

Business Services Industry

Baron & Budd Announces Louisiana Jury Award of \$3.625 Million in Asbestos-Related Death Case; Plaquemine Jury Says Employer Failed to Warn about Deadly Asbestos Dangers

Business Wire , April 29, 2005

o Comments

PLAQUEMINE, La. -- The Dallas law firm of Baron & Budd, P.C., has announced a \$3.625 million jury award delivered last night on behalf of the family of a Plaquemine-area man who died from an asbestos-related cancer nearly 40 years after first being exposed to asbestos.

The jury of four men and eight women delivered the verdict following a two-week trial before Judge James Best of the 18th Judicial District Court for the Parish of Iberville. Jurors deliberated for one hour before finding that Plaquemine, La.-based Hebert Brothers Engineers Inc. failed to warn Alfred Watts about the dangers of asbestos exposure while he worked for the company from 1963 to 1994.

"Today's verdict proves what the Watts family has said all along," says Lawrence G. Gettys of Baron & Budd, counsel for Mr. Watts' surviving family members. "Hebert Brothers failed to warn Mr. Watts and many other employees about the dangers of asbestos."

Cameron Waddell of Baton Rouge, La.'s LeBlanc & Waddell, LLP, also represented Mr. Watts' widow, Rosa Lee Watts, and the couple's adult children. The verdict, which was handed down at approximately 6:30 p.m., included a total of \$3.625 million in actual damages.

Jurors in the case heard how Mr. Watts was exposed to asbestos for decades while working as a laborer for Hebert Brothers, which did work for The Dow Company in Plaquemine. In June 2001, Mr. Watts was diagnosed with asbestos-related lung cancer. He died less than four months later on Oct. 31, 2001.

The effects of asbestos exposure, including the onset of asbestos-related diseases like lung cancer, can take years or even decades to surface. Nearly 40 years passed before Mr. Watts began showing symptoms of lung cancer.

Hebert Brothers was represented at trial by Edward E. Rundell of Alexandria, La.'s Gold, Weems, Bruser, Sues & Rundell, APLC.

If you would like more information on today's verdict, please contact Bruce Vincent at 214-559-4630 or pager 888-361-8452.

COPYRIGHT 2005 Business Wire
COPYRIGHT 2008 Gale, Cengage Learning

- [1](#)
- [2](#)

BNET

- [Your Work Why Do CEOs \(Still\) Love Ayn Rand?](#)
- [Your Industry High Tech Gets Poor Grade on...](#)
- [Your Money Go Where the Money Is](#)