# **LEGALUPDATE** CUNNINGHAMBOUNDS LLC

WINTER 2019

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**Deckhand** Receives **Eight-Figure Settlement** Following Misdiagnosis by Urgent Care Clinic Accolades: Benchmark Litigation announced its 2019 Directory of Leading Law Firms Hiring The Right Personal Injury Firm

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## **Deckhand** Receives **Eight-Figure Settlement** Following Misdiagnosis by Urgent Care Clinic

Manson Construction Co. ("Manson") recently paid \$11 million to settle a personal injury lawsuit filed by Cunningham Bounds, LLC. Manson is an international maritime construction company based in Seattle, Washington. Our client was employed by Manson as a deckhand and worked in Jacksonville, Florida.



In January 2016, our client developed pneumonia while working on one of Manson's tugboats. Even though our client asked to see a doctor, Manson ordered him to go to a local urgent care clinic that did not have a doctor available. The nurse practitioner who treated our client committed a cascade of medical errors. She misdiagnosed him with bronchitis, prescribed the wrong antibiotics to him, ignored clear indications that he needed to be admitted to a hospital, and wrongly advised Manson that he could fly from Jacksonville, Florida to his home in Mobile.

Based on the advice from the urgent care clinic, Manson bought our client a plane ticket from Jacksonville to Mobile. Once our client boarded the flight, his condition deteriorated rapidly, and he developed a whole-body infection called sepsis. As his flight was approaching the Mobile airport, he went into septic shock. After the plane landed, he was rushed to Providence Hospital, where he remained for the next three months. Ultimately, he developed gangrene in his fingers and toes due to the sepsis, and his doctors were forced to amputate all of his fingers, his left thumb, his left leg below the knee, and his right foot.

We filed suit against Manson under a longestablished, but rarely used, concept in maritime law. That is: a maritime employer is legally responsible for the malpractice of medical providers it selects to treat its employees. The case was litigated extensively with more than 35 depositions taken across the country. Our experts in the case had backgrounds in immunology, microbiology, medicine, life-care planning, and economics. Two weeks before trial, Manson agreed to pay our client \$11 million, which will provide him with medical care and financial security for the rest of his life.

The case was handled by Buddy Brown and Billy Bonner.

Founded in 1958, Cunningham Bounds has been representing plaintiffs for over 60 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.

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## Accolades

Benchmark Litigation announced its 2019 Directory of Leading Law Firms and the personal injury firm of **Cunningham Bounds**, LLC was honored with the distinction of "Highly Recommended – Local Litigation Firms." Cunningham Bounds was one of only 10 law firms in the state to receive Benchmark's highest ranking.

In addition to Cunningham Bounds' firm ranking, nine of its attorneys were recognized in the 2019 guide. Eight were named "Local Litigation Stars:" **Greg Breedlove, Joseph** "Buddy" Brown, Toby Brown, David Cain, Jr., Robert Cunningham, George "Skip" Finkbohner, Steve Olen and Lucy Tufts. Robert Mitchell was also recognized as one of Benchmark's "Future Stars."

Firms and attorneys cannot pay to be recommended for the directory, and Benchmark is the only publication on the market to focus exclusively on litigation in the United States.

**All the partners of Cunningham Bounds, LLC** were named to the 2018 Mid-South Super Lawyers list or to the Mid-South Rising Stars list. Each year, no more than five percent of attorneys in the Mid-South region (Alabama, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Mississippi) are selected by the research team at Super Lawyers to receive this honor.

In addition to these distinctions, two of the firm's attorneys were also recognized on "Top 50" lists for Super Lawyers:

- **Robert Cunningham** was named one of the 2018 "Top 50 Attorneys in Alabama" for the practice area of Personal Injury General Plaintiff.
- Lucy Tufts was named one of the 2018 "Top 50 Women Attorneys in the Mid-South" for the practice area of Personal Injury General Plaintiff.

The annual selections are made using a patented multiphase process that includes a statewide survey of lawyers, an independent research evaluation of candidates and peer reviews by practice area. The result is a credible, comprehensive and diverse listing of exceptional attorneys.

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## Have a Legal Question? Give Us a Call – We are Here to Help You.

If you have a legal question, or have a potential lawsuit due to death or physical or financial injury, give us a call. We will answer your questions and evaluate your potential case free of charge. If you have a potential case that is outside our area of expertise, we will refer you to a highly respected and qualified attorney who practices in that area.

We also offer a free step-by-step informational guide to help you hire a qualified and experienced personal injury attorney for your particular case. Our "How to Hire the Right Personal Injury Lawyer" booklet is available for download on our website, or just give us a call and we will mail you a copy.

#### Local: 251.471.6191 or Toll Free: 800.472.6191

# Hiring The Right Personal Injury Firm



Hiring a law firm when a loved one has been seriously injured or killed is one of the biggest decisions that you hope you never have to make. Serious injuries have life-long consequences – but you only have one day in court. That is why it is so important to do your homework before you hire an attorney. Don't just pick up the phone and call the first lawyer you see on television. Find the right lawyer for your case. You owe it to yourself and your family to make the best decision you can when hiring an injury lawyer. Here are some specific questions you should ask:

- How many jury trials have you had in the past 3 years? What were the verdicts?
- What types of cases have you tried in front of a jury? For example, have you ever tried a wrongful-death lawsuit to verdict? When? What was the result?
- What is your firm's history of verdicts?
- How long has your firm been in business?

Here's the reality: insurance carriers know which firms have trial experience, have the resources to try cases, and have the ability to obtain full justice. They also know which firms don't. A track-record of success in the courtroom is vitally important. It shows a law firm's experience, its commitment to its clients, and its expertise.

Defendants will rarely pay a full amount unless they know they must. Jury verdicts force defendants to do the right thing. Cunningham Bounds has been representing people who have been injured or killed or cheated for over 60 years. Defendants and insurance carriers know Cunningham Bounds from our victories in the courtroom. We've obtained over \$18 billion dollars in verdicts and settlements.

Go to cunninghambounds.com/results for more information about the firm's success. If you need someone to fight for you and your family, please call us.



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.



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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."

## In Our **Community**



### Making Strides Walk Benefits American Cancer Society

The Cunningham Bounds team was part of the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Walk – a community effort to raise awareness and funds to save lives and fight breast cancer. More than \$275,000 was raised during this annual event!

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### Mobile Fire-Rescue Expo Teaches Children About Safety

Our firm was pleased to sponsor Mobile Fire-Rescue's Fall Safety Expo for local children. We appreciate everything these men and women do throughout the year to keep our community safe.

## **Events**



**Save the Date!** Fundraiser for Child Advocacy Center

The 5th Annual 2019 Downtown Cajun Cook-Off will be held Saturday, March 23rd in Cathedral Square. Our firm is pleased to serve as the Presenting Sponsor of this annual event, which benefits the Child Advocacy Center of Mobile.