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STEPHEN GUGENHEIM

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In 2015, Steve Gugenheim will enter his 24th year of practice as an attorney. Steve is the Past Chair of the North Carolina Advocates for Justice Nursing Home Negligence Section. Steve is one of the only attorneys in the State of North Carolina who devotes his entire practice to the representation of plaintiffs in cases involving long-term care negligence. Steve has obtained the highest rating by Martindale-Hubbell, AV Preeminent Peer Review Rated.

Steve graduated in 1987 from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro with a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics. While at UNC-Greensboro, Steve was a founding father and President of his fraternity, Sigma Nu. He was an elected Senator of the Student Council, member of the Inter-Fraternity Council, and heavily involved in other student organizations.

In 1991, Steve earned his Juris Doctorate from Samford University, Cumberland School of Law in Birmingham, Alabama. In law school, Steve was the Comment Editor of the Cumberland Law Review and a member of the nationally acclaimed Mock Trial Team. The year Steve was on the Mock Trial Team, the trial teams placed first and second in the Regional Mock Trial Competition and was one of eight teams in the nation that advanced to the National Mock Trial Competition. In his first year of law school, Steve won the Client Counseling Competition. Steve finished at the top of his class in law school. Following law school, Steve moved to Dallas, Texas to work for one of the largest law firms in the State of Texas.

In 1994, Steve and another attorney opened a law practice. At that time, Steve began representing the victims and the families of victims in cases involving serious personal injury and wrongful death, nursing home negligence, unlawful discrimination, sexual harassment, and other employment matters. While in Dallas, Steve received the highest rating of AV by Martindale Hubbell.

In 2000, and prior to the birth of his son, Brandon, Steve and his wife relocated to North Carolina in order to be close to family. Steve then opened Gugenheim Law. At that time, Steve committed his practice to the representation of plaintiffs in long-term care negligence cases.

In 2002, and due to the growing demands of Gugenheim Law, Steve's wife Julie joined Gugenheim Law. Steve and Julie have tried more long-term care negligence cases to verdict than any other lawyers in the State of North Carolina.

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GUIDE TO NURSING HOME NEGLIGENCE IN NORTH CAROLINA

By Stephen Gugenheim

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In 2003, Steve and Julie tried their first nursing home wrongful death case as a husband-wife trial team. They obtained one of the largest verdicts in the history of Randolph County for the family of a nursing home resident who fell, fractured his hip and ribs, and then died several weeks later.

In 2008, Steve and Julie obtained a substantial verdict in Dare County for the family of a nursing home patient who died of a severe blood infection.

In 2010, Steve and Julie obtained a verdict in Iredell County for a nursing home resident who fell and fractured her hip in a nursing home.

In 2014, Steve obtained Plaintiff verdicts in two separate arbitrations against one of the largest chains of nursing home operators in the United States. In both arbitrations, liability and damages were contested. In the first arbitration, the nursing home chain offered \$0 to settle the case prior to arbitration.

Steve is a frequent lecturer to attorneys in the State of North Carolina on the topic of nursing home negligence. Most recently, Steve spoke at a seminar hosted by the National Business Institute at the seminar entitled, "Handling Your First Nursing Home Malpractice Case." Steve recently co-wrote a book entitled, "North Carolina's Guide to Nursing Home Negligence." Steve is the Chair of the North Carolina Advocates for Justice Nursing Home Negligence Section, is a member of the North Carolina Bar Association Medico-Legal Ethics Committee, and serves on the Education Committee for the North Carolina Advocates for Justice.

In 2009, one of Steve's cases settled for \$1.635 million. That settlement is one of the largest settlements in a long-term care negligence case ever reported to North Carolina Lawyer's Weekly, the leading legal publication in North Carolina. Many of the cases handled by Gugenheim Law have been featured in North Carolina Lawyer's Weekly.

Steve is routinely called upon to address issues before the North Carolina Court of Appeals and the North Carolina Supreme Court. Steve has more published appellate cases that relate to cases involving nursing home negligence than any other attorney in the State of North Carolina.

Steve and his family enjoy adventure travel. Steve and his family have traveled extensively throughout the world, including Peru, Chile, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, the Sinai Desert, France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Austria, Denmark, the Netherlands, England, Ireland, Austria, Czech Republic, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, Canada, and Costa Rica. Steve has climbed the Grand Teton, hiked the Inca Trail, motorcycled throughout the United States and hiked all over the world. Since 2011, Steve has raced his Ariel Atom Spec Racer in the SRA Series at Virginia International Raceway.

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