

instates California recall vote; challenger won't appeal. **Page 5b**

Kids nabbed

School bus driver sentenced to four years in prison for unscheduled field trip that ended in Landover Hills. **Page 7B**

Enfranchised

Study: Nearly half-million felons benefit as states roll back ban on voting. **Page 9B**

Speaking part

Airman charged with espionage at Guantanamo Bay prison. **Page 9B**

Comcast ends lawsuit

Comcast Corp., the largest U.S. cable operator, yesterday said it ended a lawsuit against a unit of Liberty Media Corp. over the fees paid for the STARZ! and Encore movie channels. Financial details weren't disclosed. Philadelphia-based Comcast, which has more than 21 million subscribers, wanted to keep the deal it had with Englewood, Colo.-based Liberty Media's Starz Encore unit before it bought AT&T Broadband in November. Starz Encore favored the contract it had with AT&T Broadband, which required the cable operator to assume some programming costs.

Chase Bank amended the terms of its cardholder agreement and began charging interest in excess of 24 percent, despite what the cardholders say was a promise not to do so.

The plaintiffs — Dale Wells of Ellicott City, Sharon Goldenberg of Washington, and John Dovel of Falls Church, Va. — opened credit card accounts with Chevy Chase back when the bank maintained its home office in Maryland.

At that time, the cardholder agreement noted that Title 12, Subsection 9, of Maryland's Commercial Law Article would govern the agreement.

But in 1996, Chevy Chase

Lockheed Martin Corp. for allegedly interfering with a contract he had signed with a Russian company spoke yesterday in court about how he found out that his firm had been frozen out of the multimillion dollar project.

Giving evidence for the plaintiffs on the second day of trial at **Baltimore City Circuit Court**, James L. Newkirk, executive vice president of **Semtek International Inc.**, explained how his company had signed several agreements in the early 1990s with **Merkuriy Ltd.**, the firm that controls Russia's military satellites.

Semtek's plan was to lease access to Russian satellites to Western commercial interests at a time when the former Eastern Bloc was first opening up to foreign investors.

"We intended to do long-term business with the company," Newkirk testified. "We thought it

other company, **Transworld Communications Inc.**

Newkirk said he first heard **Martin-Marietta** mentioned in May 1994, several months after Semtek began preparing a business plan and talked to potential investors and consultants about its joint venture with Mercuriy.

Initially, Newkirk testified, Semtek was told by **Pyotr Sivirin**, the executive director of Mercuriy, that Martin-Marietta would only be an investor. Semtek did not realize the deal was in jeopardy, even when Sivirin postponed a meeting in July 1994, saying he had been unable to obtain a visa.

Semtek finally approached Martin-Marietta to ascertain its position and several meetings were held in July of that year.

Newkirk said it was at this point that Richard

SEE SEMTEK PAGE 4B

THE PROFESSION

Leadership in Law winners announced

24 vie for top spot

BY MARK R. CHESHIRE

Editor in Chief

Reflecting the diversity and disparate talents of Maryland's entire legal community, the 24 winners of The Daily Record's 2003 Leadership in Law awards include older practitioners as well as young, small-firm lawyers, and big, private-sector attorneys as well as those in the public sector.

A panel of judges selected winners based on three criteria: success at improving the legal profession; commitment to the communities where they live and work; and mentoring.

The 24 winners will now be called on to choose, by secret ballot, the top Leadership in Law winner for 2003. All of the awards will be presented during a noon luncheon

Nov. 14 at the Wyndham Baltimore Inner Harbor Hotel.

For more information about the ceremony or winners present and past, visit www.leadershipinlaw.com

The 2003 winners are: (place of business listed parenthetically)

- Karen H. Abrams (St. Mary's County)
- Lynne A. Battaglia (Anne Arundel County)
- Marielsa A. Bernard (Montgomery County)
- Adam S. Cohen (Baltimore City)
- Jervis S. Finney (Anne Arundel County)
- Sharon E. Goldsmith (Baltimore City)
- Cheryl Y. Haskins (Baltimore City)
- Harry S. Johnson (Baltimore City)
- James A. Kenney III (St. Mary's County)
- Linda T. Layton (Talbot County)

- Thomas E. Lynch III (Frederick County)
- Lynn McLain (Baltimore City)
- Joseph F. Murphy Jr. (Anne Arundel County)
- C. Philip Nichols Jr. (Prince George's County)
- Kimberley A. Propeack (Montgomery County)
- Paul J. Reinstein (Prince George's County)
- J. Scott Robertson (Wicomico County)
- Karen H. Rothenberg (Baltimore City)
- Paul Mark Sandler (Baltimore City)
- Stephen L. Snyder (Baltimore County)
- Richard H. Sothoron Jr. (Prince George's County)
- Shale D. Stiller (Baltimore County)
- Mark D. Thomas (Washington County)
- Alexander Wright Jr. (Baltimore County)