

Three Mobile juries side with plaintiffs

► Cases involved either a fall or medical mistakes

By GARY McELROY
Staff Reporter

In three civil cases ending Feb. 17 in different Mobile County courtrooms, juries awarded one plaintiff more than \$10 million, another \$4 million and still another \$750,000 for injuries sustained either in a fall or medical mishaps.

The jury awards went to a man knocked off a portable scaffold, a woman who had a section of a catheter left inside her during a medical procedure and the family of a man who died after receiving medication.

All three cases were won by Mobile attorneys. Two were won by members of the same law firm within hours of each other.

As a general rule, considering appeals and other procedures involved in civil cases, it can take as long as two years from the time a jury ren-

ders a verdict to the actual delivery of cash or other assets to the winner.

The jury awards went to:
■ Randy Scheurer, 46, an electrician who was working inside a Target distribution center in Huntsville on Dec. 10, 2003, standing on a portable scaffold called a "scissor lift." According to court records, a Target employee operating a forklift, or "stock picker," drove into the scaffold, knocking Scheurer to the concrete floor below.

Scheurer fell about 20 feet,

according to his attorneys Mike Worel and Tucker Yance of the Mobile law firm of Cunningham Bounds.

When he fell, Scheurer sustained a broken back and spinal injuries, a fractured shoulder and ribs, pelvic fractures, and other injuries.

He was later determined to be permanently disabled, Worel said.

Worel and Yance argued that according to Target's own documentation, the driver of the forklift had a

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history of unsafe behavior and that on the day of Scheurer's injuries, the driver failed to heed standard safety procedures.

The trial, held before Circuit Judge Sarah Stewart, lasted about a week. The jury deliberated for an hour.

They awarded Scheurer \$10.25 million, about equally divided between compensatory and punitive damages.

■ Larry Larrimore, 50, who was admitted to Springhill Medical Center's emergency room on Aug. 15, 2001, with knee pain, according to court records and attorney Toby Brown, also of Cunningham Bounds, representing Larrimore's family.

A drug called Colchicine was administered to Larrimore, which caused kidney failure and killed him three days later, Brown argued.

By prescribing and administering the drug, the hospital and the facility's pharmacy in particular failed to safeguard Larrimore's well-being, according to the plaintiffs.

The trial before Presiding Mobile County Circuit Judge Charles Graddick lasted a week. Jurors deliberated for about three hours before delivering a \$4 million verdict against the hospital.

■ Bobby Joan Williamson, 64, who, according to court records, suffered a work-related injury in 1995 and underwent a pain-management procedure at

Mobile Infirmary in August 1999. The procedure involved a device designed to treat diseased spinal discs by applying heat through a needle and catheter.

Court records show Dr. Thomas Yearwood was the physician; the device was made by Oratec Interventions Inc.

Williamson, through her Mobile attorney, Chris Galanos, a former circuit judge, sued the infirmary, the doctor and the device's maker.

According to court records, as the device was being extracted from Williamson's back, part of the catheter broke off. As jurors were told during the two-week trial before Circuit Judge Ferrill

McRae, it remains in Williamson's body.

Galanos, along with Atmore attorneys Charles and Timothy Godwin, argued that the object continues to give Williamson emotional distress and that it has the potential of causing paralysis or death.

Prior to the trial, the plaintiff dropped the Infirmary from the suit.

After two hours of deliberation, a jury exonerated the device's manufacturer.

"The plaintiff failed to prove that the product was defective in any way," said Oratec's attorney, Carroll Sullivan.

Jurors did, however, decide against the physician, Yearwood, and awarded Williamson \$750,000 in damages.

College

Alabama Southern Community College

■ Alabama Southern Community College will offer free training, beginning March 6, in a program designed to help local unemployed and underemployed adults develop stronger workforce skills.

The Focused Industry Training program was created through a partnership among the Alabama college system, Alabama Industrial Development Training Institute, the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs and the Alabama Office of Workforce Development. The goal is to help participants earn Alabama Certified Worker designation.

Topics include basic academic skills, problem-solving, workplace behavior and job acquisition. Short-term training programs in basic brick masonry and basic computer skills are also being offered.

Classes will be taught at the Wilcox County Family Resource and Training Center and Wilcox Central High School.

An information and orientation session will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday at the family resource center on Alabama 221 in Camden. For information, call (334) 636-9642 in Thomasville or (251) 575-3156 in Monroeville.

Bishop State

Of Record and Of Note

Birth Notices

Mobile Infirmary

N and S. Kick (nee Phillips); boy, 7 lbs. 15 ozs., 1:45 p.m., Feb. 16, 2006.

C. and L. Cooper Jr. (nee Sheldt); boy, 7 lbs., 4:31 p.m., Feb. 16, 2006.

R. Seeling and E. Swartz Jr.; boy, 6 lbs. 10 ozs., 5:12 p.m., Feb. 20, 2006.

L. and P. Gilchrist (nee Parmer); boy, 8 lbs. 11 ozs., 12:51 p.m., Feb. 20, 2006.

Providence Hospital

C. and N. Andrews (nee Stacey); twins; girl, 5 lbs. 14 ozs., 12:17 p.m.; girl, 6 lbs. 7 ozs., 12:18 p.m., Feb. 14, 2006.

D. and T. Holcomb (nee Powell); girl, 7 lbs. 8 ozs., 8:24 a.m., Feb. 14, 2006.

J. and A. Byrd (nee Wiggins); girl, 9 lbs. 14 ozs., 12:06 p.m., Feb. 14, 2006.

Jessica Pritchett, Prichard; girl, 7 lbs. 5 ozs., 11:38 a.m., Feb. 14, 2006.

Jeffrey and Timika R. Ward (nee Campbell), Grand Bay; girl, 7 lbs. 13 ozs., 4:45 p.m., Feb. 15, 2006.

Tranisha Bonham, Eight Mile; girl, 5 lbs. 12½ ozs., 6:06 p.m., Feb. 15, 2006.

Alaina Jackson and Eric Bryant, Prichard; girl, 4 lbs. 10 ozs., 2:34 p.m., Feb. 15, 2006.

Ashley Baker, Semmes; boy, 7 lbs., 5:48 p.m., Feb. 15, 2006.

Keri Shields; boy, 8 lbs. 15 ozs., 8:10 p.m., Feb. 16, 2006.

Lisa Dale; girl, 6 lbs. 6 ozs., 6:15 p.m., Feb. 16, 2006.

Ashley Mose and James Daniels; boy, 6 lbs. 10 ozs., 12:28 p.m., Feb. 16, 2006.

David and Cynthia M. McCormick, Chunchula; boy, 2 lbs. 7 ozs., 2:59 a.m., Feb.

Miss., and Melissa Anne Johnson, 32, Van Cleave

Wesley David Porter, 43, Mobile and Murlene Alfredine Wheeler, 44, Mobile

Jesse Almosa Connell Jr., 63, Theodore and Diana Cecelia Odom, 59, Theodore

Darrel Scott Irwin, 36, Mobile and Lisa Michelle Johnson, 33, Mobile

James Laswam Gould, 38, Mobile and Patrice Stephens, 43, Mobile

Collin Moseti Ondieki, 26, Mobile and Kamikka Mozell Benjamin, 25, Mobile

Michael Vernon Deese, 48, Irvington and Cynthia Louise Richardson, 42, Irvington

Reginald Hodge, 38, Mobile and Karima Evette Sylvester, 32, Mobile

Derrick Delane Weaver, 19, Axis and Tricia Ann Rivers, 18, Axis

Dareyl Antone Cleveland, 32, Mobile and Kizzy Tajuan Parker, 28, Mobile

Point

Charles Ernest Jackson, 80, Mobile and Louise Roebuck, 78, Mobile

Sidney Alexander King, 23, Mobile and Pheonecia Maylean Pugh, 19, Mobile

Keith Wayne Moore, 43, Gautier, Miss., and Phylis Anne Arrington, 47, Gautier

Jonathan York McCarthy, 31, Dauphin Island and Jessica Leann Downs, 24, Prattville

John Allen Dickinson, 40, Petal and Terrie Anderson White, 33, Petal

Marko Antiano Leggins, 35, Pascagoula and Andrea Latora Dickinson, 29, Mobile

Michael Wendell Jones, 36, Saraland and Monica Letrice Mooror, 36, Saraland

David Shane Sullivan, 37, Chunchula and Kellie Marie Graham, 28, Saraland

Levar Gregory Ferby, 22, Gulfport and Megan Marie Willcox, 20, Gulfport