

LEGALUPDATE

CUNNINGHAM BOUNDS

TRIAL ATTORNEYS

SUMMER 2025

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Cunningham Bounds Secures \$36 Million Settlement for Severely Injured Motor Vehicle Crash Victim



Robert Mitchell



Joseph McGowin

After extensive litigation, Cunningham Bounds obtained a \$36 million settlement for a Mobile County resident who was severely and permanently injured in a motor vehicle crash.

Cunningham Bounds attorneys disclosed eight expert witnesses, conducted 27 depositions across the United States, and retained a computer forensics provider to unearth critical emails that the Defendant had withheld from production. These efforts proved that the crash was caused by the Defendant corporation's employee, and also that the corporation knowingly ignored multiple safety risks to advance its business interests.

"Our client's life-changing injuries were 100% preventable. No one should have to suffer because of a company's calculated decision to put profits over safety," said Robert Mitchell, one of the attorneys representing the plaintiff. "This settlement provides a measure of justice for the immense hardship that our client has endured, and it guarantees that she'll have the resources she needs for ongoing care."

"No one should have to suffer because of a company's calculated decision to put profits over safety."

As a result of the crash, the plaintiff has undergone extensive medical treatment, numerous hospitalizations, and ongoing rehabilitation. While no amount of money can restore the life she once had, this settlement will help provide long-term medical care and financial security as she adapts to a new reality.

Cunningham Bounds remains committed to holding negligent parties accountable and advocating for those whose lives have been devastated by preventable tragedies.

Accolades

All 10 Cunningham Bounds Partners Selected to the 2025 Lawdragon 500

Ten attorneys have been named to the **2025 Lawdragon 500 Leading Plaintiff Consumer Lawyers list**. Attorneys are selected through nominations, research, and review by a board of their peers. The ten selected are: **Dave Wirtes, Toby Brown, Skip Finkbohner, Steve Nicholas, Glenn Kushel, David Cain, Billy Bonner, Robert Mitchell, Lucy Tufts, and Brian Duncan.**

Lawdragon annually recognizes attorneys who exemplify the highest standards of excellence in their areas of practice. According to Lawdragon, the 500 lawyers chosen *"are the warriors who fight the good fight for consumers who have been injured or had family killed through accidents, medical malpractice, faulty products or toxic exposure."* In addition, *"these lawyers stand up against the worst, seeking justice and providing hope."*



Dave Wirtes



Toby Brown



Skip Finkbohner



Steve Nicholas



Glenn Kushel



David Cain



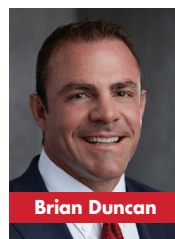
Billy Bonner



Robert Mitchell



Lucy Tufts



Brian Duncan



Maggie Utsey

Welcome Maggie Utsey

Cunningham Bounds is proud to welcome Maggie Utsey to the firm. A native of Butler, Alabama, Maggie brings with her a deep commitment to service, shaped by generations of legal professionals in her family. Inspired by her father and late grandfather, she pursued a career in law to help others navigate life's most difficult challenges with compassion and integrity.

Maggie graduated from the University of Alabama and earned her Juris Doctor from Cumberland School of Law. While in school, she was recognized for academic excellence, leadership, and community service. She is an active member of several professional organizations, including the Alabama State Bar and the Alabama Association for Justice.

Maggie now brings her strong work ethic, sharp advocacy skills, and client-first mindset to Cunningham Bounds, where she is dedicated to achieving outstanding results for those she represents.

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In Our Community



Spreading Joy: Cunningham Bounds Supports Salvation Army's Angel Tree Program



Attorney Tyler Flowers visited O'Rourke Elementary School's Pre-K class to read in celebration of Read Across America Week and Black History Month.

A Flavorful Tradition: 9 Years Strong Supporting the Downtown Cajun Cook-Off and the Child Advocacy Center

This year marked our ninth as the title sponsor of the Downtown Cajun Cook-Off, and it just keeps getting better! We were thrilled to have beautiful weather and a lively crowd ready to enjoy live local music and incredible home-cooked dishes from each team. Supporting the Child Advocacy Center and its mission to help abused children in our community is a true honor. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we've raised over \$646,000 to date. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us—we're already looking forward to 2026!





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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."

Timing Matters

Study Finds Higher Risks for Friday Surgeries

Patients planning elective surgeries may want to think twice before booking a Friday procedure, according to a new study published in *JAMA Network Open*. Researchers found that individuals who undergo surgery just before the weekend face a significantly higher risk of complications, hospital readmissions, and even death.

This phenomenon, often referred to as the "weekend effect," has long raised concerns about reduced staffing and limited resources in hospitals over the weekend. However, this new study highlights that the risk extends to patients who have surgery *before*

the weekend and remain hospitalized during that time.

The study, led by Dr. Raj Satkunasivam of Houston Methodist Hospital, revealed that patients who had surgery on Fridays experienced:

- A **9% increase** in risk of death within 30 days
- A **10% increase** at 90 days
- A **12% increase** at one year

These patients also had a **5% higher risk** of combined negative outcomes—including complications, readmissions,

and death—compared to those who had surgery earlier in the week.

The reasons? Hospitals often operate with fewer staff on weekends, and those on duty may have less access to senior physicians, specialists, and diagnostic tools. Additionally, weekend care teams may be less familiar with patients' histories, potentially impacting the quality and continuity of care.