

NOTED ANESTHESIOLOGIST DR. PATRICK SULLIVAN
SUES SAN DIEGO'S SHARP GROSSMONT HOSPITAL
FOR WRONGFUL TERMINATION AFTER HE BLEW THE WHISTLE
ON UNETHICAL DISSERVICES HE WITNESSED, INCLUDING
SECRET VIDEOTAPED RECORDINGS OF FEMALE PATIENTS:
OTHER ALLEGATIONS INCLUDE UNDERSTAFFING,
MISMANAGEMENT, AND LACK OF ACCESS TO LIFE SAVING DRUGS

San Diego, CA, February 2, 2017 – Dr. Patrick Sullivan, 52, a noted anesthesiologist working in the San Diego area for over 25 years, is suing Sharp Grossmont Hospital for wrongful termination after he blew the whistle on a series of incompetent and unethical disservices he alleges the hospital has been making to its patients. Sullivan's attorneys are Lawrance A. Bohm and Kelsey K. Ciarimboli of the California-wide BOHM Law Group, Inc.

NOTE: Lawrance A. Bohm is a well-known trial lawyer renowned for winning what are believed to be the two largest single-plaintiff employment verdicts in U.S. history, each in excess of \$ 100-million.

According to the Verified Complaint [37-2017-00001741-CU-OE-CTL] recently filed in the Superior Court of the State of California / County of San Diego, Dr. Sullivan alleges that in order to cut costs, Sharp Grossmont Hospital systematically understaffed the hospital, ignored mismanagement in the Women's Center, and prohibited physicians from accessing life-saving drugs in a timely fashion.

Perhaps most egregiously, Dr. Sullivan alleges that the hospital violated the privacy of numerous female patients by placing undisclosed cameras in their operating rooms and recording these women while they were in their most vulnerable physical and mental states. As a result of these "secret" and hidden videotape cameras, one former female patient of Sharp Grossmont Hospital (Melissa Escalera) filed a Class Action Lawsuit against the hospital in May, 2016. Her complaint can be seen here:

<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/2842260-Sharp-Conformed-Complaint.html>

NOTE: MORE ABOUT THESE HIDDEN CAMERAS FURTHER BELOW

Time and time again, Dr. Sullivan sent letters and emails to Sharp and Grossmont Hospital's leaders, pleading with them to put the necessary resources into the hospital to improve patient care. However, instead of working with Dr. Sullivan to institute

reforms and improve the care for their patients, Sharp and Grossmont Hospital's leaders enlisted key members of the nursing staff and members of the hospital's administration to harass, intimidate, embarrass and retaliate against Dr. Sullivan.

This harassment and retaliation included stripping Dr. Sullivan of memberships in prominent committees and volunteer positions which he had held for approximately twenty years. Other retaliatory actions included falsely labeling him as a disruptive physician; purposefully engaging in insubordinations; spreading false rumors that he provided poor patient care; and falsely accusing him of inappropriately touching a nurse.

Facing an existential threat to his career, and no longer able to tolerate the constant harassment he faced in the workplace, Dr. Sullivan had no choice but to resign his medical staff membership on January 15, 2016, and cease providing his renowned, professional care to women at Sharp Grossmont Hospital.

Said Dr. Sullivan, "After faithfully and tirelessly serving the people of East County for over two decades, to have to withstand a relentless onslaught of retaliation, be stripped of committee memberships, and be forced out simply for standing up for good patient care and against the illegal surreptitious videotaping of female patients, gross understaffing and many other patient safety violations is unconscionable."

He adds, "I am primarily standing up against Sharp on behalf of the patients of East County so that they will receive the best healthcare, because that's what they deserve. They do not deserve to have their lives put at risk and their privacy violated by a healthcare organization that puts profits before people. I am also doing this for the physicians, nurses and support staff who are still working there and may still be experiencing intimidation, harassment and understaffing by the hospital administration while trying to take care of patients."

Said Mr. Bohm, "It is hard to believe that in this day and age, people still treat each other this way, especially in a hospital setting where patients' lives are put at great risk because of it. One of Sharp Grossmont Hospital's most dedicated physicians, Dr. Patrick Sullivan, refused to remain silent in the face of these shocking deviations from the standard of care. By bringing his voice to these managerial mistakes, we believe he will bring significant attention to this hospital's broken operating system."

MORE ABOUT VIOLATIONS OF PATIENT PRIVACY:

According to Dr. Patrick Sullivan, members of Sharp Grossmont Hospital's administration decided to place hidden cameras within the facility's operating rooms. The administration initially placed these cameras in the operating rooms to catch doctors stealing drugs - however, the end result was that hundreds of women were secretly being recorded without their knowledge in the process.

Dr. Sullivan first noticed the hidden cameras on March 19, 2013, when he was providing anesthesia for a patient undergoing a C-Section. During the procedure, Dr. Sullivan noticed a change in the round HP emblem in the top rim of the anesthesia computer monitor. He observed that the emblem had been altered or replaced with a tiny camera or microphone. Dr. Sullivan then looked at the other two Women's Center operating rooms, and saw the same modification to those anesthesia computer monitors. Dr. Sullivan believed that these modifications were small cameras that were secretly recording procedures in the operating room. Later that day, Dr. Sullivan approached Lily Pisegna, the Director of the Women's Center, and asked her if there were cameras in the operating room anesthesia monitors secretly recording. Pisegna said she was "not at liberty to discuss that." Dr. Sullivan stated that if she was recording, it was a massive privacy breach to patients, doctors, and operating room staff. Pisegna said nothing and walked away.

On April 11, 2013, Dr. Sullivan met with COO Maryann Cone and Pisegna about the cameras. He voiced his strong objection to their placement of recording cameras in the rims of the operating room computer monitors. Dr. Sullivan stated that this was a massive privacy violation. Cone asked Dr. Sullivan if he knew that the hospital was investigating "missing Propofol," and that the hospital used the cameras to catch one doctor taking Propofol. Dr. Sullivan stated, "Yes, but that doesn't give you the right to record people without their permission." Dr. Sullivan asked that the recording cameras be immediately removed from the operating rooms, but Cone and Pisegna ignored his request.

As a result of Sharp Management's refusal to remove the cameras in the operating room, Dr. Sullivan, along with many other doctors, began to cover the lenses of the cameras with tape before performing procedures.

At some point, the cameras were removed, but then in January 2016, Dr. Sullivan discovered that Sharp once again placed cameras in the rims of computer monitors in all three of the Women's Center operating rooms - in all twelve of the main operating rooms and in all six of the SGSC operating rooms.

Dr. Sullivan believed that Sharp was once again secretly recording patients in the operating rooms. On January 7, 2016, Dr. Sullivan told Chief of Staff Dr. C. Eric Orr that the newly discovered cameras were a complete invasion of privacy. Dr. Orr told Dr. Sullivan that he would "look into it" and get back to him, but Dr. Sullivan never heard back from Dr. Orr regarding the installed cameras.

One week later, Dr. Sullivan was forced to resign his privileges because of the harassment and retaliation he was facing.

ABOUT DR. PATRICK SULLIVAN:

Dr. Patrick Sullivan was born and raised in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, just outside of Milwaukee. He patterned himself after his grandfather, a general practitioner in rural

Wisconsin who made house calls in the driving snow - an influence that made him want to be a doctor from a very young age.

Dr. Sullivan attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison, graduating with a B.S. in Zoology in 1986. From there, he next attended the Medical College of Wisconsin (formerly the Marquette University School of Medicine), which included senior year clerkships in anesthesiology at the Mayo Clinic, Harvard Medical School and the Massachusetts General Hospital, site of the very first public demonstration of ether.

After obtaining his M.D. degree in 1990, Dr. Sullivan spent his internship year at Presbyterian- St. Luke's Medical Center in Denver, Colorado. With Harvard, Columbia, Penn and Stanford all showing keen interest, Dr. Sullivan chose to do his anesthesiology residency training at UCSD, where he was one of seven residents chosen out of 750 applicants.

After graduating from residency in 1994, Dr. Sullivan immediately began working at Sharp Grossmont Hospital, where he focused much of his practice in the Women's Center doing labor epidurals and C-Section anesthesia on thousands of women. He quickly became an integral part of the Women's Center leadership team, and assumed a number of leadership roles, introducing improvements and promoting patient safety to the best of his ability.

Dr. Sullivan served as Chief of the Anesthesia Dept. at Sharp Grossmont Hospital from 2008-2009, and served in leadership roles on the Anesthesia and Ob/Gyn Supervisory Committees for two decades. He has performed over 28,000 anesthetics at Sharp Grossmont Hospital.

Dr. Sullivan lives with his wife in San Diego.

ABOUT SHARP GROSSMONT HOSPITAL:

Sharp Grossmont Hospital is located in San Diego, CA, and is the largest health care facility in East San Diego County with a service area covering 750 square miles. It is owned by Grossmont Healthcare District, who has leased it to Sharp HealthCare since 1991. Sharp Grossmont Hospital is a 540-bed hospital that provides medical and surgical care, intensive care, sub-acute and long-term care, rehabilitation and emergency services.

Sharp Grossmont Hospital provides programs in emergency and critical care, cardiac care, orthopedics, rehabilitation, behavioral health, neurology, women's health, children's health and hospice care. Sharp Grossmont is a Magnet hospital for nursing excellence. More than two-thirds of the hospital's acute-care beds are private. See: <http://www.sharp.com/hospitals/grossmont/>

ABOUT LAWRENCE A. BOHM & THE BOHM LAW GROUP, INC.:

As the founder of the California-wide Bohm Law Group, Inc. (with offices in San Diego, Los Angeles, and Sacramento, CA), Lawrance A. Bohm is a well-known trial lawyer who is most noted for winning what are believed to be the two largest single-plaintiff employment verdicts in U.S. history. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chopourian_v._Catholic_Healthcare_West).

In addition, Bohm has also won several other large verdicts protecting and defending civil and workplace rights. Please see: (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lawrance_Bohm).

In 2016, the *Daily Journal* recognized Bohm as one of the top labor and employment lawyers in California. In 2015, *The National Law Journal* recognized Bohm as one of the top 50 elite trial lawyers in the country. In 2014, Bohm was named a “Super Lawyer” and became a recipient of the prestigious “Litigator Award,” given to the top 1% of lawyers. In 2013, Bohm was spotlighted in the *Sacramento Business Journal's* 2013 Best of the Bar special edition.

In 2012, he was selected as one of the *Daily Journal's* Top 100 Lawyers in California. Further, in 2012, Bohm was selected by the Capital City Trial Lawyers Association as Advocate of the Year. In 2010, Bohm was selected as one of the *Daily Journal's* Top Labor and Employment Lawyers in California. He is also a lifetime member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum and the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum. Please see: <http://www.Bohmlaw.com/>

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