



## Righting the Wrongs in Atlantic County *The D'Amato Law Firm is a Small Practice Doing Mighty Work*

**A**s a personal injury attorney, Alexa D'Amato Barrera represents those who have been injured because of the carelessness of others.

The D'Amato Law Firm primarily handles catastrophic injury or wrongful death cases. Alexa adds, "Of course we are here to help as many people as we can so we also handle car crashes, falls, construction accidents, product liability and the like." Part of the appeal of her law firm is the warm, family-like atmosphere. "The clients know the firm cares for them and their needs above all else, and that we will work tirelessly to resolve their legal issues to help them move forward in life," she adds. Alexa has worked in the office since she was just 14 years old. "I love the family environment that we have. My mom Sandi is the chief financial officer and office manager. My sister Ava Cocchi will be joining us more frequently to manage all of our technology and media relations. Our paralegal, Rose Scogno has been working with my dad for 31 years and her legal secretary, Shirley Martin, has been with us for 16 years." Alexa and her father Paul are board members of the New Jersey Association for Justice and she chaired the New Lawyers Division of the American Association for Justice.

*Alexa derives great satisfaction from helping people.* In our society if someone is careless and tragically causes harm to someone else, the only redress available is through the legal system with reimbursement for pain and suffering through monetary reward. People who have suffered personal injury often face serious medical, financial, and personal challenges. She says, "In the end, the monetary award is to help the victim obtain justice and become somewhat whole again."

*One of the reasons for the success of her law firm is because of the emphasis they place on open communication.* She remains very accessible to her clients. "I copy my clients on every correspondence that goes in and out of the office on their case. I meet in person with my clients every three months or sooner and my business card has my cell phone and email address on it," she adds.

*They also strive to obtain justice from all potential defendants.* There is no easy answer in personal injury law.

Searching every avenue for redress is vital to truly obtaining justice for those whom have been injured or killed. Although they are a small family firm, they have the resources of any large firm because they believe their clients deserve to have the best of both worlds.

*The personal injury field can be stressful and emotionally taxing.* Every day she is working with individuals and families who have had catastrophic losses in their lives. Alexa likes to practice gratitude for the blessings in her own life. "It's important to be able to laugh and be thankful for all we have. It's certainly easier to do that when you're surrounded by those that love you all day long," she says.

*Her husband, Alexander J. Barrera, is also an attorney and partner in his own law firm.* They both grew up in the area and wanted to raise their family here. She and her husband have three children, Paul, who is almost 7, Massimo, 5 ½ and Rocco, almost 4. Massimo was diagnosed with autism when he was 18 months old. She adds, "He is the most generous, empathetic, caring person I know. He has trouble with new environments, crowds, loud noises and social interaction with people he does not know."

*When Alexa is not at work she enjoys spending time with her family, working with local charities and going to Church.* She adds, "There are so

many organizations close to my heart like the Ensign John R. Elliott Hero Campaign, the Atlantic County Women's Center, Shirley Mae Breast Cancer Fund, and FACES 4 Autism." Recently, FACES 4 Autism, a local non-profit organization dedicated to education and support of children with Autism and their families, established Massimo's Mission. This is a scholarship program to help kids with autism learn how to survive in the water. The leading cause of death among kids with autism under 14 years old is drowning. The goal of Massimo's Mission is to provide water survival lessons to children with autism whose families could not otherwise afford to send them. She adds, "We are blessed to have had Massimo attend Milton & Betty Katz JCC's Camp by the Sea program the past two summers. He learned not just how to survive in the water, but how to swim. We are excited about being able to bring that level of comfort around water to other parents of children with autism through Massimo's Mission of FACES 4 Autism."

*For more information call 609.926.3300*

