# LEGALUPDATE CUNNINGHAMBOUNDS LLC

#### FALL 2018

**Detailed Examination** of Records Leads to **Notable Settlement**  Accolades: Chambers & Partners announced its 2018 rankings of the world's best law firms When Does A **Work Injury** Require An **Attorney's Advice?** 

3

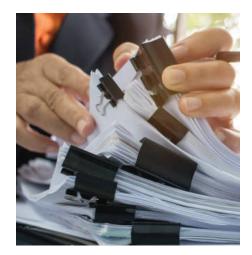
### **Detailed Examination** of Records Leads to **Notable Settlement**

Recently, Cunningham Bounds obtained a \$900,000 settlement for a client who suffered a herniated disc after being rear-ended on Airport Boulevard in Mobile County. In February 2016, our client was driving to a service call for his employer and was stopped at a red light. Without warning, a truck owned by Southeastern Exterminating, Inc. slammed into the vehicle in front of it, which was pushed into the back of our client's vehicle. Southeastern Exterminating's employee, the driver of the truck, had suffered a hypoglycemic event due to uncontrolled diabetes that caused him to lose consciousness while driving. What initially appeared to be an unforeseen medical emergency turned out to be something entirely different.

Hypoglycemia is a condition caused by dangerously low blood sugar, which results in disorientation, confusion and even loss of consciousness. A meticulous examination of the medical records of Southeastern's driver revealed an alarming trend of numerous and severe episodes of hypoglycemia that required medical intervention during the driver's employment with Southeastern. In fact, Southeastern's driver had been treated for one such event just hours before the wreck involving our client. Our investigation revealed that Southeastern's driver was never actually cleared by any physician to operate a vehicle under those circumstances.

Even though Southeastern was aware of its driver's failure to manage his diabetes, the company continued to allow him to operate company vehicles on public streets.

Due to the detailed examination of the records by the attorneys and staff involved in this case, our client received a \$900,000 settlement from Southeastern. The case was handled by attorney Skip Finkbohner and senior paralegal Amy Bolt.



Founded in 1958, Cunningham Bounds has been representing plaintiffs for over 55 years. We have a long and successful history of helping people who have been injured or harmed by the wrongdoing of others. Our firm was born out of the desire to create change and improve lives. We thoroughly prepare each case. We leave no stone unturned, no evidence untouched, and no detail unexamined. This precision and focus ensures that we present each client's very best case to the jury. Today, our goal remains as it was in 1958 - to achieve the best possible result for each client by holding people and companies accountable for their wrongdoing.

1

## In Memory of Our Firm's Founder & Friend



Donald Richard Bounds November 13, 1928 - June 22, 2018

\_\_\_\_\_

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of one of our founders, **Dick Bounds**. Driven by his passion to help others, he helped establish the law firm of **Cunningham Bounds, LLC** in 1958.

Throughout his career, Dick set a standard of excellence in the practice of law through his advocacy for injured individuals and their families. He was involved with and generously supported numerous community organizations and charities. Until the time of his death, he continued as Of Counsel to the firm. He will be sorely missed, but his legacy will live on in the firm's continued work.

.....

# Accolades

Chambers & Partners announced its 2018 rankings of the world's best law firms and Cunningham Bounds, LLC received top honors with a "Band 1" classification for "Litigation: Mainly Plaintiff – Alabama" in the Chambers USA guide. Six of the firm's partners were among the 13 Alabama attorneys receiving individual recognition in the guide. They were: **Robert Cunningham, Joseph Brown**, Greg Breedlove, Skip Finkbohner, Steve Nicholas and David Cain. In addition, 12 Cunningham Bounds partners were selected by their peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America® 2019 listing. Recognition by Best Lawyers is based entirely on peer review. Lawyers are not required or allowed to pay a fee to be listed; therefore, inclusion in Best Lawyers is considered a notable honor.



Best Lawyers awarded **Toby Brown** Mobile, Alabama's "Lawyer of the Year" for the practice area of Personal Injury Litigation – Plaintiffs.



Lawyer of the Year recognitions are awarded to individual attorneys with the highest overall peer feedback for a specific practice area and geographic location. Only one attorney is recognized as the **"Lawyer of the Year"** for each specialty and location.



**Steve Nicholas** was recently elected President of the Alabama Association for Justice (ALAJ).



ALAJ members are plaintiffs' attorneys who represent consumers and businesses. The mission of ALAJ is "to preserve and protect the constitutional right to a trial by jury guaranteed by the Seventh Amendment to the United States Constitution by ensuring that every person or business harmed or injured by the misconduct or negligence of others can hold wrongdoers accountable in the one room where everyone is equal – the courtroom."



#### PARTNERS

ROBERT T. CUNNINGHAM JOSEPH M. BROWN, JR.\* GREGORY B. BREEDLOVE\* DAVID G. WIRTES, JR.\*\* TOBY D. BROWN\* GEORGE W. FINKBOHNER, III\* STEPHEN C. OLEN STEVEN L. NICHOLAS DAVID S. CAIN, JR.\* WILLIAM E. BONNER ROBERT L. MITCHELL\* J. BRIAN DUNCAN, JR. LUCY E. TUFTS\*

\*CERTIFIED AS A CIVIL TRIAL SPECIALIST BY THE NATIONAL BOARD OF TRIAL ADVOCACY

\*\*CERTIFIED AS AN APPELLATE SPECIALIST BY THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF APPELLATE PRACTICE



Lucy Tufts recently earned board certification by the National Board of Trial Advocacy in Civil Trial Law.



Board certification is the highest, most stringent, and most reliable honor an attorney can achieve. Approximately three percent of American lawyers have earned this distinction.

.....

## When Does **A Work Injury** Require An **Attorney's Advice?**



If you suffer an injury at work, workers' compensation benefits may not be the only way to recover damages. Under certain circumstances, you may have a negligence or wantonness claim against a third-party other than your employer. For example, if you are injured by a piece of industrial equipment, there may be a design defect for which the manufacturer is responsible. If you are injured when scaffolding or flooring gives way, there may be a claim against the contractor who installed it. If you are involved in a crash while delivering goods to a distribution facility, there may be a claim against the at-fault driver.



This matters because different laws govern workers' compensation claims and third-party negligence claims. While workers' compensation laws provide important benefits, they rarely cover all your damages and those damages that are recoverable are limited by statute. By contrast, in third-party negligence or wantonness claims, you can recover damages for pain and suffering, mental anguish, and the full amount of your lost wages, as well as damages for lost future earning capacity, scarring, or permanent impairment. Punitive damages - those designed to punish and deter wrongdoing - are also available in third-party claims. Punitive damages often lead to workplace safety improvements that benefit everyone. If you have a workers' compensation claim, you must present your case before a single judge. You have the right to a jury trial if you have a third-party negligence or wantonness claim.

These differences are important because they not only dramatically change the amount of damages that you can recover



but also the type of attorney that you need. A workers' compensation claim does not require you to prove who was at fault for your injury, but a third-party negligence claim does. This means that you need a law firm with the resources and willingness to aggressively investigate your injuries and its causes.

The law firm of Cunningham Bounds, LLC focuses on helping those who have been injured or killed by the wrongdoing of others. Call us for a free consultation regarding your specific situation and to learn about your legal options.



1601 DAUPHIN STREET | MOBILE, ALABAMA 36604 T (251) 471 6191 | TF (800) 472 6191 | F (251) 479 1031 MAILING ADDRESS POST OFFICE BOX 66705 | MOBILE, ALABAMA 36660 CUNNINGHAMBOUNDS.COM

The following language is required by Alabama Rules of Professional Conduct: "No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers."

### In Our **Community**



#### Downtown Cajun Cook-Off Benefits Child Advocacy Center

Presented by Cunningham Bounds, the 2018 Downtown Cajun Cook-Off raised more than \$70,000 for the Child Advocacy Center of Mobile. All proceeds from the event will help fund services provided in the Mobile community for abused children and their families. Organizers are already planning the 2019 Cook-Off and hope to include additional restaurants due to the overwhelming number of attendees in 2018!

4



### Lions Club & Cunningham Bounds Raise Funds for Sight Services

Cunningham Bounds served as the Presenting Sponsor for the 2018 Lions Club Tunnel Vision Race. More than 240 participants finished the 5K route and crossed the finish line. Proceeds from the event will be used by the Lions Club to provide eye exams and eye glasses for those in our community who have difficulty paying for them.

### Events



#### Save the Date: Tri the Gulf Triathlon October 20th

Cunningham Bounds will serve as a sponsor for the upcoming Tri the Gulf sprint triathlon presented by the Mobile Bar Foundation. Limited to 350 participants, the event will be held October 20th on Dauphin Island. Proceeds from the event with benefit the Mobile Bar Foundation. The mission of the Foundation is to support programs that improve the legal system, the administration of justice, and otherwise promote the betterment of the legal profession and local community.

For more information on this USA Triathlon sanctioned event or to register, visit trithegulf.com.