



YEAR IN REVIEW

2025: A YEAR OF RESULTS & A COMMITMENT THAT NEVER WAVERS.

In 2025, Phillips Law Offices continued to do what we have done for 77 years: stand up for people and families when they needed it most. From serious auto injury cases, trucking negligence, and construction negligence to complex medical negligence claims, our team remained focused on one goal — delivering results that make a real difference in our clients' lives.

Our attorneys secured multiple seven-figure recoveries on behalf of clients harmed by **preventable negligence**. These results included a **\$9 million** wrongful death settlement for the family of a woman who died during what should have been a routine outpatient procedure, as well as a **\$6 million** medical malpractice settlement for a five-year-old boy whose life was forever changed after a hospital failed to properly monitor a common newborn medical condition.

We also took cases to verdict — and trusted juries to do what powerful defendants would not. **A Cook County jury returned a \$1.965 million verdict in our clients' favor** after finding that a police officer acted willfully and wantonly when he reversed his vehicle into our clients' car, despite the City's attempts to avoid responsibility through immunity defenses. In another significant healthcare negligence case, **our firm obtained a \$750,000 settlement for a vulnerable patient** who suffered severe injuries after basic care protocols were ignored in a skilled rehabilitation facility.

These outcomes did not come easily. Each case required years of litigation, exhaustive discovery, expert testimony, and a willingness to push forward when defendants chose denial over accountability. Behind every win is a client who trusted us during one of the most difficult moments of their life — and a legal team committed to honoring that trust.

At Phillips Law Offices, results are never just numbers — they are the outcome of relentless preparation, tough decisions, and a refusal to accept a casual “these things happen” from the defense as an answer. This past year was defined by cases that tested those principles and reaffirmed why accountability remains at the core of everything we do.

The stories that follow highlight just a portion of the work completed this year. Together, they reflect a simple truth: when powerful corporations fail to accept responsibility, meaningful change can only come when someone is willing to challenge them. At Phillips Law Offices, that responsibility is one we take seriously — every case, every client, every year.



PHILLIPS LAW OFFICES

Preparation • Persistence • Passion

YEAR IN REVIEW

From record-setting medical malpractice settlements to jury verdicts holding defendants accountable, 2025 was a year that reinforced why preparation, persistence, and passion matter.



Phillips Law Offices Secures **\$9 MILLION WRONGFUL DEATH SETTLEMENT FOR FAMILY OF 61-YEAR-OLD WOMAN**

Phillips Law Offices is incredibly pleased to report that attorney Stephen J. Phillips recently secured a \$9,000,000 settlement for the wrongful death of a 61 year old woman who died during an elective medical procedure at a local Chicagoland Hospital.

The woman had recently been diagnosed with Stage 1 breast cancer, which her oncologist testified was caught very early and was highly curable. She had undergone a mastectomy and was preparing to begin chemotherapy. As part of her treatment plan, doctors scheduled what was described as a routine outpatient port placement, a common procedure designed to make chemotherapy administration easier. Instead, the procedure turned fatal.



Stephen J. Phillips, Partner

During surgery, the surgeon failed to use ultrasound guidance despite it being readily available. Instead, he relied on “physical landmarks,” a technique sometimes referred to as going in “blind.” As a result, the surgeon mistakenly entered an artery instead of a vein, causing massive internal bleeding and cardiac arrest. A vascular surgeon was called but by the time help arrived, it was too late. Our client died from blood loss.

For three years, the hospital and surgeon fought the case, initially claiming the death was caused by a supposed anatomical abnormality. That claim was later disproven by the independent pathologist who performed an autopsy, confirming our client’s heart and blood vessels were entirely normal. Even so, the defense continued to deny responsibility. Discovery in this case went on for over three years and consisted of over twenty-five (25) depositions and forty-nine (49) court appearances.



“This death was entirely preventable. The facts were clear from the beginning, and the defenses were not supported by the evidence. The amount of the settlement reflects how egregious the conduct truly was.”

-Stephen J. Phillips

The woman is survived by her two adult daughters. Beyond her professional career as a longtime supervisor at her job, she was deeply committed to her community—assembling “blessing bags” for the homeless, mentoring young people, and helping others find jobs simply because she believed in making a difference.

The case settled one month before trial, bringing accountability and justice to a family whose loved one should have lived a full, normal life.



GIVING BACK: PHILLIPS LAW OFFICES HOLIDAY TURKEY & HAM GIVEAWAY

Our work doesn't stop at the courthouse doors. This year, Phillips Law Offices proudly partnered with Saint James Catholic Church in the Bronzeville Neighborhood to host a Turkey and Ham Giveaway, helping families in our community during the holiday season.

Serving our community is part of who we are — and we're grateful for every opportunity to give back to the neighborhoods we serve.



Phillips Law Offices Launches the Navigating Negligence Podcast

Phillips Law Offices is proud to announce the launch of *Navigating Negligence*, a new podcast designed to make injury law more accessible while shedding light on the real stories behind real cases.

Navigating Negligence explores how negligence occurs, why accountability matters, and what injured individuals should understand when navigating complex legal and insurance systems. Each episode draws on decades of courtroom experience to break down medical errors, vehicle collisions, institutional failures, and common misconceptions surrounding personal injury law.

New episodes of *Navigating Negligence* are available to watch on YouTube or listen wherever you get your podcasts, including Spotify and Apple Podcasts, making it easy to tune in on your own schedule.



\$2.5 MILLION WRONGFUL DEATH SETTLEMENT

MEDICAL ERROR DURING ROUTINE HEART PROCEDURE



Stephen D. Phillips
Managing Partner

We are proud to announce that Stephen D. Phillips and Michael J. Phillips were able to obtain a \$2.5 million pre-suit settlement on behalf of a 78-year-old man who died when a resident physician punctured his heart three times during routine chest tube placement.

The incident occurred when our client was being treated for esophageal cancer. After he successfully completed his radiation and chemotherapy treatment, he was scheduled to undergo surgery to remove his esophagus. The surgery was uneventful and the pathology report showed that he was cancer free. However, three days post-surgery, a resident physician made a fatal error involving the placement of chest tubes.



Michael J. Phillips
Associate

The placement of chest tubes is a common post-surgical treatment when patients are having difficulty breathing. Chest tubes are inserted into the pleural space—the area surrounding the lungs—to drain any air or fluid that is pressing on the lungs and restricting breathing. Unfortunately for our client, the resident physician in charge of placing the chest tubes went well beyond our client's lungs and ended up puncturing his heart. Our client shortly thereafter went into cardiac arrest and passed away, leaving behind his wife and adult daughter.

The Defendant hospital vehemently argued that our client's short-term and long-term outlook was very poor due to the reoccurrence rate of

esophageal cancer as well as his underlying cardiovascular disease and risk of future heart failure. Moreover, our client had only been married for two years—something Defendant's argued should limit the amount of recovery.

"It's really unfortunate that after successfully fighting cancer and undergoing surgery, this man ended up dying as a result of this medical negligence," said partner, Stephen D. Phillips. "I think it speaks volumes to the conduct in this case as well as to the mediation memo that we prepared that the defendants were willing to fairly resolve this case presuit."

"I was sitting in the car with my father when we first spoke with the family," said Michael J. Phillips. "To see this process through from start to finish and be part of the meditations was a valuable learning experience on how to resolve a case like this in a fair and timely manner."

\$6 MILLION MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE SETTLEMENT FOR FIVE-YEAR-OLD BOY

Attorney Stephen J. Phillips secured a \$6,000,000 medical negligence settlement on behalf of a five-year-old boy who suffered permanent hearing loss due to improper medical care shortly after birth at a Chicagoland hospital.

Our client was born full-term after a routine prenatal course and initially appeared healthy. However, routine bloodwork revealed elevated bilirubin levels that placed him on the edge of “high risk.” Elevated bilirubin in newborns is a well-known medical condition that requires careful monitoring, prompt follow-up, and intervention to prevent neurological injury.

Despite these warning signs — and despite hospital policies requiring close follow-up — medical staff discharged the newborn home with an appointment scheduled six days later. **He was sent home without a plan to recheck bilirubin levels.** Just three days later, his mother rushed him back to the emergency department when he became lethargic and difficult to wake. By then, his bilirubin levels were dangerously high, requiring emergency phototherapy and blood transfusions.

As a result of his dangerously high bilirubin, he was ultimately diagnosed with Auditory Neuropathy Spectrum Disorder (ANSD), a permanent hearing disorder caused by damage to the auditory nerve.

The defendants fiercely contested liability for more than three years, retaining multiple medical experts and arguing the injury was unavoidable and caused by a genetic abnormality. Through 31 depositions, 24 court appearances, and relentless preparation, Mr. Phillips exposed critical contradictions in testimony and failures to follow basic safety standards. The case settled one month before trial.

“Today, this young boy — **inquisitive, resilient, and supported by extraordinary parents** — uses hearing aids to hear and continues with speech therapy. Despite his limitations, he is able to have meaningful communication with his family. The settlement ensures lifelong access to care, assistive technology, and resources that will help him thrive.”



Stephen J. Phillips

\$1.965 MILLION JURY VERDICT

IN POLICE VEHICLE COLLISION CASE

Phillips Law Offices Secures Substantial Award Despite City's Contested Liability Defense

A Cook County jury returned a **\$1,965,000** verdict in favor our clients who were injured when a Chicago police officer abruptly reversed his vehicle into their vehicle during an emergency response in the Humboldt Park neighborhood

The incident occurred on November 5, 2022, as officers were responding to a report of a stolen vehicle. After a brief pursuit, several suspects fled on foot into a nearby alley. While assisting in the search, a responding officer stopped his vehicle on West LeMoyné Street **and suddenly reversed at a high rate of speed** toward the alley — striking the plaintiffs' vehicle, which had been following behind and had come to a complete stop.

At trial, the officer testified that he did not know the plaintiffs' vehicle was behind him and could not recall whether he checked his mirrors before reversing at a high rate of speed. Both **plaintiffs suffered serious injuries**, including herniated disc injuries requiring medical treatment. One plaintiff also lost the significant amount of his sense of smell after his face struck the airbag during the collision.

The City of Chicago denied responsibility, asserting governmental immunity and claiming the officer was executing and enforcing the law at the time of the crash. The City further attempted to shift blame to the plaintiff-driver and disputed the severity of the injuries, arguing they were the result of pre-existing conditions.

After hearing the evidence, the jury rejected those defenses. Through special interrogatories, the jury found that the officer was executing and enforcing the law at the time of the incident and that his conduct was willful and wanton — a necessary finding to impose liability under Illinois law.



Terrence M. Quinn, Partner



Alec D. Mesrobian, Associate

"This verdict sends an important message. Rather than accepting responsibility for conduct that was clearly captured on video, the City chose to attack our clients' credibility and shift blame. The jury saw through both tactics."

- Terrence Quinn

"The award reflected the jury's understanding of how significantly the collision affected both plaintiffs' quality of life, despite efforts to minimize their injuries."

-Alec D. Mesrobian

The jury's award includes compensation for **past and future pain and suffering, loss of normal life, and emotional distress**, reinforcing a fundamental principle: **accountability applies to everyone** — even when the defendant is a municipal government.

\$750,000 SETTLEMENT FOR NEGLIGENCE AT CHICAGOLAND REHABILITATION FACILITY



Alec D. Mesrobian

Attorney Alec D. Mesrobian secured a \$750,000 settlement for a client who developed a devastating stage-4 pressure ulcer while in a physical rehabilitation facility.

Through meticulous review of thousands of medical records and key admissions from nursing staff, the case revealed repeated failures to follow basic repositioning orders – a simple step that could have prevented significant harm.

After three years of litigation, the settlement provided long-overdue justice for a vulnerable patient and ranked among the highest non-wrongful-death pressure ulcer recoveries in the state that year. This settlement not only provides our client with just compensation for her suffering, but also sends a powerful message about accountability in healthcare. It reinforces our firm's commitment to holding rehabilitation facilities accountable when caring for their most vulnerable patients.

PHILLIPS LAW OFFICES SECURES

\$750,000 MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE SETTLEMENT AFTER WRONG FLUID WAS INJECTED DURING MRI

Phillips Law Offices is pleased to announce that **attorney Michael J. Phillips has secured a \$750,000 settlement** on behalf of a 58 year-old woman who was unintentionally injected with a local anesthetic during an outpatient MRI procedure, causing her to suffer seizures and a multi-night stay in the hospital.



Michael J. Phillips

The incident occurred when our client presented for a routine outpatient MRI. After the imaging was completed, the MRI technician intended to wash out our client's IV site with saline—a harmless solution of salt and water—but instead inadvertently administered lidocaine, a local anesthetic that is not intended to be given via IV. Almost immediately, our client began to experience seizures and was transferred via EMS to a nearby hospital where she was intubated to protect her airway. Ultimately, she spent three nights in the hospital recovering from the seizures and had several follow-up visits with a neurologist and pulmonologist after discharge.

Despite this case involving the administration of an unintended medication, the defendant contested liability by arguing that mistakes happen and that our client was not permanently or severely injured.


“Even on a case with a fact pattern like this, we were in and out of court compelling discovery from the defendant, deposing 10+ witnesses, and did extensive medical research to prove fault and causation,” said attorney Michael Phillips. “I am thrilled that we were able to secure this settlement on behalf of our client who was a blameless victim of a blatant medical error.”



**PHILLIPS
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Preparation • Persistence • Passion

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Stephen D. Phillips
Terrence M. Quinn
Stephen J. Phillips
Michael J. Phillips
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THINKING ABOUT REFERRING AN INJURY CASE? CALL US. PHILLIPS LAW OFFICES HAS BEEN HELPING PEOPLE WITH INJURY CASES AND WRONGFUL DEATH CASES FOR OVER 77 YEARS.



Proven Results. Personal Attention.

CHICAGO'S RECORD BREAKING ATTORNEYS FIGHTING FOR YOU

For over 77 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 counsel's family members are wrongfully injured, they call us to represent them - a testament to our reputation and tenacity in working up our cases. Our Chicago personal injury attorneys routinely represent the family members of injury and wrongful death victims and achieve record verdicts and settlements. With decades of experience, our firm has a proven track record of holding negligent parties accountable and securing life-changing results for our clients.

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.

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.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP.

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