

LEGAL UPDATE

CUNNINGHAM BOUNDS

FALL 2022

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Jury Returns \$6.5 Million Verdict for Woman Severely Injured in a Head-On Collision

On August 29, 2019, a vehicle crossed the center line of Highway 45 in Mobile County, Alabama and crashed head-on into Meghan Grove's vehicle. Meghan's life was forever changed that afternoon.

After being extricated from her vehicle by emergency responders, she was flown by Life Flight to the Trauma Center at USA Health University Hospital where she was diagnosed with multiple pelvic fractures, a broken elbow, a broken wrist and multiple lacerations. Meghan underwent emergency surgery and spent 18 days in the hospital, followed by 40 days in an inpatient rehabilitation facility. Even after discharge, Meghan continued to require extensive physical therapy. During trial, multiple medical providers, including Meghan's treating orthopedic trauma surgeon, testified about the extent of her life-altering injuries.

The driver who crossed the center line had limited insurance coverage that was insufficient to fully compensate Meghan for the severe injuries and damages she suffered. Accordingly, Meghan sought

compensation from her underinsured motorist coverage – which was provided by State Farm and for which she had paid premiums for many years. The purpose of underinsured motorist coverage is to cover a person for injuries and damages caused by someone who doesn't have enough insurance. State Farm refused to fully compensate Meghan for her injuries and even attempted to blame her – its own insured – for the collision. Throughout the litigation and up until the first morning of trial, State Farm denied that the other driver was at fault, contrary to the physical evidence documented at the scene by investigating law enforcement officers.

Due to State Farm's refusal to fully compensate Meghan, Cunningham Bounds filed a lawsuit against State Farm to force it to pay the underinsured motorist benefits due to Meghan. On October 6, 2022, a Mobile County jury awarded \$6,500,000 against State Farm and in favor of Meghan Grove.

Cunningham Bounds attorneys Robert Mitchell and Lucy Tufts tried the case.

After the multi-day trial, Mr. Mitchell stated, "The jury in this case stood up not only for Meghan Grove but also for corporate accountability in general. State Farm had every opportunity to do the right thing, but it made a deliberate decision to put profits over protecting its own insured. We are extremely pleased for our client, who very much deserved this result, and we are also proud of the jury for having the courage to return a meaningful verdict. Hopefully, this result will change the way State Farm treats its policyholders."



Accolades



Welcome – Tyler Flowers

The attorneys of Cunningham Bounds are excited to welcome Tyler Flowers to the firm as a new Associate. Tyler grew up in Mobile and graduated from McGill-Toolen Catholic High School before furthering his education at the University of Alabama. He earned his Juris Doctor from Cumberland School of Law. During law school, Tyler was awarded the Daniel Austin Brewer Professionalism Award granted to a graduating law student who best exemplifies high standards of ethics and professionalism. Tyler’s practice focuses on automobile and trucking accidents, premises liability, products liability, industrial accidents, medical malpractice, and fraud.

Cunningham Bounds Attorneys Earn 2023 Best Lawyers® Honors

Cunningham Bounds attorneys have recently been recognized and honored by Best Lawyers®. Best Lawyers® is an organization that is highly respected in the legal profession and its annual awards are based on exhaustive peer review surveys in which tens of thousands of leading lawyers confidentially evaluate their professional peers. Cunningham Bounds attorneys have been recognized annually by Best Lawyers® for over 25 years.

Best Lawyers® “Lawyer of the Year” Awards:

Toby Brown (Medical Malpractice Law – Plaintiffs), **Steve Nicholas** (Bet-the-Company Litigation) and **Dave Wirtes** (Appellate Practice) received Lawyer of the Year awards.

Best Lawyers® Ones to Watch Award:

Aaron Maples was recognized on the Ones to Watch awards list.

Best Lawyers in America® Awards:

Best Lawyers in America recognitions were awarded to:

LEGALUPDATE CUNNINGHAM BOUNDS LLC

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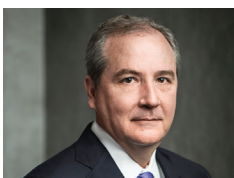
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Water Contamination at Camp Lejeune



Cunningham Bounds is investigating claims on behalf of clients who were exposed to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune, a marine base in Jacksonville, North Carolina. Since the early 1950s, tens of thousands of service members, their families, and civilians were exposed to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune. Exposure to the water has been linked to a variety of cancers, diseases and birth defects.

Congress has passed bipartisan legislation allowing exposed individuals to file claims against the federal government for injuries suffered because of the contaminated water at Camp Lejeune. Claims are open to any person who lived, worked, or was exposed (including *in utero*) to the water at Camp Lejeune for at least 30 days between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987.



Qualifying conditions and diseases may include:

- Bladder cancer
- Liver cancer
- Kidney cancer
- Leukemia
- Multiple myeloma
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Renal toxicity
- Scleroderma
- Parkinson's disease
- Cardiac defects
- Bile duct cancer
- Colorectal cancer
- Gallbladder cancer
- Intestinal cancer
- Esophageal cancer
- Lung cancer
- Pancreatic cancer
- Appendix cancer
- Breast cancer
- Miscarriage
- Birth defects
- Female infertility
- Aplastic anemia or other myelodysplastic syndromes

- Neurobehavioral effects
- Cognitive disabilities
- Brain cancer
- Sinus cancer
- Soft tissue sarcoma
- Spinal cancer
- Thyroid cancer
- ALS
- Autoimmune disease
- Hepatic steatosis
- Fatty liver disease
- Multiple sclerosis

VA Disability Benefits

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is offering certain people who fell ill due to water contamination at Camp Lejeune disability benefits. Claiming VA benefits does not prevent you from filing a Camp Lejeune water contamination lawsuit.

What Should I Do?

If you lived and/or worked at Camp Lejeune during this time period and were exposed to contaminated water, it would be our honor to fight for you. Please call us at 251.471.6191 to speak to a member of our team.



CUNNINGHAM BOUNDS

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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."

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In Our Community

Cunningham Bounds attorneys Amanda Herren, Jenna Jayjohn, Tyler Flowers, and Lucy Tufts, together with paralegal Renita Allen, helped kick-off a new year for Order of Fuse. The Order of Fuse, a diverse group of young professionals looking to give back to their communities in a unique way, was established in 2015 in association with the Fuse Project. The Fuse Project is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing the spark for innovation, funding, and implementation of projects benefiting children along Alabama's Gulf Coast.



Save The Date

Cajun Cook-Off (March 25, 2023)

