



YEAR IN REVIEW

NEWSLETTER

RECORD-BREAKING JUSTICE: — \$52+ MILLION —

WON FOR OUR CLIENTS IN 2023

With great enthusiasm and gratitude, we commemorate the hard work put in by our attorneys, clerks, and staff throughout the year. We also extend a sincere thank you to the law firms and attorneys who referred clients and trusted us to get record-setting results. In 2023, we were able to secure over \$52 million in verdicts and settlements on behalf of our injured clients and their families.

Our strong commitment to advocating for the rights of injured people remains at the core of our mission, which has been the same for over 75 years. From navigating the complexities of wrongful death claims, to the handling of intricate products liability cases and challenging trucking or motorcycle accidents, each case presents unique hurdles that we as injury lawyers must overcome.

Looking ahead to 2024 and beyond, Phillips Law Offices remains steadfast in our commitment to advocating for justice and

ensuring that every client receives the personalized attention and strong representation they deserve. Keep reading to learn more about the intriguing details of some of the cases we managed to resolve and milestones met during the year 2023.

We recognize that behind every settlement or verdict, there are stories of client resilience, perseverance, and hope. As we reflect on 2023, we note our genuine admiration for our clients and their families who continue to fight every day despite the enormous obstacles that have been put in their way.

THINKING ABOUT REFERRING AN INJURY CASE ?

CONTACT ONE OF OUR RECORD-BREAKING PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEYS. CALL US NOW AT (312) 346-4262 OR CONTACT US VIA EMAIL AT EVERYBODY@PHILLIPSLEGAL.COM.

PHILLIPS LAW OFFICES HAS BEEN FIGHTING FOR THE RIGHTS OF PERSONAL INJURY AND WRONGFUL DEATH VICTIMS FOR OVER 75 YEARS. WE'RE HERE TO HELP.



Phillips Law Offices is proud to announce that its managing partner, Stephen D. Phillips, and Michael J. Phillips secured a \$15 million settlement for the wrongful death of a 48 year-old man who died following an outpatient elective hernia surgery.

The decedent, a supervisor at a local grocery store chain, was injured at work when he was lifting a heavy object. He suffered a hernia injury—a non-life threatening condition that hundreds of thousands of Americans safely undergo surgery for every year. When our client arrived at his surgeon's office, his blood pressure was 178/120, which the American Heart Association, or "AHA," describes as Stage 2 hypertension and on the threshold of hypertensive crisis. The surgeon marked the decedent's blood pressure as "normal", ordered no additional testing, and scheduled him for surgery.

When the decedent arrived at the hospital the morning of surgery, his blood pressure was taken again, this time at 207/142—a hypertensive crisis according to the AHA. In her 22 years at the hospital, the nurse who took the decedent's blood pressure had never seen a blood pressure as high as our client's and thought for sure that his surgery would be cancelled. The anesthesiologist and nurse anesthetist both spoke with our client and proceeded with surgery. Our client, a caring husband and father of five children, suffered a cardiac arrest during surgery due to his hypertensive crisis, was terribly brain-injured, and died a few months thereafter.

"When your patient arrives in hypertensive crisis, you as a healthcare provider have a duty to protect your patient—not send him to elective, non-urgent hernia surgery under general anesthesia," said Stephen Phillips, the primary attorney on the case. "The substantial amount this case settled for speaks volumes to how egregious the conduct of the healthcare providers was when they were not willing to advocate for their patient and stop this surgery from proceeding."

"Defendants in medical malpractice cases love to say, 'if it's not in the medical chart, it did not happen,'" said Phillips. "Yet, when they need to craft up a defense outside of the chart, they say, 'We treat the patient, not the chart. We cannot write everything down, give us a break.'"

"The defense made a big deal about communication between our client and their health care providers. "There was a lot of finger-pointing in this case, a lot of, 'If I had known this, I would have done that.' At some point, there needed to be some self-reflection and self-responsibility by the health care providers."

The decedent is survived by his wife of 24 years and five children—one of whom is disabled and requires 24-hour care. Our client would come home from work and immediately stepped into the role of caretaker of his special needs son, sleeping next to him, changing his clothes, and bathing him. He was incredibly dedicated to his family and community and his death leaves a big hole in the lives of his family, friends, and coworkers.

\$10 Million Dollar Wrongful Death Settlement on Behalf of the Family of a 48-Year-Old Husband and Father

Phillips Law Offices is incredibly pleased to report that attorneys Stephen D. Phillips and Stephen J. Phillips recently secured a \$10,000,000 settlement for the wrongful death of a 48 year old man who was killed by the driver of a box truck in September of 2018. In the early morning hours of September 14, 2018, the plaintiff, a 48 year old maintenance technician was on his way to work in the Chicagoland area when he pulled over to assist the driver of a disabled limousine that was sticking partially into the travel lane. Our client, along with another Good Samaritan, attempted to help the limousine driver move the limousine off of the roadway. During that time, dozens of other vehicles safely went around the disabled limousine.

At approximately 4:55 a.m., the defendant driver, operating a company box truck, came careening down the roadway and collided with the disabled limousine, catapulting the decedent over 60 feet in the air into a nearby marsh, killing him. Tellingly, the defendant's GPS data showed that the defendant was traveling 46 miles per hour at the time of impact and made no attempt to brake until after impact. The responding police officers noted that there were no skid marks on the pavement to indicate braking until after impact.

The decedent was survived by his wife of 28 years, four adult children, and two grandchildren. He was a devoted husband, compassionate human being, and loving father, who went out of his way to serve his community, including friends and strangers. A first generation immigrant, he came to America and established a life for himself, working two jobs to earn money. He was an extremely hard worker, who took great pride in getting to work early and staying late. His four children are all successful young adults who work in helping professions. They attribute their desire to help others to the guidance and morals passed down by their dad.

Throughout the discovery process, there were over twenty depositions taken and two dozen court appearances. The case was handled primarily by Stephen J. Phillips. The defendants initially offered \$500,000 to settle the case.

"The defendants spent almost 5 years refusing to accept responsibility for their driver's actions. They pointed the finger at everybody else including the limo driver and our client, the Good Samaritan. Meanwhile, we just kept taking depositions, working up the case, and preparing it for trial. It is an incredible feeling to be able to help such a remarkable family get closure after such a tragic event."

– Stephen J. Phillips



Phillips Law Offices Recognized in Best Lawyers in America[®] 2024

It is with great pleasure that we announce Stephen D. Phillips and Terrence M. Quinn have once again been named in The Best Lawyers in America[®] 2024. Stephen D. Phillips, managing partner, has earned recognition continuously since 2018, while Terrence M. Quinn, partner, has received this recognition for 3 consecutive years. Both lawyers have consistently received Tier 1 rankings for their exceptional work in Medical Malpractice, Personal Injury, and Product Liability Litigation. Their unwavering dedication and expertise have earned this prestigious recognition, cementing their commitment to advocating for justice on behalf of their clients. Furthermore, Phillips Law Offices as whole is proud to have been recognized in the Best Law Firms in Illinois for 2024.



STEPHEN D. PHILLIPS

TERRENCE M. QUINN

Michael J. Phillips & Alec D. Mesrobian Reflect on First Year as Licensed Attorneys at Phillips Law Offices!



Alec D. Mesrobian

Michael J. Phillips

A year ago, two highly motivated individuals, Michael J. Phillips and Alec D. Mesrobian, began their journeys as licensed attorneys at Phillips Law Offices. Today marks a significant milestone as they commemorate their remarkable first year in the legal profession, and what a phenomenal year it has been!

Both Alec and Michael started working at Phillips Law Offices on summer break during high school. During undergraduate study, both decided that they wanted to take the LSAT and go to law school.

Now, almost five years later, Alec and Michael have just completed their first full year as attorneys. Throughout the past year, Michael and

Alec have exhibited not only legal knowledge, but also their empathy and compassion towards our clients. Their ability to listen attentively, understand complex legal issues, and provide strategic input has made them invaluable members of our team. As they embark on the next phase of their legal careers, we're excited to witness their continued growth, accomplishments, and positive impact in the legal field.

“Embrace the mindset of constant learning. Stay updated on legal changes and trends and don’t be afraid to go and watch trials of more senior attorneys! You will add things to your legal tool box by doing so.”

-Alec D. Mesrobian

\$10 Million Personal Injury Settlement ON BEHALF OF A CHILD INJURED IN AN ESCALATOR INCIDENT

After a 6 years of litigation, Phillips Law Offices was able to secure a significant \$10 million settlement on behalf of a child injured in a harrowing escalator incident at a Chicagoland business. The unfortunate incident occurred when the child's hand became entrapped in the escalator. Shockingly, the escalator lacked a high mount emergency stop button, which allowed the child's fingers to become trapped and travel approximately 25 feet before the escalator stopped moving.

Our office immediately conducted an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the incident, uncovering substantial evidence of the business owner's repeated disregard for crucial safety measures. After subpoenaing thousand of pages

documents, we were able to show that the defendant business owner had been warned on multiple occasions that its escalators were old and needed modernization. We argued that the business owner failed to ensure proper escalator maintenance, neglected essential cleaning measures and deferred crucial safety upgrades to save a money. As a result, our client lost three fingers.

The \$10 million settlement will provide this young man the financial security to cover medical expenses, future care, rehabilitation, and aid in ensuring a better quality of life as he navigates the challenges of adulthood.

This case was handled by Stephen D. Phillips.



CHICAGO'S RECORD-BREAKING ATTORNEYS FIGHTING FOR YOU

For over 75 years, Phillips Law Offices has represented personal injury victims in Chicago and across the state – with record verdicts and settlements for our clients and their families. When our opposing lawyer's family members or friends are wrongfully injured they call us to represent them – a testament to our reputation and standing in the legal community. Our Chicago personal injury and medical malpractice attorneys also represent the family members of wrongful death victims with record verdicts and settlements.

If you have been injured in an accident, or have been the victim of the negligent or wrongful actions of others, call us now at (312) 346-4262!

The information provided on this website does not, and is not intended to, constitute legal advice; instead, all information, content, and materials available on this site are for general informational purposes only.

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