



A preventable COVID-19 outbreak at LaSalle Veterans' Home claimed the lives of 36 veterans in late 2020. Though safety protocols were well known at the time, there was no comprehensive COVID-19 plan in place. Veterans who tested positive weren't isolated; nursing staff kept coming to work despite COVID-19 exposure. There wasn't even effective hand sanitizer.

Levin & Perconti has filed lawsuits for the families of 27 veterans who needlessly contracted COVID-19 at LaSalle Veterans' Home. Twenty-six of those veterans died.

Last week, several families joined partners Steve Levin and Mike Bonamarte to share their stories and encourage the state to take action.

"What happened at LaSalle Veterans' Home is unimaginable," Steven Levin said. "It's not like they did something and did it wrong. It's not like they took action that turned out to be wrong in light of greater knowledge. They did nothing. That is shocking. They did nothing."

"These veterans' families feel a sense of anger, outrage and deep betrayal," Mike Bonamarte said. "These men and women chose to spend their final years at LaSalle Veterans' Home because they trusted they would be safe. That trust was betrayed."

The families hope that in pursuing these lawsuits, some semblance of justice is gained for their losses, and increased accountability prevents similar failures from happening again.

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## Recent Events

**Dov Apfel & Seth Cardeli**  
**Facilitate AAJ Fetal Monitoring Program**

This past weekend, Partners Dov Apfel and Seth Cardeli facilitated a 2-day seminar in New Orleans geared toward educating attorneys on the trial strategies and updated science behind birth injury cases involving electronic fetal monitoring.

**Mike Bonamarte**  
**Latest Guest on CAMG's Law Innovators Podcast**

Partner Mike Bonamarte sat down with *Consumer Attorney Marketing Group* to discuss the current state of nursing home abuse litigation and offer insight into what it takes to try these specific types of cases.

[FULL EPISODE](#)

## New Federal Guidelines Create Long-awaited Changes

**End of Forced Arbitration for Sexual Assault Victims**

The federal government recently passed the "Ending Forced Arbitration in Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Act" into law. This bill marks a huge milestone for victims of sexual assault by empowering them with the ability to seek justice. For far too long, survivors have been unable to pursue litigation against perpetrators due to corporations hiding forced arbitration clauses in the fine print of contracts, ultimately shielding abusers from accountability and silencing victims. This legislation was passed with overwhelming bipartisan support and has been recognized as "one of the most significant workplace reforms in American history."

We fully support this significant piece of legislation and stand by the brave victims of workplace assault and harassment, whose legal options were previously limited due to predatory forced arbitration agreements.

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**New Minimum Staffing Regulations**

Understaffing is one of the biggest contributors to neglect in nursing homes. Recently, the White House announced that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid will be enforcing minimum staffing requirements and enacting harsher penalty fines in skilled nursing homes in an effort to address widespread "failures" within the industry. "Despite the tens of billions of federal taxpayer dollars flowing to nursing homes each year, too many continue to provide poor, sub-standard care that leads to avoidable resident harm," the administration stated.

This plan also intends to address room overcrowding. The White House took aim at private-equity facilities and corporate owners as well, stating that, "the private equity model has put profits before people." We are hopeful that these long overdue regulations will result in positive, tangible changes for residents of nursing homes.

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## Blog

**Can Physical Restraints Harm Nursing Home Residents?**

When a patient in a nursing home needs to be restrained for a valid medical reason, nursing home staff are responsible for the appropriate and safe use of restraints. Unfortunately, there is a risk of injury from physical restraints due to the lack of training and proper care of staff.

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## Client Testimonial

"We've all seen the commercials for law firms specializing in nursing home cases. When the time comes to choose one, how do you know which one will fight for you or your loved one? I was fortunate that my friend, who happens to be a lawyer, recommended Levin and Perconti. She told me, "Everyone uses them."

Our attorney, Daisy Ayllon, walked us through some difficult moments with compassion and understanding. Jacqueline Neri, Daisy's assistant, was very helpful throughout the case. Jack Terran and Salma Lopez closed out our case in a way that my family could agree upon.

We were lucky we had a word of mouth recommendation, and now we can see why everyone uses Levin & Perconti.

Sincerely,  
**Laura D.**