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LexisNexis Jury Verdicts and Settlements Report

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HEADLINE: Consolidated Asbestos Trial In Philadelphia Nets \$3.5M Verdict

Case Name: Larry Bell v. Allen Bradley, et al.

Case Number: 081101975

Court: Pa. Comm. Pls., Philadelphia Co.

Judge: Esther R. Sylvester

Verdict/Settlement (breakdown): \$3.5 million plaintiffs' verdict

Plaintiff(s): Larry Bell Jr.

Defendant(s): Crane Co.

Date: March 25, 2010

Injury: Mesothelioma, death

Defense: The asbestos in its products was encapsulated and thus did not release respirable fibers and that if it did, the exposure would be de minimus. In addition, Crane Co. argued that the chrysotile asbestos in its products did not cause mesothelioma.

Background: Larry Bell filed suit in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas in November 2008 against numerous companies. Bell alleged that the companies exposed him to asbestos while he was employed as a minority compliance officer. Bell alleged that he visited various work sites, including H.J. Heinz Co., steel factories and ship building facilities, to ensure that minorities were being represented in unions. Bell alleged that during these visits, he was exposed to asbestos-containing products being used at the facilities. Bell alleged exposure to, among other products, Crane Co.'s Cranite packing. Bell was 62 at the time of his death in 2009. Larry Bell Jr., his son, continued the action.

Plaintiff Experts: Daniel Dupont, pulmonologist, Ridley Park, Pa.

Defense Experts: Donna Ringo, industrial hygienist, Louisville, Ky., Charles Blake, CIH, industrial hygienist, Atlanta, Dr. Michael Graham, M.D., pathologist, St. Louis; retired Admiral David Sargeant, Navy procedures expert, Washington, D.C.

Other: At verdict, only the claims against Crane Co. remained. The case was consolidated and tried with two others. James Nelson, et al. v. American Standard, et al., (No. 081201335, Pa. Comm. Pls., Philadelphia Co.) resulted in a \$14.5 million dollar verdict, while Van Tassel, et al. v. Alfa Laval Inc., et al. (No. 001221-2008, Pa. Comm. Pls., Phila. Co. ;) resulted in a \$12 million plaintiff's verdict. As is custom in Philadelphia asbestos trials, the case was bifurcated. After awarding damages in Phase I on March 9, the jury on March 25 apportioned liability for the decedent's disease and death to Crane Co., JH Heinz, CertainTeed Corp., Georgia Pacific Corp., UGL, Bondex International Inc., Benjamin Foster, Union Carbide Corp., Allen Bradley, Cutler Hammer, General Electric, ITE, Siemens, Square D, Westinghouse,

Graybar, Ingersoll Rand, Goulds, Bell & Gossett and U.S. Steel. The verdict leaves Crane Co. liable for approximately \$300,000, a source told Mealey Publications.

Plaintiff Attorneys: John M. DiDonato, David Halpern and Steven J. Cooperstein, **Brookman, Rosenberg,** Brown & Sandler, Philadelphia

Defense Attorneys: Jeff King, K&L Gates, Boston; James B. Insko II, K&L Gates, Pittsburgh; Eric Cottle, K&L Gates, New York

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