

# LIFE OF P.I.

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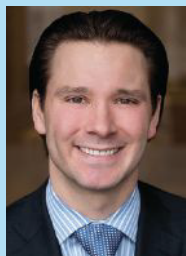
A look at personal injury from some of the field's next frontrunners

By Chicago Lawyer staff

There's a certain set of personal-injury lawyers in Chicago who, over the course of decades, have become standard-bearers for the profession. Instead of talking to them, Chicago Lawyer spoke with a few veteran attorneys who stand a serious shot of making that short list in the future to learn how the field of personal injury is

evolving. It's not an exclusive or definitive list, and the interviews have been edited for length.

Chicago Lawyer staff writers Emily Donovan, Lauren P. Duncan, Andrew Maloney, Patricia Manson, David Thomas and Lauraann Wood contributed to this report.



**Patrick Salvi II** • Partner, Salvi Schostok & Pritchard

Age: 34 • Years at firm: 9

Law school: Notre Dame Law School

Practice area: Auto, medical malpractice, product liability

Within the practice of P.I. law, what trends and changes have you seen?

One of the trends that I think is unfortunate is that trials are becoming more complex, more expensive, to the point where cases are not being tried at the rate they need to be tried. (Insurance companies) have a lot of claims, tons of claims, to the point where no individual or client of ours is a human being — they're just a number. And that's fine, and even though I fight with insurance companies, it's necessary so they can be compensated. But at the same time, I do think insurance companies have an ethical and fiduciary responsibility here, and as trials go down, claims are paid out in much lesser amounts. They're just crunching numbers. That's a trend that we've been fighting for decades. If you move it over to the medical-malpractice side, and you look at filings, they're way down. It's becoming so time-consuming and expensive to try malpractice cases. They're a very low percentage of wins.

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