
COURTROOM NEWS from HarrisMartin's COLUMNS-Asbestos

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III. Jury Reaches Defense Verdict for Georgia-Pacific

CHICAGO — After deliberating for only a few hours, jurors in Illinois have reached a defense verdict for Georgia-Pacific, rejecting claims that the decedent's mesothelioma was caused by exposure to the defendant's joint compound product. *Dancho v. Georgia-Pacific*, No. 05-L-5620 (Ill. Ct. Ct., Cook Cty.).

The Illinois Circuit Court for Cook County jury reached the decision on May 15 in the retrial of a case that ended in a hung jury last year.

The trial was presided over by Judge Susan Ruscitti Grussel.

Mary Jane Dancho asserted the claims on behalf of her deceased husband, George T. Dancho. The plaintiff claimed that George Dancho's work in power plants, steel mills and petrochemical refineries, as well as his work as a union electrician and in commercial and residential construction exposed him to a variety of asbestos-containing products, ultimately causing his mesothelioma.

Georgia-Pacific was the lone remaining defendant at the time of the verdict, sources said.

Specifically, the plaintiff contended that Dancho was exposed as a bystander to Georgia-Pacific joint compound while doing residential construction during the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s.

Georgia-Pacific contested the product identification during trial though, arguing that it did not even manufacture an asbestos-containing joint compound product until 1965.

The defendant also presented a fiber burden analysis to prove that Dancho was not exposed to their product, sources said.

Testifying on behalf of the plaintiff were Arnold Brody, M.D., Ph.D.; Eugene Mark, M.D.; and Frank Parker, CIH.

Testifying on behalf of the defendant were Bruce Case, M.D., pathology; Victor Roggli, M.D., pathology; James Rock, CIH; and **Joseph Marsh, construction sequencing expert.**

Georgia-Pacific was represented by Jeffery S. Hebrank of Hepler, Broom, MacDonald, Hebrank, True & Noce in Edwardsville, Ill and Michael W. Drumke of Schiff Hardin LLP in Chicago.

The plaintiff was represented by John E. Herrick of Motley Rice in Mount Pleasant, S.C. and Jacqueline J. Herring of Cascino Vaughan Law Offices in Chicago.

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