

**CHARTWELL ATTORNEY OBTAINS UNANIMOUS DEFENSE VERDICT
IN DELAWARE COUNTY CEREBRAL PALSY CASE**

After a two and one-half week trial a Delaware County, Pennsylvania jury returned a unanimous finding of no negligence in favor of all health care providers in a suit alleging that improper interpretation of fetal heart monitoring strips led to a delay in the implementation of a cesarean section which resulted in profound neurologic injury and spastic quadriplegia to the minor plaintiff. The plaintiff's parents contended that a 10 minute segment of the external fetal heart tracing was in fact the tracing of the maternal heart, and that the child evidenced bradycardia without proper intervention for over 22 minutes.

The defense team, led by Chartwell Law Offices, LLP's B. Craig Black, Esquire, contended that the tracing at issue was indeed fetal and that the fetus responded appropriately to intra-partum resuscitative maneuvers. The defense further presented expert testimony that after the resuscitative efforts the mother sustained an amniotic fluid embolism (AFE), a rare and catastrophic obstetrical emergency that results in a collapse of the maternal cardiac and pulmonary systems. Statistics associated with AFE's reveal that an overwhelming majority of fetuses do not survive such events, and when they do, both mother and baby frequently sustain neurologic compromise.

After the mother sustained the AFE the labor and delivery team effectuated a delivery of the child within seventeen minutes, an extraordinary accomplishment in light of the severity of the mother's condition. The expeditious acts of the L&D team spared the mother and fetus' life. The mother remains neurologically intact, while the child unfortunately sustained a profound hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy resulting in spastic quadriplegia.

For more information about The Chartwell Law Offices, LLP and its professional liability team, please contact B. Craig Black, Esquire at cblack@chartwelllaw.com.