



CLIFFORD® LAW OFFICES

A HISTORY OF SIGNIFICANT MILESTONES AND ACHIEVEMENTS



OUR YEARS OF SUCCESS: DECADES OF EXPERIENCE IN COMPLEX CLAIMS

Since 1984, Clifford Law Offices has been dedicated to serving the needs of clients in the Chicago area and throughout the nation. Today, we are one of the premier law firms in Chicagoland and are known nationally for our success in complicated legal matters.

Personal Injury

Sexual Abuse

Aviation

Consumer &

Wrongful Death

Health Care Fraud

Product Liability

Mass Tort / Class Actions

Transportation

Commercial Litigation

Premises Liability Law

Whistleblower Litigation

Medical Malpractice

Sexual Harassment /

Employment Discrimination



The lawyers at Clifford Law Offices represent hundreds of years of combined experience in the area of personal injury law including aviation, transportation, medical malpractice and product liability law.

Key to Cases:

- ◆ AVIATION
- ◆ PERSONAL INJURY
- ◆ WRONGFUL DEATH
- ◆ MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

NOTABLE CASES

1998

ROBERT CLIFFORD & KEVIN DURKIN

◆ \$110 MILLION VERDICT

On an icy Halloween night in 1994, 68 people were killed when American Eagle Flight 4184 crashed into a cornfield in Roselawn, Indiana. The cause of the crash was determined to be an inadequately sized de-icing boot on the wing. Clifford Law Offices represented 16 individuals who were killed and obtained a \$110 million settlement on the eve of trial in federal court for 28 families who had brought suit, avoiding what likely would have been an emotional and lengthy trial.

ROBERT CLIFFORD & KEVIN DURKIN

◆ \$7.5 MILLION VERDICT

A record \$7.5 million verdict is reached in an Iowa courtroom against a Sioux Falls tire company. Robert Clifford and Kevin Durkin obtained the verdict following a two-week trial on behalf of a man who suffered brain damage and his wife who was killed when a drunken employee in the company van struck her car.

1999

ROBERT CLIFFORD

◆ \$28.2 MILLION VERDICT;

◆ \$15 MILLION SETTLEMENT

Many passengers on United Airlines Flight 232 were thrown from the plane when it crashed into a soybean field in Iowa in 1989. The jury took less than three hours to return a verdict of \$28.2 million on behalf of a 70-year-old woman with permanent injuries. Robert Clifford also obtained a \$15 million settlement for a father who lost his wife and daughter, and an additional \$250,000 donated for a bereavement center at a children's hospital in Chicago in their names.

ROBERT CLIFFORD

◆ \$14 MILLION VERDICT

A Commonwealth Edison truck driver causes a collision, leaving an Elgin woman wheelchair bound.

2001

RICHARD BURKE, JR. & ROBERT CLIFFORD

◆ \$22 MILLION SETTLEMENT

15-year-old severely injured and two teenagers killed when SUV rolls over on expressway.

2002

ROBERT CLIFFORD & KEVIN DURKIN

◆ \$35 MILLION VERDICT

Rachel Barton, a 20-year-old gifted violinist, was on her way to teach a class at a suburban Chicago music school when the doors of a Metra commuter train closed on her violin case shoulder strap and other bags, pinning her to the train doors. The train pulled out, dragging Barton nearly 300 feet. By the time she was able to free herself, she was pulled under the train, severing her legs. Good Samaritans came to her rescue, and a surgeon was able to reattach one. Following numerous surgeries, she continues to play the violin as a concert soloist.

2004

KEVIN DURKIN

◆ \$38.3 MILLION VERDICT

A \$38.3 million verdict was returned March 26 by a Cook County Circuit Court jury on behalf of a west suburban family who was tragically devastated by a multiple truck-car crash on I-90 near Rockford in 1999. The verdict was the largest in the country in 2004 involving a motor vehicle crash and was featured as one of the Top 100 Verdicts

in the National Law Journal in 2005. It was the largest transportation verdict in the country in 2005, as reported by *The National Law Journal*.

2006

ROBERT CLIFFORD

◆ CONFIDENTIAL SETTLEMENT

Southwest Airlines Flight 1248 overran the landing strip and skidded off the Midway Airport runway into traffic, colliding with two vehicles and killing a 6-year-old boy.

ROBERT CLIFFORD & KEVIN DURKIN

◆ \$70 MILLION SETTLEMENT

On a windy day, a construction scaffold broke loose, causing debris to fall, killing two women, and seriously injuring three others.

ROBERT CLIFFORD & SEAN DRISCOLL

◆ \$15.8 MILLION VERDICT

12-year-old girl is left permanently brain damaged and wheelchair-bound after a YMCA van strikes her as she attempts to cross street.

2007

KEITH HEBEISEN & SUSAN CAPRA

◆ \$4.3 MILLION SETTLEMENT

Negligent managing of labor and delivery of mother's first born results in infant girl suffering serious and permanent brain damage.

2008

ROBERT CLIFFORD & KEITH HEBEISEN

◆ \$6 MILLION SETTLEMENT

A young mother suffered severe disfigurement when doctors unnecessarily removed a healthy breast due to a lab technician mixing up pathology slides.

ROBERT CLIFFORD & KEVIN DURKIN

◆ \$100 MILLION SETTLEMENT

Six people were killed and 16 others were injured as they struggled to escape the smoky stairwell of the burning Cook County Administration Building in downtown Chicago. In one of the highest personal injury settlements in Cook County history, it was determined that firefighters fought the blaze from the wrong stairwell and placed more emphasis on battling the blaze than on saving lives.

2011

ROBERT CLIFFORD

◆ \$85 MILLION SETTLEMENT

Robert Clifford secured an \$85 million settlement against Medline, one of the nation's largest suppliers of medical and surgical products, in relation to a kickback scheme. Clifford Law Offices represented the whistleblower and prosecuted the case on behalf of the government. The case, settled in federal district court in Chicago, is among the largest settlements of a False Claims Act case in which the government declined to intervene.

2012

ROBERT CLIFFORD

◆ \$1.2 BILLION SETTLEMENT

Property damage and financial loss claims as a result of the destruction of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

ROBERT CLIFFORD & KEVIN DURKIN

◆ \$180 MILLION VERDICT

Three men were severely burned in a grain elevator explosion at work. It was the 11th highest verdict in the nation that year.

ROBERT CLIFFORD & SEAN DRISCOLL

◆ \$11.4 MILLION SETTLEMENT

57-year-old mechanic suffers catastrophic orthopedic and internal injuries when he is run over by a tractor-trailer.

2013

KEITH HEBEISEN & SARAH KING

◆ \$15.55 MILLION VERDICT

Keith Hebeisen and Sarah King obtain a \$15.55 million verdict for a

mother who dies at childbirth at a Chicago hospital when two doctors fail to diagnose and treat her. It is the third highest verdict in Cook County for the wrongful death of a person in a medical malpractice case.

KEVIN DURKIN & SEAN DRISCOLL

◆ \$16 MILLION VERDICT

Kevin Durkin and Sean Driscoll obtain a record \$16 million verdict on behalf of two families whose sons were killed in a grain bin entrapment incident in northwestern Illinois. The two teenagers suffocated in what became a sinkhole of grain. The previous record in that county was \$220,000 in 1989.

2014

BRADLEY COSGROVE & SARAH KING

◆ \$14 MILLION VERDICT

Bradley Cosgrove and Sarah King obtain \$14 million verdict for inappropriate prescription of Yasmin for 37-year-old woman who suffered a stroke after 13 days of taking the medication. *The National Law Journal* names it the #1 verdict in Illinois in 2014.

2015

ROBERT CLIFFORD

◆ \$25.9 MILLION VERDICT

Robert Clifford obtains \$25.9 million verdict on behalf of lawyer seriously injured in taxi crash.

ROBERT CLIFFORD & BRADLEY COSGROVE

◆ \$20 MILLION SETTLEMENT

Robert Clifford and Bradley Cosgrove obtain \$20 million settlement for man severely injured when tractor carrying hazardous materials t-bones his vehicle.

ROBERT CLIFFORD & BRADLEY COSGROVE

◆ \$8.25 MILLION VERDICT

Robert Clifford and Bradley Cosgrove obtain \$8.25 million verdict against Chicago hospital on behalf of father and husband who died following knee replacement surgery.

2016

KEVIN DURKIN

◆ \$22.7 MILLION VERDICT

Kevin Durkin obtains \$22.7 million verdict for widow and child of man killed in truck crash. It was the largest wrongful death verdict in

the county in more than a decade.

ROBERT CLIFFORD AND SHANNON MCNULTY

◆ \$16.5 MILLION SETTLEMENT

Robert Clifford and Shannon McNulty obtain \$16.5 million settlement on behalf of 70-year-old man who is permanently disabled when hospital prescribes erroneous medication.

ROBERT CLIFFORD

◆ \$18.5 MILLION SETTLEMENT

Robert Clifford obtains \$18.5 million settlement on behalf of two men burned in flash fire derailment in Kentucky. 30 of 33 people killed or injured in Seattle, Washington derailment hired Clifford Law Offices in injury or death claims against Amtrak.

2018

ROBERT CLIFFORD, KEVIN DURKIN
& TRACY BRAMMEIER

◆ \$35 MILLION SETTLEMENT

Robert Clifford, Kevin Durkin and Tracy Brammeier obtain \$35 million settlement on behalf of woman dragged by truck who suffers debilitating injuries.

TRACY BRAMMEIER

◆ \$27.9 MILLION SETTLEMENT

Tracy Brammeier recovers \$27.9 million settlement on behalf of family of three on motorboat when it fails, killing two and injuring one.

ROBERT CLIFFORD & KRISTOFER RIDDLE

◆ \$250 MILLION SETTLEMENT

This class-action litigation focused on a RICO scheme allegedly undertaken by State Farm and its co-defendants to overturn a judgment pending against them in the Illinois Supreme Court and involved the Defendants' undisclosed support for a judicial candidate that would eventually sit on the case and cast the deciding vote reversing the matter. Robert Clifford and Kristofer Riddle worked tirelessly on the case for years. The settlement provides benefits to millions of current and former State Farm policyholders who were members of this class.

BRADLEY COSGROVE

◆ \$21.5 MILLION VERDICT

Bradley Cosgrove obtains a \$21.5 million verdict on behalf of a south suburban family whose son drowned on a weekly trip to the Bridgeview Park District Pool four years ago.



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PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ◆ 2002, 2005, 2008, 2009 | *The Chicago Lawyer* named Clifford Law Offices the top Chicago personal injury law firm in its Annual Settlement Surveys
- ◆ 2003 | Clifford Law Offices was named by the *National Law Journal* as one of the top 20 “Plaintiffs’ Hot List”
- ◆ 2004 | Clifford Law Offices was named by the *National Law Journal* as one of the 25 “Go-To” plaintiffs’ law firms in the country
- ◆ 2005 TO 2014 | Robert Clifford is elected chair of the Illinois State Delegate to the American Bar Association House of Delegates
- ◆ 2009, 2010, 2012, 2015, 2016, 2019 | Robert Clifford was named the Chicago Personal Injury Litigator of the Year by *Best Lawyers®* in America based upon high ratings for his ability, professionalism and integrity
- ◆ 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 | Clifford Law Offices receives a ranking in *U.S. News - Best Lawyers®* “Best Law Firms” list, determined by the firm’s overall evaluation
- ◆ 2011 | Robert Clifford is elected President of the Chicago Bar Association
- ◆ 2011 | Robert Clifford receives Jury Verdict Award for \$85 million whistleblower settlement
- ◆ 2012 | *The Chicago Lawyer* names Robert Clifford Person of the Year
- ◆ 2013 | Robert Clifford named one of *Chicago Magazine’s* Top 100 Most Powerful Chicagoans
- ◆ 2013 | Clifford Law Offices named to the *National Law Journal’s* “Hot List” of one of the 10 Top Litigation Boutiques in the country
- ◆ 2014 | Robert Clifford and five other partners rated by Martindale-Hubbell as among Chicago’s Top Rated Lawyers, scoring a perfect “5”
- ◆ 2014 | Robert Clifford receives 2014 American Inns of Court Foundation Professionalism Award from the Seventh Circuit Judicial Conference
- ◆ 2015 | Robert Clifford receives Chicago Police Memorial Foundation Award of Honor
- ◆ 2015 | Keith Hebeisen is awarded the Pro Bono Excellence Award from the Federal Bar
- ◆ 2015 | Bradley Cosgrove Name Top 100 Lawyers by the National Trial Lawyers
- ◆ 2016 | *Chicago Magazine* again names Robert Clifford one of the Most Powerful Chicagoans
- ◆ 2016 | Pamela Sakowicz Menaker elected to Illinois State Bar Association Board of Governors
- ◆ 2016 | Robert Clifford appointed Chair of the American Bar Association Fund for Justice and Education that supports more than 200 public service and educational programs throughout the world
- ◆ 2016 | Crain’s Chicago Business again names Robert Clifford to Top 100 of Who’s Who in Chicago
- ◆ 2017 | Clifford Law Offices again named by *U.S. News and World Report* and *Best Lawyers* as a 2016 “Best Law Firm” in six legal categories including personal injury, medical malpractice and mass tort litigation (Best Lawyers named the following lawyers at the firm to its 2016 list in various practice areas- Robert Clifford, Keith Hebeisen, Kevin Durkin, Shannon McNulty, Richard Burke, Susan Capra, Bradley Cosgrove and Hon. Henry Simmons (ret.))
- ◆ 2017 | Bradley Cosgrove bestowed the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association President’s Award
- ◆ 2017 | 10 Lawyers at Clifford Law Offices Named Leading Lawyers
- ◆ 2017 | Robert Clifford receives the Chicago Bar Association Justice John Paul Stevens Award
- ◆ 2017 | Robert Clifford is awarded the North Suburban Bar Association L. Sanford Blustin Award
- ◆ 2017 | Robert Clifford receives Unity Award from the Diversity Scholarship Foundation and The John Marshall Law School
- ◆ 2018 | Clifford Law Offices recipient of the 2018 Chicago Legal Clinic Charles J. O’Laughlin Memorial Award
- ◆ 2018 | Sarah King elected Director of the Women’s Bar Association of Illinois
- ◆ 2018 | Robert Walsh receives Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award by the Marquis Who’s Who Publications Board and named one of America’s Top 100 High Stakes Litigators
- ◆ 2018 | Kevin Durkin is awarded the Chicago Bar Association Justice John Paul Stevens Award
- ◆ 2018 | Robert and Joan Clifford recognized by the Lawyers for the Creative Arts for their long history of board service, volunteer work and philanthropy for the arts
- ◆ 2018 | Robert Clifford honored as Class Action Trial Lawyer of 2018 by The National Trial Lawyers
- ◆ 2019 | Pamela Sakowicz Menaker sworn in as President of Catholic Lawyers Guild of Chicago
- ◆ 2019 | Robert Clifford Named Fundraising Committee Co-Chair of the 200-year anniversary of federal courts in Illinois
- ◆ 2019 | Nine attorneys from Clifford Law Offices have been recognized as The Best Lawyers in America
- ◆ 2019 | Robert Clifford recognized by Best Lawyers as the 2019 “Lawyer of the Year” for Mass Tort Litigation / Class Actions - Plaintiffs in the Chicago area
- ◆ 2019 | Marks 35 years of Clifford Law Offices serving Chicago area’s injured and families of those killed due to wrongful conduct
- ◆ 2019 | Robert Clifford named the #3 Super Lawyer in Illinois; Kevin Durkin and Keith Hebeisen named among the top 100 Super Lawyers in the state