CHRISTINA SONSIRE
Injury & Malpractice Law



MIKE BROWN
Injury & Malpractice Law

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Ziff Law Family Welcomes New Lawyer
- \$9.15M: "Big City Results" For Ziff Law Lawyers
- A Very Personal Law Practice For Sonsire
- Local Business Spotlight: The Elbow Room
- Ziff Law Lawyers Fighting For N.Y. Families
- Breast Cancer Diagnosis Stirs Ziff Law Paralegal To Action

ZIFF LAW FAMILY WELCOMES NEW LAWYER

MIKE BROWN WILL WORK ON PERSONAL INJURY AND MEDICAL MALPRACTICE CASES



Mike Brown

Attorney's Office who was working in the New York Attorney General's Office in Binghamton, joins Ziff Law attorneys Jim Reed, Christina Sonsire, and Adam Gee in September.

"Mike's resume was academically and professionally outstanding, and his three interviews were excellent," said Jim, Ziff Law's managing partner. "We truly believe Mike is a good fit for our firm, and we look forward to working with him."

Mike, a 2012 graduate of the Syracuse University College of Law, was admitted to the bar in 2013. He was an Assistant District Attorney in the Broome County DA's Office from May 2013 to September 2015 and joined the AG's office in September 2015.

"I consider myself lucky to have the opportunity to benefit from the Ziff Law attorneys' many years of experience," Mike said. "The law firm has a great reputation and it is apparent to me that they do things the right way."

In the DA's office, Mike handled all aspects of criminal litigation, including many jury and bench trials. Some of his cases, such as assault, driving while intoxicated, and other traffic-related violations, had personal injury components, he said.

In the AG's office, Mike worked in the Claims Bureau, defending the state in the Court of Claims against medical malpractice, slip and fall, and other negligence claims, he said.

"Every lawyer I spoke with about Mike said the same thing: he is hard-working, smart, and tough," Jim said.

Mike was a great outfielder for the NCAA Division 1 Le Moyne College baseball team for four years, and one of his great catches was an ESPN Play of the Day (search

YouTube for "Mike Brown ESPN #1 Play of the Day"). "I think that catch says a lot about who Mike is," Jim said. "It takes an enormous amount of hard work and discipline to play Division I baseball, and real courage and confidence to make a catch like that. I am confident he will bring those qualities to the Ziff Law Firm."

The chemistry of the people working in the law firm is important to Jim. "Our office has great chemistry, and one of my biggest concerns in adding another lawyer was whether a new lawyer would fit in. That's why we conducted three interviews and spent so much time talking with lawyers who worked with Mike. I am confident that with Mike, we succeeded in hiring a lawyer who will make our chemistry even better."

**TO CONTACT MIKE BROWN,
CALL 607-733-8866 OR SEND AN
EMAIL TO MBROWN@ZIFFLAW.COM**

Welcome, Mike!

Education:

Vestal High School, 2005

Le Moyne College, Syracuse, Bachelor's degree in Management and Leadership, 2009

Syracuse University College of Law, Juris Doctor Cum Laude, 2012

Family: Wife Courtney, daughter Everly Mae, born Dec. 18, 2015. He comes from a medical family: his father and two of his brothers are medical doctors, his wife is a nurse, and his mother was a nurse before she started raising her four sons.

Sue Daubner Moves To New Law Firm

Susan Daubner, who practiced divorce and family law at the Ziff Law Firm, moved her practice on July 1 to Horseheads, where she joined the law firm of Cooper, Pautz, Weiermiller & Daubner at 2854 Westinghouse Road.

**SUSAN CAN NOW BE REACHED AT
(607) 739-8763 OR BY EMAIL AT
SDAUBNER@CPWDLAW.COM**

The Ziff Law Firm now limits its practice to personal injury and medical malpractice cases.

**303 William Street,
Elmira, NY 14902**

Phone: 607-733-8866

Toll Free: 800-ZIFFLAW

www.ziffllaw.com

\$9.15M: “BIG CITY RESULTS” FOR ZIFF LAW LAWYERS

JIM REED AND CHRISTINA SONSIRE DELIVER BIG SETTLEMENTS FOR TWO FAMILIES



Jim Reed



Christina Sonsire

The lawyers at the Ziff Law Firm live for our motto – “Local Lawyers, Big City Results!” – and recently delivered life-changing results for two Twin Tiers families.

In May, Jim Reed and Christina Sonsire earned settlements topping a total of \$9 million in one week. We celebrate those awards at the Ziff Law Firm because justice was served for two families who have waited for justice for years.

“I think there is a perception that in cases where there are substantial damages, either serious injuries or wrongful death, people have to hire lawyers in bigger cities to get the best legal representation,” said Christina, a partner in Ziff Law and a medical malpractice attorney for eight years. “These cases show that we can bring about the best results possible here in Elmira. It feels good to know that Jim, Adam (Gee), and I can perform at the same level or better than attorneys in the region or across the state.”

Jim and Christina can’t talk about the details of their settlements because they are bound by confidentiality agreements, but what’s important now is their clients can start to get on with their lives. “The public needs to understand that these settlements are not just about big payouts – these are payments for something that has been taken away from our clients: a death that takes away a father, an injury that permanently disables someone so they can never work again,” said Jim, the law firm’s managing partner, who has been a personal injury and medical malpractice attorney for almost 30 years.

Christina’s medical malpractice case was settled for \$6.9 million during a one-day, nine-hour mediation hearing with a former judge as mediator, following months of pretrial litigation, depositions and discovery.

Christina had hired a team of top medical experts to assist if the case went to trial, something she believes helped her achieve such a good result. “I was able to retain four of the best experts in the United States – perhaps even the world – in their respective fields, and had discussed the case with a fifth, whom I likely would have called if the matter went to trial.”

According to Christina, the quality of the expert witnesses can make a big difference in getting cases resolved. “When the other side knows you are prepared and ready to present a strong case, the likelihood of settling a case for good value goes way, way up.”

At the mediation, Christina and the defense attorney set up in separate rooms and the mediator guided them to the settlement. “The mediator’s job is to go from room to room with information and try to resolve our differences,” she said. “We were successful in our negotiations.”

Sometimes, such as in this case, defendants require confidentiality as terms of the settlement, she said. “The nature of the damages necessitated that we settle the case for the most money we could achieve because of the seriousness of the damages. We did not want confidentiality to become a sticking point that prevented a successful negotiation. Therefore, agreeing to it was the right decision.”

Jim’s \$2.25 million settlement in a fatal car accident case was reached after protracted settlement negotiations, he said. The settlements are a reminder of what is lost on a personal level in personal injury and medical malpractice cases.

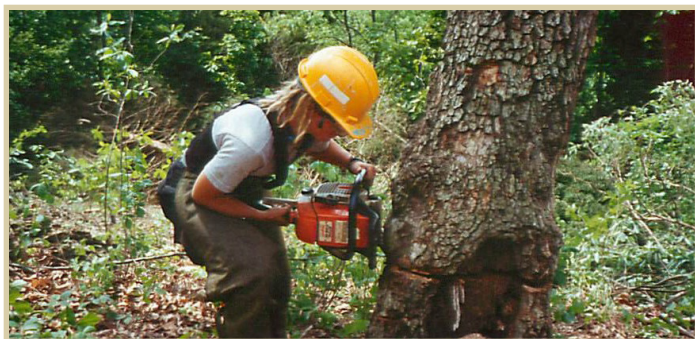
“This is not about ‘winning the lottery’ because nobody wins when people have been killed or disabled,” he said. “Every one of my clients would gladly trade their settlement money for the ability to go back to a time before they were injured or a loved one was hurt or killed. Our clients have suffered profound losses and these settlements are an imperfect way to try to make the best of very bad situations.”

Jim takes pride in learning while preparing every case because it makes him a better lawyer. “I worked with a nationally recognized trauma surgeon in this case, and under New York state’s archaic wrongful death law, the information I learned assisted in greatly enhancing the value of my client’s case.”

Jim said the settlements show that Ziff Law lawyers are among the best in the state. “Two settlements totaling over \$9 million in one week is something I thought I would never see from a small Elmira firm,” he said. “Frankly, that would be a phenomenal result for a huge firm in a big city, so it confirms for me that we have achieved my goal of becoming David and Goliath – a small firm capable of big results! Insurance carriers know the lawyers who are capable of the biggest results, so this achievement will be a powerful benefit to our current and future clients.”

A VERY PERSONAL LAW PRACTICE FOR SONSIRE

CLIENTS IN MEDICAL MALPRACTICE CASES BECOME LIKE FAMILY FOR ZIFF LAW ATTORNEY



Christina helps create a scenic viewing area near St. Louis, Mo., while working in the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps in the late 1990s.

Christina Sonsire took the road less traveled and has never regretted it.

While the rest of her classmates graduating from Georgetown University in 1998 were heading off to law school or finance careers in New York City, Christina decided to spend a few years in AmeriCorps' National Civilian Community Corps, where she traveled the country and became immersed in numerous diverse communities for up to three months at a time.

"If I had gone into law school then, I am pretty sure I would have become a commercial litigator," said Christina, a partner in Ziff Law and a medical malpractice attorney for eight years. "But after a few years in AmeriCorps, where I had the opportunity to engage in grassroots efforts to really help people in need, I learned a lot about the way I can best use my strengths to contribute to society."

Eager to make a difference, Christina attended the University of Montana School of Law and earned her law degree in 2004. "I chose to live in Montana after completing my time in AmeriCorps because I was drawn to the progressive, forward-thinking mindset of so many of the people living there."

Christina's decision to attend UM Law came about after a chance encounter with the Dean of Admissions, who – over coffee at Missoula's best bakery – explained how the law school itself seeks to be an instrument of change in the community by offering free legal services and numerous open seminars to people in need. "As it's the only law school in the state, UM Law allowed me the opportunity to interact frequently with Montana's top judges and lawyers, and also practice in several tribal courts on Montana's Indian Reservations. It was an absolutely invaluable experience."

As much as she loved her time in Montana, however, Christina's love for her hometown of Elmira ultimately trumped it. "By the time I graduated, I knew I wanted to come back home to Elmira in order to do what I can to improve things," she said. "This area has so many wonderful assets, and it's a wonderful place to live. I figured that if I was going to try to help a community, it might as well be the one I love the most."

After a few years in the Chemung County District Attorney's Office, where she focused on helping women and children who were victims of violent crimes, and some time at the former Davidson O'Mara law firm, she joined the Ziff Law Firm in March 2008.

Christina's practice focuses on medical malpractice cases, and each case is very personal to her. She secured a \$6.9 million medical malpractice settlement for clients in May, which was decided during a one-day, nine-hour mediation hearing following years of hard work and preparation.

"Most medical malpractice cases don't settle, and if they do, it comes only after significant litigation," she said. "So I tell clients they can possibly expect four to five years of litigation. Obviously, it is in everyone's interest to bring about a quicker result, and we have had numerous occasions where we have been able to do it in less time, but I always tell clients that is what they can expect."

Medical malpractice cases are grueling. Investigating what happened, including the gathering of medical records, can take many months in the beginning. In New York State, lawyers are required to seek a medical doctor who will sign an affidavit of merit, saying he has reviewed the records and determined the doctor or doctors violated the standard of care, Christina said.

"The Ziff Law lawyers are fortunate to have developed some long-standing relationships with numerous doctors who will help us do the initial review," she said.

One of her early cases convinced her that she made the right career choice. Christina won \$2.1 million in an Otsego County court in 2013 for a 7-year-old girl who suffered a birth injury. The trial lasted three weeks.

The jury found that the midwives at Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital in Cooperstown did not provide appropriate prenatal care for the girl's mother and a midwife caused the injury by pulling too hard on the baby's head during delivery. As a result, the child suffered a permanent injury to the nerves in her neck and has limited mobility in her left arm.

"The case had national significance because the verdict involved an injury called Erb's palsy, in which a newborn suffers paralysis in an arm during an abnormal or difficult childbirth or labor," Christina said. "Attorneys across the country were paying attention to this trial because the defendants claimed this injury happened before the girl was born. The case will have significance in all future litigation of this type of case."

Christina and husband Damien Sonsire, a Chemung County Assistant District Attorney, have two daughters, 4 and 7 years old, who keep her grounded and help her escape the legal pressure. Once the kids are in bed at night, though, her thoughts often return to her cases.

"I try to leave my work in the office because my family is so important to me," she said. "But it's never really gone. It's always there."

For Christina, her clients become like family. "I make it a point to spend time with my clients in their homes and get to know them, because it inspires me. By the time we walk into the courtroom together, we are united and I feel like I am fighting for my own family."

In addition to clicking with her clients, the legal profession has noticed this rising star. Christina has won numerous awards, including being named a

LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: THE ELBOW ROOM

BUSINESS IS BOOMING AFTER SHAWN COBB TAKES OVER AS OWNER OF THE ELMIRA HOTSPOT



Shawn Cobb updated the sign for The Elbow Room shortly after taking over as owner this year.



The patio was spruced up in the spring at The Elbow Room.



From left, bartender Matt Rohrer, owner Shawn Cobb, and kitchen manager Rodney Strange pose with the first order of boneless chicken wings in January, shortly after Shawn took over as owner.

Shawn Cobb has had a busy 2016.

The new owner of The Elbow Room, Elmira's iconic bar/restaurant at the top of Walnut Street, a short walk from Arnot Ogden Medical Center and nearby medical offices, has been busy making small but significant changes to the popular business since buying it from retired longtime owner Billy Cox on Jan. 7.

The tweaks, long in the planning stages for Shawn, a 26-year bartender, have included an expanded menu and kitchen hours, a new logo and signs, a spruced-up patio, and a Facebook page that has about 4,000 "likes." Shawn has stepped from behind the bar, where he prepared for this for many years, and teamed up with his friend Rodney Strange, the kitchen manager and 29-year employee, to bring new energy to the business, which opened in 1948 as a bar. (Shawn's parents used to frequent the bar when they were dating, before they were married and started a family.)

For Shawn, 51, and Rodney, 47, The Elbow Room – a bar/restaurant that has become a restaurant/bar – is a labor of love. And thanks to their hard work and about five other regular employees, business has been booming since our mild winter. Spring and summer have exceeded expectations, too.

Shawn and Rodney recently talked about their successful re-launch of the Elmira landmark.

Q: SHAWN, WHY DID YOU BUY IT?

Shawn: I knew three years after I started working here that I wanted to buy this place when Billy retired. I knew, with the quality of our customers and food, that we were going to be here for a long time. I learned a lot over the years, did a lot of planning and learning, and I was ready when Billy was ready.

Billy and I started talking about the sale about seven years ago, and we got more serious about it in the fall of 2014, bringing in lawyers and so on because Billy was getting ready to retire. I bought the business and Billy still owns the building. A few years down the road, the plan is for me to buy the building, too. I was the owner on Jan. 7.

Q: HOW HAS YOUR LIFE CHANGED?

SHAWN: My hours have changed. I am here at 8 a.m., after I drop the kids at school during the school year. Instead of coming in at 5 p.m. and getting to bed at 1:30 or 2 a.m., it's more of a daylight job. When I come in at 8, I do some work on the business and help set up for lunch, and then I am running around during lunch. I take a break and pick up my kids if they are in school. I come back to help with dinner and I am home by 7:30 or 8 p.m. It's nice to be home with my family at night. The days are longer, but I get more family time. It's been a good change of pace.

Q: RODNEY, WHAT MAKES THIS PLACE SO SPECIAL FOR YOU?

RODNEY: I have always been treated well and I like the people I work with. My hours are flexible because I am involved in politics (he is a Chemung County legislator), and I can get my nights off when I need to be at events or meetings. Being in politics, you want to work in a reputable place, and our reputation here has always been stellar. I have never felt embarrassed to say I work here. I am proud to work here and be a part of Shawn's team.



People always ask me why I don't go to another restaurant. It's because you see all these new small restaurants open and then they are closed six months to a year later. I know, with Shawn as the owner, we are always going to be here. Other restaurants don't have our reputation and credibility. I know my future is secure because I know Shawn will run this place like Billy did and make it an even better place.

Q: HOW HAS THE BUSINESS CHANGED IN RECENT YEARS?

SHAWN: When I first started here, it was a bar that served food and we were open until 1 a.m. most nights. Now it's an early crowd. They eat and have a few drinks, and it gets quiet after 9 p.m. That's why we close earlier most nights.

RODNEY: We used to be jammed on Thanksgiving weekends in the 1980s and 1990s when the college kids and young adults would come home for the holiday weekend. Now those people are older, of course, and have families and many live out of the area, so it's different here now. We don't get the younger generation coming in now to hang out at the bar; we get families and the older crowd who eat and go home. Some of our friends from the '80s and '90s come here with their kids now to eat, but they are not hanging out late at the bar.

Q: WHAT ARE YOUR BUSIEST DAYS NOW?

SHAWN: Sundays through Tuesdays are pretty busy but things start picking up Wednesday nights. Thursdays through Saturdays are always very busy, especially Friday nights, our busiest. Thursdays are very busy in the summer because of the local softball leagues. Many of the players come here for dinner and a few drinks after the games. Our lunches have picked up quite a bit during the week, too.

Q: WHAT HAS CHANGED ON THE MENU?

SHAWN: We haven't taken away any of the old favorites, but we have added dishes like boneless chicken wings and garlic parmesan wings, wraps, new sandwiches, gravy, and cole slaw. One of our most popular changes was surprising to us: When you get a sandwich, you get chips and a pickle. Customers love that.

RODNEY: We used to think chips and a pickle would lead to a decline in the ordering of side dishes like French fries, but it has had no impact.

Q: WHAT HAVE BEEN THE MOST POPULAR NEW DISHES?

SHAWN: Boneless chicken wings and deep-fried green beans. The boneless wings were our most requested new dish. My favorite new dishes are the pepperjack bites and deep-fried meatballs.

RODNEY: Regular chicken wings are still the king here. On Super Bowl Sunday months ago, we sold 383 orders of wings, a record. The previous record was 333 on Super Bowl Sunday in 2006.

Q: YOUR CHICKEN WINGS ARE ALWAYS POPULAR. WHAT'S THE SECRET RECIPE?

RODNEY: We always tell people we don't have a recipe and they don't believe us. It's just hot sauce and margarine. I tell people that and they'll come back and say they tried it that way and they didn't taste anything like ours. That's because the small deep fryers people have at home don't get up to the temperatures we can here. It's simple. Just be sure you use margarine and not butter, because butter and hot sauce won't mix.

Q: ASIDE FROM THE EXPANDED MENU AND THE NEW SIGNS, WILL PEOPLE NOTICE ANY BIG CHANGES IN THE DINING AREAS?

SHAWN: We won't be adding any tables or much new furniture. We updated the patio and made it more attractive. I want to put up some historic photos of the area in our inside dining areas. We are comfortable with the changes we have made.

RODNEY: We can't add more tables because our kitchen can only handle so many in-house orders. We don't want customers to wait too long for their meals. Almost half of our business is takeout, so we are serving two sets of customers. We don't want to make our dining-in customers wait while we do many takeout orders. It's a balancing act.

Q: ARE YOU HAPPY WITH HOW THE TRANSITION HAS GONE, SHAWN?

SHAWN: I was ready. It has been very smooth and nothing has caught me off guard. We had a plan and it has gone even better than we expected.

RODNEY: We have been consistently busy since Shawn took over. He's been able to breathe some new life into this business. I told Shawn in the winter to be prepared for it to slow down in the winter months, and it never slowed down. It's been a great ride so far.

ZIFF LAW LAWYERS FIGHTING FOR N.Y. FAMILIES

ATTORNEYS PUSH STATE LEGISLATURE IN ALBANY TO REFORM OUTDATED WRONGFUL DEATH LAW

Christina Sonsire and Adam Gee of the Ziff Law Firm recently went to Albany to fight for grieving families in New York State – like Craig and Melissa Storms, who lost their 2-year-old son in a hospital emergency room.

Christina and Adam lobbied with other members of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association in the New York State Legislature to fight for reforming New York's 153-year-old wrongful death law, something the lawyers at Ziff Law have been doing for nearly a decade.

"We have been to Albany numerous times to fight for justice for those who lose a loved one due to negligence. It's one battle we will never stop waging until the laws in New York finally improve," Christina said.

Under the present wrongful death statute in New York, the assessment of damages is based almost exclusively on expected future income, something that is very biased toward the state's highest-earning residents. Worse, New York is one of only seven states that do not compensate family members for their grief and sorrow.

"The reality is that New York law discriminates against people who are very young, retired or out of the work force, such as stay-at-home parents or people with disabilities," Christina said. "The families of people who are not actively engaged in the work force have little to no claim for wrongful death in New York."

Having to tell a family that we cannot take a case because their loved one's life is worthless in the eyes of New York State law is a very difficult thing to do, Adam said. "Knowing that the same family could recover if they lived just across the border in Pennsylvania due to its strong wrongful death laws makes it even tougher for us to deal with families in New York."

The tragic case of 2-year-old Zachary Storms highlights the discriminatory nature of New York's wrongful death law.

Zachary's story is heartbreaking.

Craig and Melissa Storms rushed their child to a hospital emergency room because they feared he may have ingested some red and blue dye from a child's chemistry set.

They did all the right things. They consulted with the American Association of Poison Control Centers, which recommended, to be safe, that they take the child to a local hospital for precautionary treatment. Things turned nightmarish quickly.

The Poison Control Centers urged "observe-only" to the hospital, but instead, the doctor forced young Zachary to drink an activated charcoal solution. He vomited and refused to drink more and the



"Knowing that the same family could recover if they lived just across the border in Pennsylvania due to its strong wrongful death laws makes it even tougher for us to deal with families in New York," said Adam Gee.



"The reality is that New York law discriminates against people who are very young, retired or out of the work force, such as stay-at-home parents or people with disabilities," said Christina Sonsire. "The families of people who are not actively engaged in the work force have little to no claim for wrongful death in New York."

hospital put a gastrointestinal tube down his throat and poured so much liquid that it filled his throat, stomach, and lungs, killing him almost instantly.

"He was running around the emergency room, playing. Then he was dead," said Melissa Storms.

"This is about justice and holding the people who caused his death accountable," said Craig Storms.

However, New York's wrongful death law only values financial loss, not human loss. A toddler, Zachary clearly was not earning any income, and his young age made it too speculative to project what he would make in the future. Therefore, under New York's current wrongful death law, Zachary's life was worthless.

When Congress established the Sept. 11th Victim Compensation Fund, it circumvented the law so surviving victims and victims' families could be properly compensated. "Congress understood New York's law is antiquated, and doing something like denying compensation to the parents whose children died that day was just wrong," said Christina.

It's time for New York State to do the same and take a giant step toward civil justice reform.

The lawyers at the Ziff Law Firm will not stop fighting for families until New York State changes this law.

Contact your local state representative and tell them about Zachary and why it's important to modernize the state's wrongful death law.

BREAST CANCER DIAGNOSIS STIRS ZIFF LAW PARALEGAL TO ACTION

NOW RECOVERED, SHE'S READY TO HELP OTHER MEN AND WOMEN BATTLING DREADED DISEASE

Annette Viselli Thorne has always been a fighter for other people.

Annette, the paralegal for Ziff Law attorney Adam Gee, has been shining a spotlight on unknown heroes in the Twin Tiers for years. She's the driving force behind the very popular Veterans of the Game program during Elmira Jackals hockey games at First Arena, which salutes military veterans, and the Hometown Heroes program during Elmira Pioneers baseball games at Dunn Field, which salutes people who do good work in their communities.

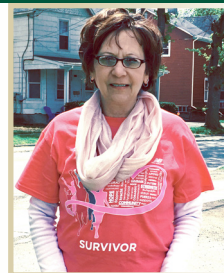
Annette, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in February after a routine mammogram, is cancer-free following surgery and treatment, and now she has a new fight: raising awareness for breast cancer patients, survivors, and the Susan G. Komen Twin Tiers Region, which helps local residents get medical care and support services.

"I was aware of Komen before my diagnosis, but I didn't know much about it," she said. "I walked out of the hospital after the diagnosis, feeling like a bomb had been dropped on me. Then a friend, a breast cancer survivor, suggested I contact Komen."

Komen raises money for breast cancer services, and the Twin Tiers affiliate sends 75 percent of what it raises back into the community to fund screenings and other services for men and women. The other 25 percent goes to the national organization to fund breast cancer research. To learn more, go to www.komentwintiers.org.

In the spring, Annette's daughter, Janine Gorski, formed a team to walk 5 kilometers in the 18th annual Komen Twin Tiers Race for the Cure. Annette's team, Nettie's Dream Team, raised more than \$1,000 for Komen.

"I looked around that day at the other survivors in the pink T-shirts, and it was very emotional," she said. "There's a bond there, even if you don't get the names of everyone you meet."



"I walked out of the hospital after the diagnosis, feeling like a bomb had been dropped on me. Then a friend, a breast cancer survivor, suggested I contact Komen," said Annette Viselli Thorne.

Annette was also one of about 20 breast cancer survivors honored in June during a Pioneers game for a local Komen fundraiser called Pink in the Park. That was her first step into getting involved and helping the local Komen affiliate.

Her coworkers at the Ziff Law Firm have provided great comfort, she said.

"When I told everyone in the office about my diagnosis, they came together and supported me and it was a great feeling," she said. "They have rallied around me and have been right here supporting me from the start."

Annette's courage in fighting cancer was an inspiration to everyone in the firm, said Jim Reed, managing partner. "Annette is always the person looking out for other folks, so everyone at the law firm was eager to lift up Annette when she was recovering," Jim said. "We are family here."

Annette also credits Barb Festa, a mammography nurse at Corning Hospital, with support right after the diagnosis. "She was my care coordinating nurse the day I had surgery, and as I was recovering, she was someone I could call and talk to at any time. She was fabulous."

Annette also said the folks at the local Komen affiliate, especially Amanda Eubanks, the executive director, were instrumental in helping during her recovery. "Amanda and I talked and she explained some things about my condition and what services are available. It was really heartwarming to know Komen was there for me."

Now Annette wants to do what she always does: give back to the community. "I have every intention of seeing what I can do to help Komen and other breast cancer patients. I was lucky, and not every woman with the diagnosis will be as lucky as I am."

"I hear women say that they haven't had a mammogram in five years because they can't afford one, and it makes me cringe. That doesn't have to happen. We have to get the word out about Komen."

A VERY PERSONAL LAW PRACTICE FOR SONSIRE

CLIENTS IN MEDICAL MALPRACTICE CASES BECOME LIKE FAMILY FOR ZIFF LAW ATTORNEY *Continued from Page 3*



SuperLawyers Rising Star, a member of the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum, and a recipient of both the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers' President's Award and the Jefferson Award for Public Service from the Jefferson Awards Foundation.

Christina is also a board member with the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers, where she represents New York's Sixth Judicial District, and

on three occasions she has joined select lawyers from the across New York to interview finalists for openings on the New York State Court of Appeals, the top court in the state. The academy sent its

recommendations on to Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who requested their counsel.

In the Elmira area, the 2004 Notre Dame High School graduate gives back by coaching the Ziff Law youth soccer team in the Chemung Valley Soccer Association and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Arctic League, serving as its secretary since 2010.

But at the end of the day, it's all about her clients. She's come a long way since her AmeriCorps years, but her passion for helping people has not been dimmed.

"Medical malpractice cases are very traumatic emotional experiences for my clients and me," she said. "We form a bond that lasts long after the case is resolved. I remember the details of every case I have handled in the last eight years."



Local Lawyers, Big City Results!

303 William Street, Elmira, NY 14902-1338

ZIFF LAW FAMILY
WELCOMES NEW LAWYER
See Cover Page



NEW OWNER
BEEFING UP
ELBOW ROOM
See Page 4



LAWYERS FIGHT
FOR N.Y. FAMILIES
See Page 6



ATTORNEY ADVERTISING

The information included in this newsletter is not intended as a substitute for consultation with an attorney. Specific conditions always require consultation with appropriate legal professionals.

\$9.15M: “BIG CITY RESULTS” FOR ZIFF LAW LAWYERS

JIM REED AND CHRISTINA SONSIRE DELIVER
BIG SETTLEMENTS FOR TWO FAMILIES

See Page 2



JIM REED



CHRISTINA SONSIRE