

Doyle's Tavern Found 95% Responsible on \$4.5 Million Verdict
Troy, Michigan

October 23, 2008
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 21, 2008, a Wayne County jury returned with a verdict of \$4.5 Million in favor of the Estate of John Spolsky. The award was the jury's determination that the Defendant Doyle's Tavern, of Plymouth, Michigan, was 95% responsible for the death of 26 year old John Spolsky. The driver of the vehicle was found 5% responsible, and the jury assessed no responsibility to the decedent Plaintiff John Spolsky.

Plaintiff's counsel, **Daniel J. Kelly** of the law firm **Giarmarco, Mullins & Horton, P.C.**, stated "The jury enforced the rule of law as it relates to the sale of alcohol to 'visibly intoxicated' patrons. Although many defenses were raised, the jury agreed with Mr. Spolsky's family members who argued that this tragic accident could have been prevented had the bar followed the law and stopped serving alcohol to the Defendant driver. This award should send a message to every bar, restaurant or any other server of alcohol that the laws prohibiting the sale of alcohol to visibly intoxicated customers will be enforced by jurors."

Mr. Spolsky was a 1996 graduate of Catholic Central High School, an honor student, All-State football player, All-American wrestler, and captain of the CC football team. Upon graduation from Catholic Central, John was accepted into the Air Force Academy, where he again excelled in his education and athletics, playing Division I football for the Air Force Academy, won three Commander-in-Chief Trophies, and was the anchor of the Air Force Academy's football team. Upon graduation from the Air Force Academy, Mr. Spolsky was accepted into the elite Army Ranger School, where only 20 candidates throughout all of the military divisions are accepted. Despite an attrition rate of over 75%, John graduated in the top five from the Army Ranger School and became the first Air Force Officer to do so in over 13 years. Within weeks of his graduation, John returned home for a brief visit prior to being reassigned by the Air Force to serve our Country in Iraq. It was during this brief visit that he tragically died.

~~~

Daniel J. Kelly, Partner and member of the firm's Litigation Section. Located in Troy, Michigan, GMH is Michigan's 11<sup>th</sup> largest law firm with 68 attorneys providing a full array of legal services. Areas of practice include corporate, international, immigration, telecommunications, government, municipal, real estate, labor and employment law, and estate planning. The firm's litigation services include commercial, municipal, insurance defense and regulatory matters.

Contact: Giarmarco, Mullins & Horton, P.C.  
R. Gilchrist (248-457-7190)