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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **\$3.5 Million Awarded to Local Woman Paralyzed While Under Doctor's Care** Purported to be the largest jury award in Harford County history

BEL AIR, MD (May 17, 2010): Victoria B. Little, a 53-year-old who's lived in Harford County nearly her entire life, began experiencing severe pain in her legs a few years back, so she did what any of us would have done—she went to the doctor.

That doctor recommended an aortobifemoral bypass—a common procedure for people who, like Ms. Little, suffer from vascular disease. In July of 2007, she heeded this advice and checked into the Upper Chesapeake Medical Center in Bel Air. Unfortunately, all did not go as planned. Not only did the procedure fail to relieve her symptoms, it left her a paraplegic who now requires constant care and attention to survive.

After a two and half week trial and nine hours of deliberation, a Harford County Circuit Court jury found yesterday that Ms. Little's doctor, Dr. Mark Gonze, his partner, Dr. Roger Schneider, and their surgical practice, Vascular Surgical Associates, P.A., used an inappropriate surgical technique during her procedure, which caused her to lose so much blood that it permanently damaged her spinal cord.

To compensate for this and to cover the medical care she will require for the rest of her life, Ms. Little was awarded \$3.5 million—a judgment considered the largest in county history.

"Victoria is an exceptional lady—the kind who always tries to make the best out of any situation, no matter how bad," said Scott P. Kurlander, a partner in the firm of Schochor, Federico and Staton who—along with fellow partner James D. Cardea—represents Ms. Little. "I hope this award allows her to live as full and comfortable a life as possible."

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Schochor, Federico and Staton, P.A. is law firm that, since its founding in 1984, has been dedicated to providing the highest quality representation for plaintiffs regarding medical malpractice. With offices in Maryland and Washington D.C., our lawyers have successfully represented families and individuals in many types of medical malpractice lawsuits, including cerebral palsy, spinal cord, and injury, birth injury, medical errors and misdiagnosis, wrongful death and catastrophic injury/trauma.

Scott P. Kurlander and James D. Cardea are partners at the firm of Schochor, Federico and Staton, where they practice medical malpractice law, product liability law and civil litigation. Both served as co-counsel for Ms. Little during this trial.

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