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A History of **Helping** Others & **Creating Change**

For more than 60 years, the attorneys of Cunningham Bounds have been helping people who have been injured – either physically, emotionally or financially – due to the wrongdoing of others. Our verdicts and settlements have improved product safety, increased the reliability of medical procedures, and ensured that safety policies are implemented and followed. Our community is safer because of the work we do.

For example, we are currently working on several cases involving individuals who were either injured or killed due to negligence or recklessness on the part of their caregivers. One of these cases has received extensive media attention and involves a 21-year-old autistic man, Matthew Cox, who died from traumatic injuries he suffered while a resident in a special needs group home. His caregiver has been charged with murder. On behalf of Matthew's mother, we have filed a wrongful death lawsuit against multiple companies involved in the oversight and operation of the special needs home

where Matthew lived. The lawsuit outlines twenty-six detailed allegations, including that the defendant companies negligently hired Matthew's caregiver, negligently failed to train, monitor and supervise him, and negligently allowed him to supervise special needs individuals.

"Matthew's entire family trusted these companies to nurture Matthew and to keep him safe," said attorney Robert L. Mitchell of Cunningham Bounds. "They were promised that the group home would be a positive environment where Matthew could build on the life skills he learned while a student at Augusta Evans School. But instead of help and care, he was violently mistreated and eventually killed. These companies completely failed Matthew and let him down at every level. Hopefully, the outcome of this case will increase awareness and lead to some meaningful improvements in the care provided to those with special needs."

Many families rely on group homes and nursing homes to care for their loved ones.

These homes often promote the skill of the staff, the level of care and attention residents will receive, and the comfort of knowing your family member is well-cared-for and safe. Unfortunately, what is advertised and promised by these homes is not always what is delivered.

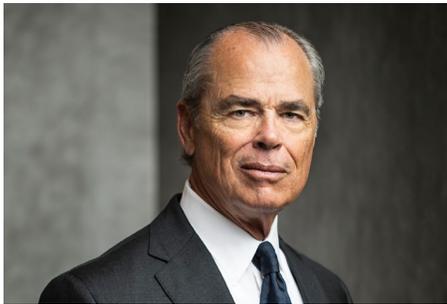
Our firm will work as long as it takes to hold these companies fully accountable for what happened to Matthew – and to fight for changes in corporate safety culture so that special needs residents are better protected in the future.

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.

Accolades

The partners of **Cunningham Bounds** are honored that the firm has been recognized in the **2019 Chambers & Partners** rankings of the best law firms in the United States. Cunningham Bounds was one of only two law firms in Alabama, and the only firm in Mobile, to receive the highest ranking of "Band 1" for Litigation: Mainly Plaintiff from Chambers & Partners.

In addition to the firm ranking, five Cunningham Bounds partners were recognized individually based on their legal knowledge and experience, their skill, their accomplishments and their service to clients:



Robert T. Cunningham



Joseph M. Brown, Jr.



Gregory B. Breedlove



George W. Finkbohner, III



David S. Cain, Jr.

Chambers & Partners is a well-respected ranking entity in the legal field, providing reliable and trusted recommendations. Its rankings are based on in-depth and objective research that includes an evaluation of recent work done by firms and attorneys, including feedback from clients and lawyers outside the firm. Attorneys do not pay a fee to receive recognition.

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BY THE NATIONAL BOARD
OF TRIAL ADVOCACY

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



Lucy Tufts was inducted into the International Academy of Trial Lawyers.

Membership is limited to 500 Fellows from the United States. The Academy conducts a comprehensive screening process to identify the most distinguished members of the trial bar by means of both peer and judicial review.

Do You Follow Us on Facebook?

If you would like to keep up with our community involvement and sponsorships, along with our most recent news, follow us on Facebook. Our firm page also provides the opportunity for you to post your personal review of our attorneys and staff.

A Hidden Danger in E-Cigarettes & Vaping Devices: What the Manufacturers Know but Won't Tell You



What are e-cigarettes? E-cigarettes are devices that heat a liquid into an aerosol that the user inhales. The liquid usually has nicotine and flavoring in it, along with other additives. E-cigarettes have grown in popularity due to a misconception that they are safer than traditional cigarettes.

E-cigarettes and vaping devices pose a hidden danger to users: lithium-ion batteries.

E-cigarettes and/or vaporizers are battery-operated and use a heating element to produce vapor. The heating element is often powered by a lithium-ion battery. Lithium-ion batteries are used in e-cigarettes and vaporizers because they are rechargeable and have high levels of energy density and voltage. However, lithium-ion batteries are known to fail through a process called "thermal runaway." During this process, battery temperatures can reach 900°C and release flammable and toxic gases.



Research proves that many users of e-cigarettes have been injured by explosions and fires caused by the failure of lithium-ion batteries. In July 2017, the National Fire Data Center of the U.S. Fire Administration identified 195 separate e-cigarette incidents in the United States between January 2009 and December 31, 2016. Thirty-eight incidents resulted in third-degree burns, facial injuries or the loss of a body part. One hundred and twenty-one (62 percent) of these incidents

occurred when a device was either in a pocket or actively in use. The batteries can also explode even when they are not in an e-cigarette or vaping device.

For those who are burned by these incredibly dangerous batteries, the effects are devastating. The attorneys of Cunningham Bounds want to hold manufacturers accountable for the injuries users have suffered as a result of these exploding batteries. If you have been injured due to a lithium-ion battery explosion, please give us a call. We'd like to help.

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**

Spring and early summer were busy for our attorneys and staff. We supported a number of local organizations through our sponsorship of, and our participation in, many fundraisers and events. Some of the organizations we assisted included the following:

1. The 5th Annual Downtown Cajun Cook-Off was held in March. We have been pleased to serve as the Presenting Sponsor of this unique event every year. Thanks to an outstanding group of local volunteers and to everyone who attended, the 2019 cook-off raised more than \$80,000 for the **Child Advocacy Center of Mobile!**
2. Also in March, the **Mobile Bar Association** celebrated its 150th Anniversary and its history of success. Our firm served as one of the sponsors and helped with the events surrounding the celebration.
3. In April, we sponsored and participated in the **National Alliance on Mental Illness** Awareness Walk. Funds raised from the event benefit local individuals and families in our community affected by mental illness.
4. Cunningham Bounds was the Lead Sponsor of the **Lions Club** Tunnel Vision Race that took place in May. We had a team of runners who competed and five of them took home medals. The event raised funds for the Lions Club to provide vision screenings and eyeglasses for those in our community who cannot afford them.

We look forward to continuing our community support this fall and winter!

