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For immediate release

**FORT WORTH ATTORNEY SUCCESSFULLY
DEFENDS MOLD CASE IN ARKANSAS**

A 12-person jury has found that claims of mold in a home worsened the medical condition of a young occupant suffering from Cystic Fibrosis can not be substantiated, and the insurance companies, represented by Fort Worth counsel Charles B. Mitchell Jr., of Brown, Dean, Wiseman, Lister, Proctor & Hart LLP, are not responsible.

Plaintiffs had demanded \$1.7 million to settle during the trial which was held in Texarkana, Arkansas in late September. Defendants were State Auto Property and Casualty Insurance Company, State Automobile Insurance Company and Young & Youngblood Insurance Agency.

The case arose from two separate water leaks in the home of Gary, Lyn and Matthew McNatt. Matthew's parents claimed that a 2000 water leak resulted in mold that aggravated his medical condition, forcing him to be hospitalized for 140 days in a two-year period at a cost of \$375,000. A second water leak was not properly investigated, according to the McNatts, and the house was a total loss under their insurance policy because the house could not be guaranteed to be free of mold after remediation.

Mitchell argued that mold was not the cause of Matthew's worsening condition and presented a medical expert from John Hopkins Medical Center to prove up the position of the insurance carriers.

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