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## Cunningham Bounds Represents Sheriff's Deputy Hit By 18-Wheeler: Jury Renders \$2 Million Verdict

Recently, a Mobile County jury returned a \$2 million verdict in favor of a sheriff's deputy who was injured in 2018 when a tractor-trailer operated by Southeastern Freight Lines, Inc. crashed into the back of his service vehicle at over 60 mph. At the time of the crash, Deputy Admire Gant was lawfully stopped on the westbound Bayway Bridge with his blue lights flashing, providing protection to a street sweeping operation ahead of him. The crash pitched Deputy Gant's service vehicle up onto the retaining wall, pushed him the length of a 6-story building, and caused the Southeastern Freight Lines truck to burn to the ground. The driver for Southeastern Freight Lines was uninjured.

The crash aggravated Deputy Gant's pre-existing spinal retrolisthesis, which is a condition that occurs when a vertebra slips backward or underneath a disc. At the time of trial, Deputy Gant had undergone six lumbar epidural procedures and medical testimony demonstrated he will likely need medical care in the future.

"This was a preventable crash. All the Southeastern Freight Lines truck had to do was follow the most basic safe driving principles," said attorney Robert Mitchell of Cunningham Bounds, who tried this case with his law partner, Lucy Tufts. "Deputy Gant has lived a life of service – in the United States Army, the United States Air Force, the Mobile Police Department, and now the Mobile County Sheriff's Office. Our law firm is proud to have represented him, and we're proud of the jury for standing up for him," Mitchell said.



The case was tried under strict COVID-19 safety protocols and is one of only a handful of plaintiff verdicts in the United States since jury trials were suspended in March 2020 due to the pandemic. "It was clear the judges here in Mobile County and their staffs have put a lot of energy and effort into making the process safe for everyone involved – especially the jurors. The court did a tremendous job of keeping the jurors protected throughout the trial. I know the jurors were appreciative of that and it enabled them to focus on doing their job," added Mitchell.

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

**Cunningham Bounds** received the **highest recognition** awarded in the 2021 edition of "Best Law Firms" by U.S. News & World Report – Best Lawyers®. Firms are chosen based on an in-depth analysis of past success, client testimonials, and peer respect. Cunningham Bounds ranked Tier 1 in all the following categories:

- Appellate Practice
- Bet-the-Company Litigation
- Commercial Litigation
- Litigation – Banking & Finance
- Litigation – Bankruptcy
- Litigation – Construction
- Personal Injury Litigation – Plaintiffs
- Product Liability Litigation – Plaintiffs

In addition to the Best Law Firms distinction, **all the partners of Cunningham Bounds** were honored with listings across various practice areas in the 2021 edition of The Best Lawyers in America. To be listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*, an attorney must be nominated, at which point their career history, expertise, and influence are reviewed by their peers. Since the list includes **only** the top 5% of practicing lawyers in the United States, a nominee is subject to this meticulous review to evaluate whether a listing is warranted. Furthermore, three attorneys were named 2021 Best Lawyers® Lawyer of the Year in specific practice areas:



**David Wirtes**  
Appellate Practice



**Skip Finkbohner**  
Personal Injury Litigation  
Plaintiffs



**Steve Olen**  
Litigation  
Banking & Finance



**David Cain** was recently inducted into the **International Academy of Trial Lawyers**. The Academy is recognized as the most prestigious organization of trial lawyers in the world, limiting Fellowship to 500 active trial lawyers from the United States. It only inducts attorneys who have a career of excellence as shown by their skills in trial, and as demonstrated by their integrity and professionalism.



**Brian Duncan and Lucy Tufts** were honored by the **Litigation Counsel of America** with a Fellowship. Fellows are selected after being evaluated for effectiveness and accomplishment in litigation and trial work, along with ethical reputation. Membership is limited to 3,500 Fellows, representing less than one-half of one percent of American lawyers.

## LEGALUPDATE

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OF APPELLATE PRACTICE



# Jury Duty: Your Opportunity to Make a Difference



At Cunningham Bounds, we believe in our jury system and in each citizen's right to a trial by jury.

We recognize that some people worry about being summoned for jury duty. And, we understand the reasons. It's inconvenient. It disrupts your everyday routine. It's a financial burden due to time missed from work or increased expenses for childcare. It can be very stressful and cause hardships.



However, our system of trial by jury is also the very best independent legal system in the world. A courtroom is one of the only places where an ordinary citizen can stand toe-to-toe with a large corporation, the government, or anyone else.

That is why we carefully prepare each case for trial. We make enormous efforts to develop the evidence, prepare witnesses, and present the case efficiently and effectively so that jurors have all the information they need to make a fair decision. Those who have no other opportunity to be heard should always have a voice in the courtroom.

The right to a trial by jury is what sets our country's legal system apart from others. Like voting, jury duty is a civic responsibility and a critical part of a healthy democracy. If you have served on a jury, thank you. Your contribution to our system of justice is immeasurable. If you have not yet had the opportunity to serve on a jury, we hope you will get the chance to meaningfully participate in a case for individual litigants and uphold this fundamental right we all cherish.





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"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."

## 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.

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