FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Colorado Trial Lawyers Association’s Statement Calls for Accountability After the Marshall Fires

June 8, 2023 (Denver, Colorado) – Today, Boulder County Sheriff Curtis Johnson and District Attorney Michael Dougherty announced the outcome of the 2021 Marshall Fires, showing the wildfire had two points of ignition: one on a residential property associated with a religious group, and one started by hot aluminum particles from an Xcel Energy power line.

The wildfire took place in December of 2021, destroying over 1,000 homes and claiming two lives in Boulder County. After over a year of intense and thorough investigation, we are grateful to the Boulder County Sheriff and District Attorney for their diligent work in investigating this hardship and making sure those affected receive justice.

The civil justice system is imperative in giving these homeowners the opportunity to hold negligent corporations and individuals and insurance companies responsible and allowing justice to be achieved. Holding those who ignited this fire accountable is the first step toward stopping similar and avoidable tragedies in the future.

Since then, impacted homeowners have struggled to rebuild their homes and their lives due to the insurance industry’s unwillingness to pay out these legitimate claims. These Coloradans and their families are unable to get their lives started again because of the insurance companies’ delaying and denying techniques, forcing their policyholders to relive this horrible experience every day. While this won’t bring their homes back, this is the first step to achieving justice and accountability.

“The insurance industry needs to do the right thing and pay out the claims their policyholders have made after losing their homes,” says CTLA Insurance Bad Faith Committee Chair Jennifer Milne of Cannon Law. “People deserve the protections and coverage they’ve paid for, especially at such a crucial and trying time in their lives.”

Now knowing the causes and repercussions of this tragedy, negligent corporations and individuals, and insurance companies must do right by Coloradans.
The Colorado Trial Lawyers Association (CTLA) is the largest specialty bar association in Colorado. Our mission is to protect people and right wrongs through fair laws, innovative legal education, and an inclusive professional community.