

John Salvatore, Salvatore and Morton, LLC

1ST PLACE WINNER: ATTORNEY AND LAW FIRM



PHOTO BY TURNER PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO

A career in law can be an opportunity to help others, often those who are in trouble, and have nowhere else to turn. After serving clients for decades locally, few take that responsibility more seriously than attorney John Salvatore, winner of this year's "Best Attorney" on the annual Hot List.

"What I'm trying to do is get the best outcome with the least harm for the client," said Salvatore, whose firm (Salvatore & Morton, LLC), also won for the "Best Firm" accolade for 2021.

Salvatore takes mostly criminal cases (traffic, speeding, DUIs), while his partner Jason Morton practices family law. The firm, including fellow attorney Jennifer Keefer, also represents the City of Hagerstown and other municipalities in a variety of legal areas (contracts, personnel, real estate, easements, sales, land use, and administrative law).

"People ask me, 'How do you represent people in criminal cases?' And I say, 'Well, you don't realize what my client is like. My client is like your next-door neighbor, or your brother-in-law, or the guy you work with,'" said Salvatore. "They're all pretty much regular people, who, because of a problem, either with substance abuse or

emotional issues, have [found] themselves in trouble. So, it's very gratifying to see people get their lives back on track."

Salvatore studied undergrad at the University of Maryland, and took a dispatcher position with the Green-belt Police Department at age 20, and quickly found himself promoted to police officer. His overnight shifts allowed him to attend law school three nights a week at the University of Baltimore, and he has practiced in Hagerstown since 1973.

"Two of John's strengths are common sense and straight talk, and they serve his clients well --- and me when I can use a little experienced advice," said Morton, who also attended University of Baltimore School of Law.

The recognition from the Hagerstown Magazine's readers is its own reward.


"It's satisfying because it is good to know that people see you as a good advocate and a good attorney, and that you've done a good job for them," said Salvatore. "It's a big reward for not just what I've done this year, but over the

course of my career."

Morton, who joined the firm in 2011, agrees.

"The entire firm is excited to be honored in Hagerstown Magazine. Our work is hard, and our clients come to us during some of the most trying times of their lives," said Morton. "For them to recognize us publicly is humbling and gratifying. We look forward to continuing to serve them in the years to come."

In January, Salvatore will enter his 49th year in the profession. Working during a pandemic in 2020 gave him some unexpected time to mull his future, he admits. After many years of thinking about retirement -- more villa trips to Italy, more rounds of golf, more time with family (including three adult children, four grandchildren and a great-grandson) -- he admits it's closer to becoming a reality.

"I am working my way out the door. I'm taking some cases, but not long protracted ones. It's time to go out and smell the roses," said Salvatore, a former prosecutor and member of the Washington County Commission. "Now, I am actually doing it. Before, I told people I was trying to retire, but now I am actually doing it." **Written by David Gignilliat** 

PROFESSIONALS

ATTORNEY

John Salvatore, Salvatore & Morton

Russ Robinson, Robinson & Robinson
Jason Morton, Salvatore & Morton

BANK TELLER

Pam Deck, Orrstown Bank

Jaynese Murfin, Fulton Bank
Ashley Rice, Fulton Bank

DENTIST

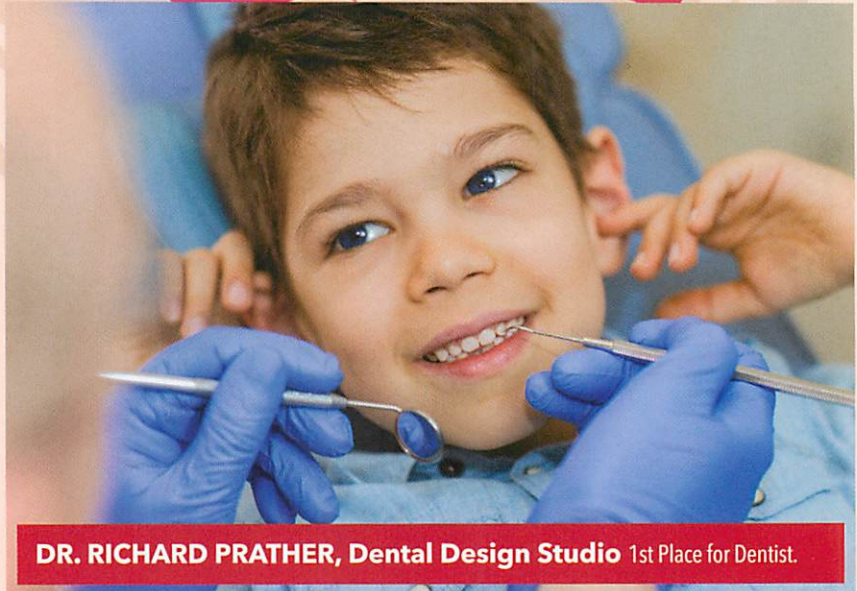
Dr. Richard Prather, Dental Design Studio

Dr. J. Bruce Burley, Hagerstown Smiles
Dr. Brandon Ellis, Longmeadow Family
Dental

FAMILY DOCTOR

Jenna Moats CRNP, Hub City Family Practice

Jim Ciccarelli M.D., Meritus Health
Emeka Obidi, M.D., M.P.H., Partners in
Pediatrics



DR. RICHARD PRATHER, Dental Design Studio 1st Place for Dentist.

FINANCIAL PLANNER

Steve Bass, Raymond James

Nathaniel Hanft, Serafini Financial
Ryan Flurie, Abeles Flurie Wealth
Management

REAL ESTATE AGENT

Jason Hose, Mackintosh Realtors

Julie Fritsch, Mackintosh Realtors
Patti Perez, Mackintosh Realtors

INSURANCE AGENT

Megan Prince, Keller Stonebraker

Fran Shaffer, AFLAC
Gaye McGovern, State Farm

TEACHER

Angel Green, Western Heights Middle

Brittany Buhman, Hickory Elementary
Erin Ruff, St. Maria Goretti

MEDICAL SPECIALIST

Virginia Heard, Parkway Physical Therapy

Johanna Fangmeyer, Hagerstown
Dermatology
Dr. Pear N.Enam, M.D. FACG,
Gastroenterology Associates

VETERINARIAN

Tara Cumley, Animal Health Clinic of Funkstown

Virginia Scrivener, Animal Health Clinic
of Funkstown
Marie Sausen, Cumberland Valley Vet

PERSONAL TRAINER

David Ruff, Ruff Fitness

Johnny Slick, Straight Shot Training
Tommy Kellinger, Crossfit 301 Elite

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**TARA CUMLEY, Animal
Health Clinic of Funkstown**
1st Place for Veterinarian.