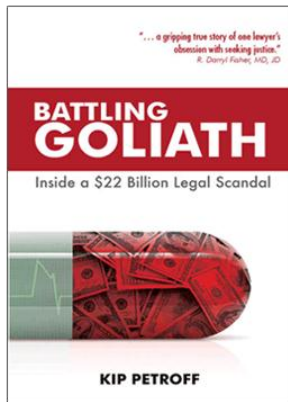


Book Talk: Inside the fen-phen diet drug lawsuit

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You've seen the ads on television in which a law firm advertises for clients who have suffered because of negligence or malpractice. Copley High School and Kent State University alumnus Kip Petroff placed one of those ads. His book, *Battling Goliath: Inside a \$22 Billion Legal Scandal*, is the story of his involvement as representative for tens of thousands of plaintiffs in a class-action suit against the manufacturers of the weight-loss drug known as fen-phen.

The pharmaceutical company now known as Wyeth began offering fen-phen, a combination of two drugs; one was found to cause heart valve leakage. When the FDA requested that fen-phen be removed from the market in 1997, Petroff looked for former users whose hearts had been damaged.

In *Battling Goliath*, he tells of the landmark case that set the precedent, and the monumental legal decision that resulted in ultimate victory. He also tells of the increasing amounts of vodka he was consuming, his marital problems and the huge amounts of cash he was investing in an outcome that was anything but guaranteed.

Battling Goliath (198 pages, hardcover) costs \$24.95 through the author's web site, <http://www.BattlingGoliath.com>; all profits will benefit the New Hope Foundation, which raises money for impoverished families in the Dallas area, where Petroff lives.

— Barbara McIntyre

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