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**Pro Bono Legal Team of D’Amore Law Group, The Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence, and Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll PLLC Named a Finalist for**

**Public Justice’s 2019 Trial Lawyer of the Year Award**

**- Englund Case Sets Precedent as First to Hold Dealers Liable for Guns Sold Online -**

(PORTLAND, ORE. – June x, 2019) – The legal team of D’Amore Law Group**,** The Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence**, and** Cohen Milstein Sellers & TollPLLC **has been selected as a finalist for the** Public Justice’s 2019 Trial Lawyer of the Year Award. **The lawyers represented the family of Kirsten Englund pro bono in a wrongful death action against online gun retailer World Pawn Exchange, in a** landmark case that has been hailed as the first to hold dealers liable for guns sold online.

The Public Justice Award celebrates and recognizes the work of attorneys or teams of attorneys working on behalf of individuals and groups that have suffered grave injustice or abuse. The award will be presented at the organization’s Annual Gala and Awards Dinner on July 29 in San Diego.

“The facts of this tragedy are horrific, and no judgment will ever erase the pain felt by Kirsten’s family,” said Tom D’Amore, who served as local Oregon counsel. “As experts on federal gun laws, Jonathan E. Lowy and Erin Davis of the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence and the Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll PLLC firm in Washington, DC, and their legal staffs, represented Kirsten’s family vigorously and with compassion, and in doing so, made a notable impact on the gun industry and the battle against gun violence.”

As background, Kirsten Englund was driving north up the Oregon Coast in April 2013 to visit her son, a sophomore at the University of Oregon, when she stopped at a scenic overlook to see a lighthouse. She encountered Jeffrey Boyce, a stranger, who shot her six times, poured gasoline on her, lit her on fire and shot her again. The handgun Boyce used was one of two semi-automatic pistols his mother helped buy for her mentally disturbed son.

The lawsuit sought damages against World Pawn Exchange of North Bend and J&G Sales Inc., an online firearms dealer based in Arizona. J&G sold the gun to Jeffrey Boyce via the Internet. J&G then transferred the gun to World Pawn Exchange, which gave it to Boyce’s mother, who signed papers that she was the actual buyer.

As a result of the terms of the settlement and key decisions during the Englund litigation, significant legal precedent was established at the state and federal level on gun dealer responsibility.

Public Justice has summarized the Englund case on its website, and highlights these facts:

* When someone other than the true purchaser of a firearm provides their name, completes the background check, takes possession of the firearm and then hands it off to the true purchaser, such actions constitute a straw sale, which is illegal.
* The Englundcase sought to fill a significant gap in existing jurisprudence by establishing that online firearms dealers are subject to the same standard of care as firearms dealers operating from physical locations.
* The settlements, the only ones obtained in U.S. litigation relating to online straw sales, required the dealer defendants to make specific, meaningful changes to their firearm sales practices that are designed to ensure firearms are provided only to the actual purchaser and to make it less likely that any other family will suffer a similar tragedy.
* For the first time, dealers involved in the online sale and transfer of firearms were held to account for their role in a tragic death. Earlier in the case, the Englund family had also obtained a $400,000 settlement with the shooter’s mother – believed to be the largest monetary settlement obtained from an individual straw purchaser.
* These decisions were the first in the nation to establish the precedent that firearm dealers are subject to the same principles of negligence law whether they sell firearms in person or online.

**The legal**team nominated for the Public Justice’s 2019 Trial Lawyer of the Year Award includes:

* **Julie Goldsmith Reiser, Molly J. Bowen, Sally Handmaker Guido**, Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll PLLC, Washington, D.C.
* **Raymond M. Sarola**, Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll PLLC, Philadelphia, PA
* **Jonathan E. Lowy, Erin Davis, Josh Scharff**, Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence, Washington, D.C.
* **Thomas D’Amore**, D’Amore Law Group, Portland, Oregon.

**About D’Amore Law Group**

Since 1992, the D’Amore Law Group has represented thousands of injury victims and their loved ones in Oregon, Washington and California in various complex and catastrophic personal injury matters. Founder Tom D’Amore is dedicated to asserting the rights of clients who have been seriously injured by the negligence and intentional conduct of individual and corporate wrongdoers. The firm handles a wide variety of personal injury and wrongful death cases, in areas including automobile and trucking accidents, motorcycle and bicycle accidents, nursing home and medical negligence, unsafe and defective products, sexual abuse, construction accidents and job site injuries, class action suits and bad faith insurance practices. The firm has locations for meeting clients in Portland, Lake Oswego, and Bend, Oregon, as well as in Vancouver, Washington. For more information, please visit www.damorelaw.com.

**About Public Justice**

Public Justice pursues high impact lawsuits to combat social and economic injustice, protect the Earth’s sustainability, and challenge predatory corporate conduct and government abuses. Over the years, the organization’s staff attorneys have joined forces with some of the most distinguished and accomplished attorneys in the plaintiffs’ bar. They have also partnered with or represented some of the most dedicated public interest groups in the country. For more information, please visit www.publicjustice.net.