

SPANGENBERG SHIBLEY & LIBER

TRIAL LAWYERS

EST. 1946

SPRING 2025
NEWSLETTER

SPANGENBERG SECURES $11.75 MILLION SETTLEMENT FOR FAMILY HARMED BY CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

At Spangenberg Shibley & Liber, we pride ourselves on conducting thorough investigations as part of our cases to secure the best possible outcome for our clients. This approach helped us ensure success in a recent carbon monoxide poisoning case.

In September 2024, we reached a global settlement against a large apartment complex in the amount of $11.75 million.

"Carbon monoxide poisoning is a very dangerous problem in apartments around the country, and cases like these highlight the importance of keeping residents safe from this invisible and odorless but lethal gas," said Jeremy Tor, Spangenberg partner.

Jeremy and Spangenberg partner Nick DiCello handled the case.

On October 20, 2022, a carbon monoxide leak at an apartment complex in Akron caused injury to a 27-year-old woman, her infant twins, and her mother, who passed away due to carbon monoxide poisoning.

On the night of the leak, the 27-year-old woman was found unresponsive in her apartment and taken by ambulance to a local hospital. She was then life-flighted to the Wexner Medical Center in Columbus. Her twin children were taken by ambulance to Akron Children's Hospital. Blood tests revealed abnormally high levels of carboxyhemoglobin for the twins, and they were diagnosed with "toxic effect of carbon monoxide from utility gas."

In November 2023, Spangenberg filed suit on behalf of the family against the property owner and property management company of the apartment complex.

Spangenberg conducted a thorough investigation to determine the root cause of the leak, including a site visit with a renowned expert. Discovery included the exchange of documents, numerous depositions, and the exchange of more than a dozen expert reports.

Ultimately, the parties engaged in private mediation, which lasted 13 hours. The $11.75 million settlement resolved all four claims – the woman's personal injury claim, the twins' personal injury claims, and the wrongful death claim for the grandmother.

"We were pleased to have resolved all the claims brought forward and attribute our success, in part, to our thorough investigation and preparedness throughout the case," Jeremy said. "Our settlement provides justice to the family affected by this tragedy and holds responsible those who should have prioritized their residents' safety."



JEREMY TOR

SPANGENBERG TEAM UPDATES

MICHAEL P. LEWIS PROMOTED TO PARTNER

Spangenberg Shibley & Liber LLP is pleased to announce the promotion of Michael P. Lewis, Esq. to partner. Michael, who joined the firm in 2020, specializes in medical malpractice, catastrophic injury, and civil rights cases. His experience also includes previous work in product liability and insurance bad faith litigation.

"My promotion to partner is the greatest honor of my life," Michael said. "To be a leader in this group of amazing trial lawyers means a lot. We pride ourselves on helping our clients feel a sense of justice where they would otherwise feel powerless in the face of catastrophic loss or the loss of loved ones."

Michael has secured significant victories throughout his career. He recovered more than $3 million for a teenager with autism who was denied therapy by his insurance company. He also secured $2.5 million against the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for the shooting of his innocent, unarmed client, and the killing of his client's friend. Most recently, he obtained a $1.5 million verdict against an orthopedic surgeon whose failure to obtain informed consent while treating a broken ankle resulted in a below-the-knee amputation.



"Michael brings a unique perspective to the firm and has demonstrated that he will continue the long tradition of leading trial advocates at Spangenberg," said Stuart Scott, managing partner. "His experience as a trial attorney speaks for itself, and we know he will make a strong leader."

Originally from Huntsville, Alabama, Michael studied at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. After practicing with a prominent plaintiff's firm in Los Angeles, he relocated to the Cleveland area with his wife, Robyn, and their two children. In his free time, Michael enjoys running (he completed marathons in Los Angeles in 2020 and Northeast Ohio in 2023), outdoor activities, soccer, and attending live music events.



JOSEPH FLANNERY HIRED AS ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY

Spangenberg Shibley & Liber LLP has hired Joseph Flannery, Esq. as an associate attorney. Joe brings expertise in personal injury litigation with a focus on medical malpractice cases.

Joe has experience on both sides of the courtroom, starting out as a plaintiff lawyer before moving to the defense side, where he represented doctors and hospitals facing medical malpractice suits related to emergency medicine, obstetrics, and surgery.

At Spangenberg, he will draw on his experience as a plaintiff lawyer. Previously, he represented patients facing catastrophic birth injuries, the overprescription of opioids, and medication errors, one of which caused the death of a three-year-old child.

"Spangenberg has brought justice to so many individuals and families facing catastrophic injury and loss, and I'm proud to join this team and continue this work," Joe said. "Our clients come to us during the most difficult times in their lives, and I see my role as helping them not only pursue justice but also understand what happened to themselves and their loved ones – and why."

Prior to joining Spangenberg, Joe practiced at The Becker Law Firm and Reminger. He attended law school at the University of Texas after completing his undergraduate degree at Case Western Reserve University.

"Joe's experience and passion for client advocacy make him a valuable addition to our medical malpractice team," said Stuart Scott, managing partner. "He brings a depth of knowledge and empathy that aligns with the work our firm champions."

Joe and his wife Caitlyn live in Bay Village with their dog, Ivy. In their free time, they enjoy traveling across the country to college football and basketball games and are avid Cleveland sports fans.

SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER

SPANGENBERG
SHIBLEY & LIBER
TRIAL LAWYERS
EST. 1946

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

WRONGFUL DEATH SETTLEMENTS IN 2025

$2.5 MILLION

DELAY IN DIAGNOSING AND TREATING A BOWEL OBSTRUCTION

$2.3 MILLION

DELAY IN DIAGNOSING AND TREATING AN INFECTION AND SEPSIS

$2 MILLION

DELAY IN DIAGNOSING AND TREATING CRITICALLY LOW BLOOD PRESSURE