Lightfoot

NEWS & INSIGHTS

LIGHTFOOT SECURES DEFENSE VERDICT FOR SURGEON AND MEDICAL PRACTICE IN WRONGFUL DEATH TRIAL

September 24, 2026

Lightfoot, Franklin & White partners **John G. Thompson,** and **Christopher C. Yearout** and associate **Wesley Smithart** secured a complete defense verdict in a wrongful death lawsuit against a general surgeon and his medical practice in Alabama circuit court.

The plaintiff, representing the estate of a deceased patient, alleged that the surgeon and his practice were negligent in diagnosing and treating a surgical complication and in the patient's postoperative care. The plaintiff claimed this negligence contributed to the patient's death, and sought $3 to $5 million in damages. After a multi-day trial, the jury deliberated for less than an hour before returning a verdict for the defense on all claims.

In addition to the attorneys, the Lightfoot trial team also included the firm’s director of litigation technology, **Sam McAllister**, and senior paralegal Janet Mitchell.

Thompson represents clients in several industries involving a broad array of cases. He regularly defends doctors in medical malpractice matters and manufacturers in product liability cases.

Yearout defends clients in a broad range of matters, including medical malpractice, product liability, automotive, healthcare, commercial disputes and toxic torts.

Smithart’s defense litigation practice focuses on product liability, medical malpractice, white-collar enforcement and personal injury matters.