

Meyerkord & Meyerkord Win Precedent-Setting Judgment Reversal in Appellate Court

St. Louis personal injury law firm Meyerkord & Meyerkord helps their client win a precedent-setting case in Missouri Court of Appeals in a wrongful death case.

In July of 2008, Anthony Thomas called emergency services complaining of trouble breathing and acute chest pains. An ambulance and two publicly-employed EMTs were dispatched to Mr. Thomas' home. After spending fifteen minutes checking on Mr. Thomas' vital signs, the EMTs diagnosed the symptoms as nothing more than acid reflux. The next day, however, Mr. Thomas died of cardiac arrest. Early in litigation, the trial court granted the EMTs official immunity pursuant to their motion for summary judgment, citing the recent appellate decision of *Richardson v. City of St. Louis*. This prior case explained that judgment made by publicly-employed EMTs (as opposed to private-duty EMTs) is similar to that used by police officers in emergency situations. The court in *Richardson* held publicly-employed EMTs deserved immunity for judgment exercised in emergency situations.

The family of Mr. Thomas chose to appeal the decision. Although many firms do not have the necessary experience in taking cases to appellate court, the legal team at Meyerkord & Meyerkord was not deterred. Appellate work is time consuming and labor intensive, but with experience in cutting edge cases such as this, the attorneys dug in their heels to pursue the rightful outcome.

Due to their comprehensive and creative handling of the case, the Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District, reversed the trial court's judgment. They were able to prove that since the situation the EMTs were responding to was not an emergency situation, immunity should not apply. An emergency, the court held, consists of rapidly progressing conditions that demand immediate reactions. As a direct result of this judgment, new law regarding immunity and emergency situations involving EMTs will be set into common practice.

If you or a loved one are in need of lawyers who are not afraid to take on complex, difficult cases, you should not hesitate to secure the legal assistance of personal injury law firm Meyerkord & Meyerkord. With a reputation as innovators in the legal field, they stand able to assist their clients in all cases, no matter if you are seeking assistance in a settlement, aggressive pursuit in a trial case or a second chance in an appeal.