

Missouri Lawyers Media Top V&S winners announced

By: Scott Lauck scott.lauck@molawyersmedia.com January 10, 2022

While the COVID-19 pandemic continues, Missouri's court system has established enough normalcy for attorneys to return to courtrooms and conference rooms to bring their cases to a close.

Each year, Missouri Lawyers Media scours its Verdicts & Settlements database to recognize the state-licensed attorneys who achieved the largest verdicts, settlements, judgments and defense wins of the past 12 months.

The winners will be honored at the 2022 Missouri Lawyers Awards, alongside 28 other Missouri lawyers with newsworthy accomplishments in 2021, including Lawyers of the Year Joel Ferber, Chuck Hatfield and Lowell Pearson.

Please join us for our award ceremony on Thursday, Jan. 27 at the Doubletree Chesterfield. The full rankings of the year's biggest verdicts and settlements will be published in our annual Top V&S edition in February.

Top plaintiffs' verdicts:

1 \$34.1 million

In *Kendrick v. CoxHealth*, a Greene County jury sided with a young boy who suffered brain damage at birth.

Roger Johnson and **Scott Vorhees**, Johnson, Vorhees & Martucci, Joplin

2 \$14.2 million

In *Woodgate v. St. James Winery*, a Phelps County jury found mostly in favor of a couple injured during a motorcycle trip across America, though the award was reduced to \$12.8 million due to comparative fault.

Ben Sansone, Sansone & Lauber, St. Louis; and **Brent A. Sumner**, Sumner Law Group, St. Louis

3 \$11.75 million

In *Major Brands Inc. v. Mast-Jagermeister Inc. US*, a liquor wholesaler won its case in federal court against a major liquor company in a dispute over the end of their business relationship.

Richard B. Walsh Jr., **Derick Albers**, **Lindsey Muse Bruno**, **Sarah Anne Mulinski**, **Edward T. Pivin**, **Evan Z. Reid** and **Oliver H. Thomas**, Lewis Rice, St. Louis

4 \$10 million

In *Frazier v. Lee*, a St. Louis County jury sided with a man and his wife after a spine surgeon operated on the husband twice.

Amy Collignon Gunn, **Pat McPhail** and **Liz Lenivy**, The Simon Law Firm, St. Louis

5 \$9 million

In *Ford v. Wolfe*, A Linn County jury found for a woman who lost her leg in a motorcycle accident.

Wm. Dirk Vandever, The Popham Law Firm, Kansas City; **Andy Gelbach**, Warrensburg; **Josh Meisner**, Macon

Top settlements:

1 \$790 million

In *St. Louis Regional Convention and Sports Complex Authority v. National Football League*, a team of lawyers representing St. Louis interests reached an agreement with the NFL and Rams owner Stan Kroenke over the team's relocation to Los Angeles.

Robert Blitz, Christopher Bauman and Jason Turk, Blitz, Bardgett & Deutsch, St. Louis; **Jim Bennett, Ed Dowd, Megan Heinsz, Michelle Nasser and Matthew Crane**, Dowd Bennett, St. Louis

2 \$37.78 million

In *Webb v. Johnson & Johnson*, the son of a now-deceased plaintiff in a lawsuit against Johnson & Johnson received a share of the case's massive judgment despite having not played an earlier role in the case.

Stephen G. Sanders, Sanders Law, Kansas City; and **Thomas L. Wagstaff Jr.**, Law Office of Tom Wagstaff Jr., Overland Park, Kansas

3 \$16.225 million

In *Butala et al. v. The Curators of The University of Missouri*, the University of Missouri resolved a series of claims by plaintiffs who alleged they underwent failed knee surgeries at the Mizzou BioJoint Center.

Edward "Kip" Robertson III, James P. Frickleton, Michelle Marvel and Kelly Frickleton, Bartimus Frickleton Robertson Rader, Leawood, Kansas; **Todd N. Hendrickson**, Hendrickson Law, Kirkwood

4 \$16 million

In *Cianciolo v. Liquid Transport Corp.*, a woman settled after she was severely injured in a crash with a tanker truck.

Jason Smith, Spencer Fane, Springfield; **Chandler Gregg**, Strong-Garner-Bauer, Springfield

5 \$10.7 million

In *Allicks v. Omni Specialty Packaging LLC*, a federal judge gave final approval to a class-action settlement involving claims of deceptive and misleading sales of tractor-hydraulic fluid.

Thomas V. Bender and Dirk Hubbard, Horn Aylward & Bandy, Kansas City; **Bryan T. White**, White, Graham, Buckley & Carr, Independence; **Clayton A. Jones**, Raymore

Top judgments or bench awards:

1 \$39 million

In *City of Winchester v. Charter Communications Inc.*, a St. Louis County judge ruled in favor of a group of Missouri municipalities who alleged that telecommunications providers had excluded revenue from the cities' license taxes.

John F. Mulligan Jr., Clayton; **John Hoffman and Garrett Broshuis**, Korein Tillery, St. Louis; **Howard Paperner**, St. Louis; **Jim White**, University City

2 \$35.72 million

In *Hursh et al. v. DST Systems Inc.*, a federal judge has approved awards, expenses and attorneys' fees in a series of individually arbitrated claims that a company poorly managed its employee retirement plan.

Ken B. McClain, Jonathan M. Soper, Chelsea McClain-Pierce and J'nan C. Kimak, Humphrey, Farrington & McClain, Independence; **John M. Klamann and Andrew Schermerhorn**, Klamann Law Firm, Kansas City; **George E. Kapke Jr. and Mike Fleming**, Kapke & Willerth, Lee's Summit; **Gene Graham, William Carr and Bryan T. White**, White Graham Buckley & Carr, Independence

3 \$31 million

In D.P. v. Rezendes, a St. Charles County judge entered an award following a bench trial for a minor who was shaken by an unlicensed at-home daycare provider.

Gretchen Myers, The Law Offices of Gretchen Myers, St. Louis

4 \$13.5 million

In Price v. Garry, a Cass County judge entered a judgment on behalf of woman killed in a collision with a drunk driver.

J. Eric Mitchell, Johns, Mitchell, Duncan & Lowe, Clinton; **Joe McGreevy**, Kuhlman & Lucas, Kansas City

5 \$2.38 million

In Communications Unlimited Contracting Services Inc. v. Mid-Continent Casualty Company, a federal judge resolved a complex insurance dispute stemming from a company's settlement with the victim of an attack.

Tyson Ketchum and Jonathan Shulan, Armstrong Teasdale, Kansas City and St. Louis; **Michael Cerulo and Erica Briscoe**, Baty Otto Coronado, St. Louis

Top defense wins:

1 \$923 million jury request

In Giese et al. v. Johnson & Johnson, a St. Louis jury ruled in favor of Johnson & Johnson on claims that the company's talcum powder caused ovarian cancer to three women, one of them fatally.

Beth Bauer and Alexandra Haar, HeplerBroom, Edwardsville, Illinois and St. Louis

2 \$5.6 million in claimed damages

In JTC Oil Inc. v. City of Grandview, a Jackson County jury sided with a municipality that had denied a permit for a company that had sought to drill multiple oil wells.

Kenneth McClain, Colin McClain and Timothy Kingsbury, Humphrey, Farrington & McClain, Independence; **Joe Gall**, City of Grandview

3 \$3 million in claimed economic losses, \$8.5 million jury request

In Miltenberger v. Hsu, a St. Charles County jury ruled in favor of an emergency room doctor who allegedly missed signs of colon cancer that led to a man's death.

Andrew M. Luther and Kim Roger Luther, Luther & Associates, St. Louis; **Brian Burge and Stacey Dowd**, Sanders Warren Russell & Scheer, Overland Park, Kansas and St. Louis

4 \$1.5 million to \$2.5 million in claimed economic losses, \$8.5 million jury request

In Bond v. Mercy Clinic Springfield Communities, a Greene County jury cleared a hospital and its doctor of claims that complications from a pain pump led a woman to lose the use of her arm.

Kent O. Hyde and **David E. Overby**, Hyde, Love & Overby, Springfield

5 \$1 million to \$3.75 million in pretrial demands, \$5 million to \$10 million jury request

In *Holt v. Qualified Trucking Service Inc.*, a federal jury sided with a trucking company following a fatal crash near a poorly designed on-ramp in Southern Missouri.

Steven Hughes and **Joseph Hoffman**, Hughes Lawyers, St. Louis

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