



## **DEFENSE VERDICT**

Ohio - Pelini, Campbell & Ricard, LLC

Attorney Gianna Calzola obtained a defense verdict in a class action jury trial in Portage County, Ohio on behalf of a company/landowner that shared a property line with the class members of a subdivision (321 class members in total). The case has been in litigation for 10 years.

The Defendants included 2 adjacent property owners and the local county commissioners. The Plaintiffs claimed that the client's farming practices, lack of maintenance on the land, and mining operations contributed to increased water flow, which caused severe flooding in the subdivision in 2010, 2011, and 2013. The claims against all defendants were for trespass, nuisance, and negligence. The class members claimed

diminution in value of their homes and annoyance damages for the nuisance claim.

Over the course of an 8-day trial, Plaintiffs requested \$10,000,000 in damages in addition to annoyance damages for similar value. The Jury returned a verdict for the Plaintiffs against Portage County for almost \$13 Million. Gianna obtained a defense verdict for her client. Post trial interest motions will be filed against the culpable party.

Potential exposure was large, obviously, and the client and its insurer were thrilled with the verdict.



